

Utah State Charter School Board Meeting
Minutes
September 12, 2013
USOE

APPROVED

Members present: Tim Beagley, Laura Belnap, Kristin Elinkowski, Robert Enger, Howard Headlee, Bruce Davis, Dean Brockbank

Staff present: Marlies Burns, Jennifer Lambert, Janene Bowen, Jo Schmitt

Others present; Heather Groom, Freddie Cooper, Brenda Hales, Joylin Lincoln, Tina Smith, Peggy Downs, Carolyn Sharette, Susan Goers, Matt Majewski, Kim Dohrer, Darren Beck, Suzanne Kemp, Denise Collings, Keith Facer, Kristy Gordon, Amy Saunders, Steve Winitzky, Susan Soleil, Eric Lindsey, Ryan Marchant, Peter Chan, Jacob Anderegg, Jonathan Schmuhl, Sol Garcia

Call to Order

Chair Tim Beagley called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Dean Brockbank led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

State Board of Education Update

Member Laura Belnap reported to the SCSB actions and motions taken by the USBE at their last meeting. Ms. Belnap stated Legacy Preparatory Academy's and Lincoln Academy's amendment requests were approved; American Preparatory Academy's amendment request was not approved and sent back to the SCSB for further discussion and review. Chair Beagley informed the SCSB that American Preparatory Academy's amendment request would be on their October agenda and would be sent to the USBE in November.

Ms. Belnap also stated there was discussion regarding the Common Core and School LAND Trust funds.

Approval Consent Calendar

Motion was made by Member Bruce Davis and seconded by Member Robert Enger to approve the consent calendar (minutes of SCSB meeting held August 8, 2013 and School LAND Trust plan for Utah Virtual Academy). The motion was carried unanimously.

Strong Start Academy

Tiffanie Owens, Education Specialist in the Special Education Section at USOE, provided additional details about the Strong Start Academy program that has been developed to assist new charter schools in the task of building effective, compliant special education programs.

Special Education Work Group update

Leah Voorhies, Coordinator in the Special Education Section at USOE shared with the SCSB highlights of a meeting with selected representatives of small LEAs that discussed concerns and possible solutions of the specific challenges small LEAs face when providing a continuum of placement and services for students with disabilities.

Board Leadership Elections

According to SCSB bylaws, the vice chair oversees State Charter School Board elections. Vice Chair Dean Brockbank informed the SCSB that Tim Beagley and he had been the only two that submitted interest for leadership of the SCSB. Motion was made by Member Howard Headlee and seconded by Member Robert Enger to appoint Tim Beagley as Chair and Dean Brockbank as Vice Chair to the SCSB. The motion was carried unanimously.

Vice Chair informed the SCSB that Members Laura Belnap and Kristin Elinkowski indicated interest in serving as the SCSB representative to the State Board of Education. After a “straw pull” vote, Kristin Elinkowski was appointed to that position. Member Bruce Davis indicated his interest to serve as the SCSB representative to the School LAND Trust committee and was appointed to that committee.

Amendment request – Good Foundations Academy

Representatives of Good Foundations Academy informed the SCSB of their request to add grades 7-8 and 144 students beginning in the 2014-2015 school year (618 students total).

Motion was made by Member Howard Headlee and seconded by Member Robb Enger to recommend approval to the USBE the requested amendment. After much discussion, Member Howard Headlee called for question of the vote. The motion was carried with positive votes by Tim Beagley, Kristin Elinkowski, Robert Enger, Howard Headlee, Bruce Davis, and Dean Brockbank. Member Laura Belnap recused herself from the vote because she was not present for a large portion of the presentation.

Amendment request – Jefferson Academy

Representatives of Jefferson Academy informed the SCSB of their request to add 55 students beginning in the 2014-2015 school year (835 students total).

Motion was made by Vice Chair Dean Brockbank and seconded by Member Kristin Elinkowski to recommend approval to the USBE the requested amendment. The motion was carried unanimously.

Amendment request – Vista at Entrada School

Representatives of Vista at Entrada School of Performing Arts & Technology informed the SCSB of their request to modify several areas of its charter agreement, including the change of instructional program from K¹² online instruction to Core Knowledge; change school purposes to exclude “improved use of technology”; remove goal to each students a second language; eliminating teacher trainer/curriculum consultant position.

Motion was made by Member Bruce Davis and seconded by Member Laura Belnap to recommend approval to the USBE the requested amendment. The motion was carried unanimously.

