

Utah State Charter School Board Meeting
Minutes
July 15, 2010
North & South Board Rooms
Utah State Office of Education

APPROVED

Members present: Tim Beagley, Laura Belnap, Yolanda Francisco-Nez, Tom Morgan, John Pingree, Scott Smith

Staff present: Marlies Burns, Paul Crawford, Cory Kanth, Jeannie Rowland, Georgia Loutensock, Jo Schmitt

Others present: Associate Superintendent Martell Menlove, Janet Cannon, Christine Kearl, Terry Smith, Murat Citir, Ram Prasad Boppana, Marie Jess, Bill Tandy, Candace Ware, Tim Berece, Steve Winitzky, Murat Biyik, Mark Cluff, Yavuz Durmus, Susan Soleil, Pat Laystrom, Randall Ross, Nichole Coombs, David Mortensen, Michael Smith, Michael Westover, Sonia Woodbury, Deena Pyle, Rick Kempton, Robyn Bagley, Kim Frank, Harold Stone, Jeff Herr, Clayton Christensen, Joylin Lincoln, Kim Dohrer, Echo Cunningham, Ben Leishman, Julie Adamic, Darren Beck, Martin Bates, Brian Allen, DeLaina Tonks, Howard Stephenson, Anna Marie Smith

Call to Order

Vice Chair Tom Morgan called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

Vice Chair Tom Morgan introduced Laura Belnap to the SCSB as a new member of the Charter School Board and asked Ms. Belnap to introduce herself. Ms. Belnap informed the SCSB that she lives in Bountiful, has six children and her husband is a veterinarian in Taylorsville. She loves music and sports and has been a coach at a Jr. High and a High School. She is an educator and works for the Washington County School District in St. George, UT, and has taught school in Colorado and Utah. Ms. Belnap is now a principal of an online school in the State of Utah.

Appointment of State Charter School Board Members

Dr. Christine Kearl, Deputy for Education, behalf of Governor Herbert thanked the SCSB for the many hours and dedication contributed to the charter school movement As Governor Herbert was deliberating over these appointments, there were three things he wanted acknowledged to the group. 1) His support of charter schools. He sees the growth of our charters schools will continue to grow and the SCSB responsibilities will be even more critical. 2) Strength with parental involvement. He sees that charter schools have a unique niche in involving parents. 3) He wants our schools to be successful and wants charter school options to work for kids and their families.

Dr. Kearl executed the swearing in of Laura Belnap, new member of the State Charter School and of John Pingree, who will be serving a second term.

Election of State Charter School Board officers

As Vice Chair, Tom Morgan has called for elections in written form and asked for nominations for chair and vice chair of the board. Ms. Burns that Tom Morgan had been nominated as Chair of the Charter School Board,

and Tim Beagley had been nominated as Vice Chair. Mr. Morgan stated that those that had been nominated had been requested to make a statement in writing as to their direction and determination for goals and all members of the board had received a copy of those responses. Mr. Morgan asked if there were any opposition for any of the nominees.

Motion was made by Member John Pingree and seconded by Member Scott Smith to accept the nominations for Tom Morgan for Chair and Tim Beagley for Vice Chair of the Charter School Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Tom Morgan recognized Julie Adamic in the audience, and stated the board is grateful for her tremendous service on the Charter School Board. Ms. Adamic expressed her gratitude and feels it was a pleasure working with the members of the Charter School Board and getting to know each member. Ms. Adamic went on to say she enjoyed serving the students of Utah and reminded the board members that they are working on behalf of each individual student at every charter school and all the students in the state. Chair Tom Morgan stated the Charter School Board acknowledges Julie's tremendous work on the board and specifically her phenomenal work ethic.

Executive Session

Motion was made by Vice Chair Tim Beagley to move into Executive Session for the purposes of 1) discussing pending litigation and 2) character and professional competence discussion regarding charter schools. The Board was polled and by unanimous consent of those present the Board moved into an executive session at 8:20 a.m.

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Vice Chair Tim Beagley to reconvene into open meeting. The board reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

Action Items

Monticello Academy postponement of high school expansion

Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB of Monticello Academy's request to postpone the expansion of its high school, grades 10-12 and some additional students associated with the expansion for two years, until the 2012-2013 school year.

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member John Pingree to approve the postponement request. The motion was carried unanimously.

Beehive Science & Technology Academy charter agreement amendment

Beehive Science and Technology's principal, Murat Biyik, introduced the school's board members to the SCSB. Mr. Biyik stated that on behalf of the Beehive family, he wanted to thank the board for all their time and the opportunity to present themselves to the SCSB.

Vice Chair Tim Beagley addressed the SCSB concerning the hearing regarding the charter status of Beehive Science and Technology Academy. Motion was made by Vice Chair Tim Beagley and seconded by Member Scott Smith that the report of that hearing, compiled by Doug Larsen, the hearing officer, be added to the minutes of this State Charter School Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

After much discussion Chair Tom Morgan reminded Beehive Science & Technology Academy that the school is still under probation and gave some further definition to that probation. Chair Morgan stated that the SCSB feels the probation is in an effort to help and to give some focus on things that really matter. Chair Morgan reminded Beehive Science & Technology Academy the terms of the probation:

1. Beehive Science & Technology Academy must attain, by September 1, 2010, and remain in full compliance with all special education requirements, IDEA and USBE-SER. If noncompliance is identified, it will be corrected within 45 days of written notification, as evidenced by UPIPS correspondence.

2. Beehive Science & Technology Academy must attain, by August 1, 2010, and maintain a positive unrestricted net asset balance at all times such that total expenditure is less than or equal to the sum of total state and federal revenues plus local revenues encompassing fees as per R277-407-5 less donations, contributions and other local revenue not associated with ordinary operation of the school.

3. Beehive Science & Technology Academy Board must appoint its ninth member no later than the first day of school, August 16, 2010.

Chair Morgan suggested the SCSB not take action on the amendment request at this board meeting. He feels there are issues in the amendment that the SCSB would like to discuss further before making a decision.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Tim Beagley and seconded by Member Yolanda Francisco-Nez to table the amendment request for the time being, and direct Beehive Science & Technology Academy's Board to work with the Charter School staff, to address the concerns the SCSB has identified. The motion was carried unanimously.

Strategic Planning Session

Linda Alder, Coordinator in the Teaching and Learning Section at USOE, led the Strategic Planning discussion. Items that were discussed: Board assignments and Committees, Board interactions with charter school staff, Board interaction with schools, charter school section staff assignments, charter school section staff role and responsibilities related to training and assistance, UAPCS roles and responsibilities, and other charter school assistance/training providers.

Vice Chair Tim Beagley proposed the SCSB, in accordance with staff and association, create three task forces: 1) to define very simple, but easily measured and succinct academic metrics by which charter schools could be measured; 2) to define very simple, but easily measured and succinct financial metrics by which charter schools could be measured; 3) to determine if charter schools have followed their charter. All three task forces would have the additional responsibility to report back to the SCSB to what they believe to be the roles of the organizations in that process.

Clayton Christensen – “Disrupting Class”

Clayton Christensen, author of the book “Disrupting Class”, a book addressing how disruptive innovation will change the way the world learns, will lead a discussion geared towards helping charter schools customize their teaching. Mr. Christensen is the architect of and the world's foremost authority on disruptive innovation, a framework which describes the process by which a product or service takes root initially in simple applications at the bottom of a market and then relentlessly moves “up market”, eventually displacing established competitors.

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at 3:30 p.m.