

Utah State Charter School Board Meeting  
Minutes  
**September 8, 2011**  
North & South Board Rooms  
Utah State Office of Education

**APPROVED**

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

Members excused: John Pingree

Staff present: Marlies Burns, Jo Schmitt

Others present: Deputy Superintendent Martell Menlove, Dave Crandall, Teresa Theurer, Larry Newton, Sean Thomas, Shelley Nordick, Monty Hardy, Joel Wright, Sol Garcia, Todd Hauber, Natalie Grange, Travis Rawlings, Chris Bleak, Elizabeth Ziegler, Jaime Barrett

Call to Order

Chair Tom Morgan called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Public Comment

Monty Hardy expressed his thanks to the State Charter School Board for their work and effort to make policies and listen to input from stakeholders. Also, Mr. Hardy expressed his concerns regarding a second committee for charter approvals, as well as his concerns regarding the proposed Charter School Agreement.

Board Chair's Report

Chair Morgan acknowledged the funding issues that have taken place in the Charter School Staff and expressed the gratitude of the SCSB to Jeannie Rowland, Cory Kanth, and Paul Crawford for the outstanding service and contribution they have made in the time they have spent working in the Charter School Section at USOE.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Laura Belnap to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2011 State Charter School Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

Charter School financial monitoring

Larry Newton, Director and Sean Thomas, Auditor in the School Finance Section at USOE, presented to the SCSB the financial condition of charter schools in the State of Utah. Mr. Newton stated the School Finance Section feels that not all charter schools need the same amount of monitoring. It is important to look at the types of charters, such as new charters, charters in planning year, charters that have been established for a number of years and those that are watched with certain indicators. Mr. Newton and Mr. Thomas suggested to the SCSB a system, or process for the charter schools to report their financial status to the USOE to streamline the reporting process.

### Teacher licensure discussion

Travis Rawlings, Coordinator in the Teaching and Learning Section at USOE, presented to the SCSB a document outlining the Utah Educator Licensing Fees and discussed the need of an educator license to teach in Utah schools.

### Splitting schools discussion

Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB that she has met with colleagues at the USOE that would have knowledge and input as to what needs to happen in order to take one LEA and split it into two separate LEAs. In order for an LEA to be an independent entity it must 1) have a separate address; 2) have a separate governing board; 3) have separate Articles of Incorporation; 4) separate EIN; 5) 501c3 application and status, and 6) would have to file separate taxes.

Director Burns also stated that with splitting a school, there still needs to be good transparency from both entities; turning in their own reports and quality data and filing their own financial information. The splitting of schools would need to be done at either the beginning or end of a school year; mid-school year splits do not work because all finances have been set up for the entire fiscal year. When an LEA is split, the data belongs to one LEA; therefore the new LEA would not have historical data. Director Burns stated that splitting a school can be done, where one entity can split into two. Her recommendation would be to submit a separate charter application and a separate charter agreement, similar to a satellite school.

### R277-481, Charter School Oversight and Monitoring and Appeals

Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB of the language changes to R277-481 in lines 71-73 and lines 83-86 relating to accreditation and audit findings.

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Dean Brockbank to approve the discussed changes to R277-481. The motion was carried unanimously.

### State Board of Education items

Deputy Superintendent Martell Menlove informed the SCSB that in the USBE meeting, they would be discussing the legislative agenda and prioritization of funding of those items which the USBE feel are the highest priority. Those agenda items are: 1) changes to the orderly termination act; 2) changes to the SEOP and graduation requirements; 3) changes to the charter school approval process; 4) State Superintendent requirements relative persistently under performing schools; 5) changes to TrustLAND Administration legislation.

### Charter Agreement changes

Director Marlies Burns presented Charter Agreement changes to the SCSB.

After much discussion and input, motion was made by Vice Chair Tim Beagley and seconded by Member Dean Brockbank to approve the Charter Agreement with the recommended changes. The motion was carried unanimously.

### Utah Best Practices Guidance Handbook

Director Marlies Burns presented the Utah Best Practices Guidance Handbook to the SCSB.

Executive Session

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith to move into an executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation. The Board was polled and by unanimous consent of those present the Board moved into an executive session at 12:25 p.m.

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Laura Belnap to reconvene into open meeting at 12:35 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at 12:45 p.m. by Member Scott Smith.