

Utah State Charter School Board Meeting  
Minutes  
**October 14, 2011**  
Tuachan High School  
Ivins, UT

**APPROVED**

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

Staff present: Marlies Burns, Jo Schmitt

Others present: Bill Fowler, Steve Wattles, Christy Hall, McKay Hall, Alisha Martin, Brian Nelson, Tani Downing, Lane Blakemore, Trent Seegmiller, Gaylene Knoke

Call to Order

Chair Tom Morgan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Vice Chair Tim Beagley to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2011 State Charter School Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Charter School Teacher of the Year 2012

Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB that every year there is opportunity to nominate for the Teacher of the Year Program a charter school teacher. In May, all charter schools are invited to consider the teachers they have teaching for them and determine if one stands out in their mind as a teacher they would like to apply for the Teacher of the Year. The Charter School Section receives those applications, and through a review panel, one teacher is chosen as the best representative as the charter school teacher for the year. This year, the Charter School Teacher of the Year is from Tuacahn High School.

Bill Fowler, Principal of Tuachan High School, introduced Christy Hall to the State Charter School Board. Mrs. Hall has taught both Math and English at Tuachan High School for 12 years. She is currently the Chair of the Math Department and has been an advisor to several campus clubs and extra-curricular programs. She has modified curriculum guidelines to comply with state and national standards and taken steps above the benchmark to increase rigor as well as student achievement in her subjects.

Report on State Board of Education meetings

Vice Chair Tim Beagley updated the SCSB on outcomes of the USBE meetings in September and October. Mr. Beagley stated the Charter Committee had reviewed the SCSB proposed changes to R277-481 and suggested some minor changes to the rule. He feels the rule will be in effect in January 2012.

In the USBE October meeting, they approved their final recommendations for budget increases, for the Governor and legislature. They had recommendations for both ongoing budget increases and one-time supplemental budget increases. The second highest priority is for enrollment growth and more money will be placed in the WPU that would increase funding for all students. The fourth prioritized funding request under one-time supplemental funds is for \$2.3 million for charter school start-up funding. The request has two

components: 1) funds would go to start-up grants to newly approved charter schools; and 2) it would fund additional staff members to the Charter School Section.

#### Valley Academy update

Alisha Martin, Board Chair of Valley Academy, informed the SCSB they have a contract that is in development with a builder; they are working with High Mark Schools to purchase land and will be receiving building plans within 2 weeks; they are in the process of hiring a principal and have had first interviews with the thoughts of a principal being hired by January 2012. The school plans on breaking ground by the January deadline.

#### Aristotle Academy update

Jeanne Whitmore, Board Chair of Aristotle Academy, via phone conference informed the SCSB the school has hired Mark Peterson as principal, he will begin January 1, 2012. There are 10 students on the school's waitlist and 100 addresses on the email newsletter list. The initial location chosen for the school has fallen through and they now have two alternate locations. One of these locations will be in American Fork; the second location is in North Orem. The school provided an updated market analysis for the new area. Ms. Whitmore stated that if there isn't a firm location agreement by November 15, 2011 there is a good chance they will not be in construction by January 1, 2012 and feels they will have to delay opening the school.

#### Amendment Request – Canyon Rim Academy

Eric Olson, Board Chair of Canyon Rim Academy, via phone conference informed the SCSB of the amendment request to include additional enrollment preferences for a 2-mile geographic location.

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member John Pingree to recommend for approval to the USBE the amendment request to include additional enrollment preferences. The school was directed to submit the process of preference in writing before presenting the request to the USBE. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### Amendment Request – American Preparatory Academy-The Accelerated School

Rick Peterson, Board Chair of American Preparatory Academy, via phone conference informed the SCSB of the amendment request to add 300 more students beginning in the 2012-2013 school year.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Tim Beagley and seconded by Member Dean Brockbank to approve for recommendation to the USBE the requested amendment. The motion was carried with positive votes from Chair Tom Morgan, Vice Chair Tim Beagley and Members Dean Brockbank and Laura Belnap. Member John Pingree voted in opposition to the motion.

#### Charter school procurement audits

Natalie Grange, USOE's Internal Auditor, via phone conference informed the SCSB of the findings regarding the procurement audit performed on Excelsior Academy.

#### State Risk Management presentation

Tani Downing, Director at the Division of Risk Management informed the SCSB of changes to its services which will potentially impact several charters.

### Executive Session

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith to move into an executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation issues. The Board was polled and by unanimous consent of those present the Board moved into an executive session at 11:55 p.m.

Motion was made by Member John Pingree to reconvene into open meeting at 12:25 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

### Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at 12:30 p.m. by Vice Chair Tim Beagley.

Following this portion of the meeting, the board members toured Tuacahn High School, Vista at Entrada, and George Washington Academy.