Utah State Charter School Board Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2009

North & South Board Rooms Utah State Office of Education

APPROVED

Members present: Julie Adamic, Brian Allen, Yolanda Francisco-Nez, John Pingree, Scott Smith

Members excused: Tom Morgan, Tim Beagley

Staff present: Marlies Burns, Paul Crawford, Jami-Jon Pearson, Cory Kanth, Jeannie Rowland, Jo

Schmitt

Others present: Kim Frank, Janene Bowen, Lincoln Fillmore

Call to Order

Chair Brian Allen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

New Staff Members:

Director Marlies Burns introduced Dr. Jami-Jon Pearson, Grants & Compliance Specialist and Dr. Cory Kanth, Fiscal Analyst & Auditor, two new charter school staff members.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Vice Chair Scott Smith and seconded by Member John Pingree to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2009 State Charter School Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Charter School Board Chair's Report

Chair Allen discussed several bills that were addressed at this year's legislative session: parental involvement, impact fees, opportunity to revisit State Retirement System, Kindergarten funds restored.

Board Standing Committee Reports:

- Rule Review Committee-Member Julie Adamic informed the SCSB the Rule Review Committee discussed the Charter School lottery process and Charter School parental involvement.
- Grants Committee-Member John Pingree informed the SCSB the Grants Committee discussed opportunities to apply for a new facilities grant.
- Annual Report Committee-Vice Chair Scott Smith informed the SCSB the Annual Report Committee discussed a format change to the Annual Report.

Information Items:

Legislative summary

Kim Frank and Lincoln Fillmore presented information regarding legislation that affects Charter Schools: SB48 – Licensing by Competency, SB199 – Equal Recognition on Parent Groups, HB259 – Prohibition of Impact Fees, HB96 – State Retirement, HB197 – Parents of Charter Boards, HB328 – Teacher Quality Amendments, HB66 – Property Tax Amendments.

AYP-UPASS results

Paul Crawford distributed State and Federal Reporting results of AYP and UPASS for 2008.

Accountability committee update

1

Jeannie Rowland informed the SCSB that the Accountability Committee is looking into other entities, along with Northwest Accreditation. The committee meets next month, and will have additional information at that time.

Action Items:

Waiver from R277-462 – John Hancock Charter School

Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB that John Hancock Charter School requested a waiver from R277-462 – Comprehensive Counseling and Guidance Program. R277-462 requires all school districts and charter schools to have one full time equivalent licensed school counselor per 350 students. John Hancock Charter School operates as a K-8 self-contained elementary model as per their charter. As a result, students are taught by one primary grade teacher and a few specialty teachers and there are no course options for students. Motion was made by Vice Chair Scott Smith and seconded by Member John Pingree to approve for recommendation John Hancock Charter School's waiver request. Member Julie Adamic publicly stated a conflict of interest with this wavier; she is the Director of John Hancock Charter School. The motion was carried unanimously.

Waiver from R277-419-3 – Walden School of Liberal Arts

Walden School of Liberal Arts requested a waiver to implement a 160-day school year, with 10 professional development days. This plan will provide students with 1060 instructional hours and 145 additional hours for lunch and passing time. Most weeks will consist of 4 extended-hour school days; however one Friday each month will be dedicated to a full day of expeditionary learning. An additional Friday each month will be dedicated to teacher training and curriculum development.

After much discussion motion was made by Member Julie Adamic and seconded by Chair Brian Allen to approve for recommendation Walden School of Liberal Arts waiver request based on the unique circumstances and needs of the school. Member Julie Adamic and Chair Brian Allen voted in favor of the motion; Member John Pingree and Vice Chair Scott Smith voted in opposition. The motion failed because of a tied vote.

Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB she has received an update from Glenna Gallo, regarding Monticello Academy's Special Education concerns. Ms. Burns stated it is a very positive report and that the school is working very hard to correct issues that have been reported. Ms. Gallo informed Ms. Burns the school is making all the progress they need to make, but some things have not been completed because of timing issues.

Chair Brian Allen stated that Superintendent Harrington will be retiring from the USOE on July 1, 2009 and acknowledged her friendship and support to Charter Schools. He stated she has done a remarkable job in her role as Superintendent of Public Schools in Utah.

Chair Brian Allen informed the SCSB that he has spoken with the Board Chair of Monticello Academy and reported that the school has conducted an internal investigation on their own and their results were different than those of the SCSB. Chair Allen was to receive a copy of that report, but has not received one at this time.

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at 12:15 p.m.by Member Scott Smith.