Charter Fidelity rubric and monitoring process

Janene Bowen, Education Specialist in the Charter School Section at USOE presented the final charter school performance indicator requiring a monitoring process. The SCSB was informed the monitoring process and charter fidelity performance rubric was sent to governing board chairs and other charter school stakeholder groups for feedback. That feedback was incorporated in the updated rubric.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Dean Brockbank and seconded by Member Kristin Elinkowski to approve the use of the rubric to continue to monitor the performances of charter schools; to move forward with the pilot program using the criteria laid out in the spreadsheet presented, subject to comments and input from the SCSB; and report progress monthly to the SCSB. In addition, the pilot schools would report to the SCSB as well. The motion was carried unanimously.

UCA 53A-1a-501.9 proposal presentations

State law 53A-1a-501.9 requires applications for schools employing new and creative methods to meet the unique learning styles and needs of students. Six completed proposals were received by the deadline. Those proposals that are determined of interest and qualify under the law will be invited to submit a complete application.

- Athenian eAcademy (K-12, rural areas of Utah)

Athenian eAcademy's vision provides modern educational reform opportunities to rural communities, using a blend of modern technology, traditional structures, and family involvement.

The school's mission is dedicated to delivering a rigorous, standards-based education utilizing a unique, blended technology approach in rural areas where school choice is limited to the local school district or homeschooling through traditional methods or an online educational program. Athenian eAcademy is also trying to help improve education for students who are economically disadvantaged in urban areas. By cultivating a community of learning and academic excellence, Athenian eAcademy will bolster the number of underrepresented students who successfully complete advanced level secondary coursework and attain college degrees.

After presentation, motion was made by Member Howard Headlee and seconded by Vice Chair Dean Brockbank to invite the school to submit a full application consistent with 53A-1a-501.9. The motion carried with affirmative votes from Tim Beagley, Kristin Elinkowski, Robert Enger, Howard Headlee, Bruce Davis, and Dean Brockbank. Member Laura Belnap voted in opposition.

- MyOptions (K-12, online)

The mission of MyOptions is to inspire their students to the highest level of achievement-excellence.

After presentation, motion was made by Vice Chair Dean Brockbank and seconded by Member Bruce Davis to invite the school to submit a full application consistent with 53A-1a-501.9. The motion carried with affirmative votes from Tim Beagley, Laura Belnap, Kristin Elinkowski, Howard Headlee, Bruce Davis, and Dean Brockbank. Member Robert Enger voted in opposition.

- Utah Military Academy (7-12, Davis campus – 2014; Alpine/Jordan/Canyons campus – 2015, Washington campus - 2016)

Utah Military Academy's vision will prepare their cadets as leaders to thrive in any competitive environment upon graduation with a focus on entrance into the military academies, ROTC scholarship programs in college and universities or other technically challenging opportunities related to the military culture. All of which result in maximizing their potential throughout life.

After presentation, motion was made by Member Howard Headlee and seconded by Member Bruce Davis to invite the school to submit a full application consistent with 53A-1a-501.9. The motion carried unanimously.

- iREACH (7-12, Jordan School District)

The mission of iREACH is to educate, empower and equip their students for the life they choose while at school and beyond graduation. Within a small, caring community, their laser-focused educational design provides each student with an individually crafted learning experience through the use of cutting-edge technology, dynamic teaching and holistic mentoring.

After presentation, motion was made by Member Kristin Elinkowski and seconded by Member Howard Headlee to invite the school to submit a full application consistent with 53A-1a-501.9. The motion carried with affirmative votes from Tim Beagley, Kristin Elinkowski, Robert Enger, Howard Headlee, Bruce Davis, and Dean Brockbank. Member Laura Belnap voted in opposition.

- Veritas Academy (K-12, Provo School District)

After presentation, motion was made by Member Howard Headlee and seconded by Vice Chair Dean Brockbank to invite the school to submit a full application consistent with 53A-1a-501.9. The motion carried unanimously.

- Roots Charter High School (9-12, Granite School District)

Roots Charter High School's mission targets students who are at risk of academic failure in the greater West Valley City area and instill them with the knowledge, skills and ability to live healthy, productive and sustainable lives. Graduates are proficient in math and reading and well prepared for post-secondary education through authentic learning that develops ecological literacy, academic accomplishment, strong character, and a commitment to community.

After presentation, motion was made by Member Howard Headlee and seconded by Member Kristin Elinkowski to invite the school to submit a full application consistent with 53A-1a-501.9. The motion carried unanimously.

School Grades

Director Marlies Burns informed the SCSB that school grades were released to the public on September 3, 2013. Charter schools were represented in each grading category A through F. Although school grades are not a comprehensive look at all aspects of a school, it does show academic concerns in student growth, proficiency, and college readiness. Chair Tim Beagley stated school grades would be an October agenda item to further discuss and consider options and results.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Member Robert Enger to adjourn at 2:10 p.m.