

Utah State Charter School Board Meeting
Minutes
March 8, 2012
North & South Board Rooms
Utah State Office of Education

APPROVED

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

Staff present: Marlies Burns, Jo Schmitt

Others present: Carol Murphy, Teresa Theurer, Shelley Nordick, David Moss, Kristin Hooten, Lay Kou, Leif Nelson, Jonie Jenkins, Grace Mitchell, Joy Palmer, Linda Barth, John Thorn, Jean Hill, Dan Smith, Anna Marie Smith, Derryl Yeager, Jon Funes, Kim Mangum, Jeff Hirst, Steve Winitzky, Reba Vest, Kim Dohrer, Sol Garcia

Call to Order

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

Approval of General Consent Calendar

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Laura Belnap to approve the general consent calendar. Items on the consent calendar:

- Minutes of Previous Meeting-Minutes of the meeting of the State Charter School Board held February 10, 2012 are recommended for approval.
- B. Articulation Agreement-Noah Webster Academy and Freedom Academy changed their articulation agreement based on concerns of members of the State Board of Education Charter School Committee. The revised articulation agreement is recommended for approval.
- C. Amendment Request-Freedom Academy requested to amend its charter to include preference for students applying to attend consistent with the approved articulation agreement with Noah Webster Academy.

The motion was carried unanimously by those present for the vote.

Charter school applicant presentations

- **Utah International School** chartered by Granite School District in December 2011 will serve 480 students in grades 7-12, beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. The focus of the school is to provide a rigorous and relevant education for secondary students including recently arrived immigrants and refugees seeking global perspectives. Member John Pingree inquired if there was possibility of the school being located in the previous Granite High School. He was informed not at this time, and that circumstances would have to be “right,” mainly the price of the facility.

Teresa Theurer inquired how the school plans to involve parents on the board and in other ways with the operation of the school and transportation needs for the students. She was informed the school plans on having staff that know the native languages of the parents. Also the United Way Community Center provides programs for parents and families. In regards to transportation needs, the school is in hopes to give students public transportation passes.

- **Ensign Core Academy** proposes to open in the Granite School District serving 600 students in grades 5-12, beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. The focus of the school is to maximize student achievement with high standards of excellence in academics and character development.

Teresa Theurer questioned the school's counselor/student ratio, along with teachers as advisors. Carol Murphy questioned the underserved communities with regards to relationship with families. Member Laura questioned pre-assessment regarding curriculum.

- **Esperanza Elementary School** proposes to open in the Granite School District serving 525 students in grades K-8, beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. All of the school's stakeholders work as a team doing whatever it takes to provide the environment that fosters what each student needs to become bi-literate and to acquire the skills and attributes needed to effectively serve in our global community.

Carol Murphy questioned the school's 90/10% immersion in regards with end of year testing.

Vice Chair Tim Beagley inquired of the makeup of the board, stating that he understands that six of the board members will be working at the school.

Member Yolanda Francisco-Nez inquired of the board goals regarding proficiency levels, bond covenants, and only one goal stated in charter that upholds the school's mission.

- **Leadership Learning Academy** proposes to open in the Davis School District serving 543 students in grades K-6, beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. The focus of the school is to provide an innovative teaching method to help achieve a high degree of academic success while developing problem solving skills, independent learners, and future leaders in all our students.

Member Dean Brockbank inquired of teacher specialists being school wide or class specific.

Chair Tom Morgan inquired of the board education and board development.

Member Laura Belnap questioned the proficiency in end of year testing, and felt they could use higher goals.

- **Salt Lake Charter School** proposes to open in the Granite School District serving 700 students in grades K-12, beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. The focus of the school is to provide an individualized grade K-12 education that cultivates through different underrepresented cultures a success rooted in academic excellence, passion, accountability, leadership, and teamwork. It is founded on the authentic philosophy of Dr. Geoffrey Canada (Promise Academy: Harlem Children's Zone) that will focus on underrepresented and low-income underprivileged students and craft each child's education from cradle-to-career in partnership with educators, parents and the community to achieve higher levels of academic, personal and social achievement, thereby preparing students to become constructive contributors to their community.

Member Scott Smith questioned the school's enrollment goals.

Vice Chair Tim Beagley asked for clarification of the relationship between Angela Hansen-Aiono and Harmony Educational Services.

Carol Murphy inquired how the school plans to target Polynesian students, lottery qualifications and foundation funding.

Member John Pingree inquired of the school's goals for academic scores of minority; Polynesian and Pacific Islander students.

- **Pioneer High School for the Performing Arts** proposes to open in the Alpine School District serving 1000 students in grades 9-12, beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. The focus of the school is to make the arts the catalyst for learning as the school prepares students to successfully meet future academic and social challenges.

Carol Murphy inquired if the school has considered the changes by legislation regarding concurrent enrollment and CTE partnerships.

Teresa Theurer expressed her concerns regarding obtaining an Associate's Degree while attending high school. Also, she inquired if the school anticipates having a relationship with UHSAA.

Member Dean Brockbank expressed his concerns regarding the need for a waiver to start operation a year early.

Carol Murphy questioned if student interest in the school addresses the underserved community, achievement gap students, etc.

Chair Tom Morgan inquired if the school had a contract confirming commitment with Thanksgiving Point.

- **Wasatch Institute of Technology** proposes to open in one of four school districts: Granite, Jordan, Canyons or Murray serving 923 students in grades 9-12, beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. The focus of the school is to create an adaptive learning environment to prepare tomorrow's software and network systems engineers.

Member Yolanda Francisco-Nez inquired of the school reaching underserved populations.

Chair Tom Morgan expressed concern regarding the school's curriculum goals.

- **Voyage Academy** proposes to open in the Davis or Weber School District serving 525 students in grades K-6, beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. The focus of the school is that through Expeditionary Learning, children will explore Life Skills and gain personal responsibility. As they strive for excellence in the molding of their future, they will become honest, compassionate and respectful seekers of learning.

Member Yolanda Francisco-Nez expressed her concerns regarding the school's financial goals.

Recommendation of new charter school applications

Following the presentations by the charter school applicants and deliberation by the SCSB, motion was made by Vice Chair Tim Beagley and seconded by Member Scott Smith to be recommended for approval by the USBE the following schools in priority order:

1. Pioneer High School for the Performing Arts
2. Esperanza Elementary School
3. Leadership Learning Academy
4. Salt Lake Charter School

The motion was carried unanimously, with Member John Pingree absent for the vote.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Tim Beagley and seconded by Member Dean Brockbank to recommend Wasatch Institute of Technology for approval by the USBE as the SCSB's 5th priority choice. The motion was carried unanimously, with Member John Pingree absent for the vote.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Tim Beagley and seconded by Member Scott Smith to recommend Voyage Academy for approval by the USBE as the SCSB's 6th priority choice. The motion was carried with positive votes from Vice Chair Tim Beagley, Members Laura Belnap, Dean Brockbank, Yolanda Francisco-Nez, and Scott Smith. Chair Tom Morgan voted in opposition. Member John Pingree was absent for the vote.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Tim Beagley and seconded by Member Laura Belnap to not recommend approval of Ensign Core Academy. The specific points for not approving Ensign Core Academy include: the school's academic model needs improvement in regards to innovation and creativity; underserved communities were not well represented; additional depth in regards to the governing board as well as across the entire spectrum of the school. The motion was carried unanimously, with Member John Pingree absent for the vote.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Tim Beagley and seconded by Member Dean Brockbank to encourage all recommended for approval charter applicants continue to work with the Charter School Office to meet the standards the SCSB has directed them to address; and if the applicants have not successfully met the standards, the SCSB will have the opportunity to resend their motion to recommend approval at the next board meeting. The motion was carried unanimously, with Member John Pingree absent for the vote.

Amendment request – Legacy Preparatory Academy

Representatives from Legacy Preparatory Academy informed the SCSB of the school's amendment request to increase enrollment by 489 students beginning in 2012-2013 school year.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Tim Beagley and seconded by Member Laura Belnap to recommend to the USBE approval of the amendment request. The motion carried with affirmative votes from Vice Chair Tim Beagley, Chair Tom Morgan, Members Laura Belnap, Yolanda Francisco-Nez and Scott Smith. Members Dean Brockbank and John Pingree were absent for the vote.

Amendment request – Utah Virtual Academy

Representatives from Utah Virtual Academy informed the SCSB of the school's amendment request to increase enrollment by 500 students beginning in the 2012-2013 school year.

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Yolanda Francisco-Nez to deny the amendment request and allow the school time to work with the Charter School Office and their new board members to improve their performance and outcomes. The motion carried with affirmative votes from Vice Chair Tim Beagley, Chair Tom Morgan, Members Yolanda Francisco-Nez and Scott Smith. Members Dean Brockbank, and John Pingree were absent for the vote. Member Laura Belnap recused herself from the vote.

Prioritization of approved charter school student requests for FY13

Motion was made by Chair Tom Morgan and seconded by Member Scott Smith to approve the distributed prioritized list. The motion carried with affirmative votes from Vice Chair Tim Beagley, Chair Tom Morgan, Members Laura Belnap and Scott Smith. Members Dean Brockbank, John Pingree and Yolanda Francisco-Nez were absent for the vote.

Review of State Board of Education's February and March 2012 meetings

Vice Chair Tim Beagley informed the SCSB that in the February 2012 USBE meeting, the board approved the amendment requests by Tuachan High and Salt Lake Arts Academy. There was discussion regarding the articulation agreement between Noah Webster Academy and Provo Freedom Academy that now has been revised and will be sent back to the USBE for approval. In the March 2012 USBE meeting, there was discussion of changes to two board rules that pertain to teacher licensing that may affect charter schools; 1) procedures for eminence and 2) charter specific licenses. Also, during the legislation session it was determined the WPU will be increased 1.6% and the creation of the Charter School Finance Authority which will allow charter schools to bond through the state, for their building.

Baer Canyon High School for Sports and Medical Sciences

Motion was made by Member Scott Smith and seconded by Member Laura Belnap to accept Baer Canyon High School for Sports and Medical Sciences' request to resend their charter application. The motion was carried unanimously. Vice Chair Tim Beagley revised the motion to include direction to the Charter School Staff to initiate the process of revoking Baer Canyon High School for Sports and Medical Sciences charter. Members Dean Brockbank, John Pingree and Yolanda Francisco-Nez were absent for the vote.

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn at 2:45 p.m. by Member Laura Belnap.