

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF A PUBLIC HEARING TO SOLICIT INPUT ON THE SUMMIT CHARTER SCHOOL PETITION

**Board Room at the Education Service Center
Monday, June 27, 2011
4:30 p.m.**

BOARD MEMBERS AND SUPERINTENDENT PRESENT:

Marianne Donnelly, Chair	John Sargent, Member (Arrived at 4:33 p.m.)
Janie Gebhardt, Vice Chair	Jackie Cranor, Member
Frank Rash, Clerk	Mary Vagner, Superintendent

Welcome, Call to Order and Statement of Purpose

Chair Donnelly welcomed everyone and called the Special Meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. She said the purpose of the meeting was to conduct a public hearing to solicit input on the Summit Charter School Petition.

Dr. Mortensen said a Committee was convened to review the Summit Charter School petition. She said the Board also reviewed the petition at the June 21, 2011 Board Meeting. She said the Committee had the expertise of various people to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the charter. She said the petition included the sections that were required by law and had been reviewed by the State Department of Education. She said the committee identified several areas of concern. She said the areas were outlined in the Resolution which was included in the packet. She asked the Board if they had any questions relative to the areas of concern. Ms. Cranor asked what the concern was relative to curriculum development. Dr. Mortensen said the petition mentioned state standards but did not mention the common core standards or give any indication as to how the standards would be implemented. She said there currently was no state curriculum. She said given the work the District was engaged in relative to the common core standards and knowing the tremendous amount of work involved it was a great concern that none of this was mentioned in the petition. She said there was nothing that spoke to curriculum development at all, that was the concern. She said the petition talked about programs that were commonly used in the Harbor Method that had been around a long time and some of them were outdated. Ms. Vagner said the Resolution had been revised to change the recommendation from denying the petition to referring the petition onto the State Charter Commission. Ms. Donnelly asked what the concerns were relative to special education. Dr. Mortensen said special education had undergone significant changes in the last few years. She said the way students qualified for a specific learning disability was an entirely new process and that is where RTI fits in with pre-referral interventions and progress monitoring. She said all of this had to be in place before any special education services could begin and none of that was outlined in the petition. She said the document spoke to the old outdated processes of how children would qualify for services which were no longer relevant. She said the committee agreed it needed more elaboration in that area. Ms. Donnelly asked if the District would have any responsibility in governing the charter if it was chartered by the Commission. Dr. Mortensen said it would not. She said the charter would be solely responsible for its compliance to state and federal laws.

Convene Public Hearing to Solicit Input on the Summit Charter School Petition

Chair Donnelly convened the public hearing at 4:38 p.m. and opened public comment.

Jonathan Braack – 4739 Kimmi Ct., Chubbuck, ID 83202

Mr. Braack said he had been authorized to represent the charter on behalf of the Board of Directors. He thanked the Board and the District for the expedited process. He thanked Dr. Mortensen for bringing up the areas of concern. He said the charter had made many changes along the way and was approved by the State Department of Education after a third review. He said requirements were more stringent now. He said the charter went through three revisions before being sanctioned to move on. He said the reason the petition did not address the common core standards was because it was not a requirement of the state. He

said the charter would be replicating the Academy, Inc. verbatim and one of the new processes in place was aligning curriculum to the common core standards. He said the charter would address the issue before going before the State Charter Commission in August. He said the Academy, Inc was a K-8 charter but there was a curriculum manual that went through major content standards in all grades. He said each grade level had an “essential” curriculum and an “advanced” curriculum. He said the charter commonly taught concepts one or two grade levels ahead and most students were one or two grades ahead. He said even though it was not addressed in the petition the directors were aware of the content standards. He said as to special education, the Academy currently had a special education director that was an expert and had brought herself up to date with the new compliance requirements. He said she would come to Summit Charter and would help implement the new program and teach the new special education teachers. He said he chaired a committee the previous year called the Problem Solving Team which was a component of RtI and had a Tier 1 – 3 system in place at the Academy, Inc. and tracked the data. He said all of this would be brought on board at Summit Charter and would ensure the school looked at every option for special education. He said he spoke with the Charter Commission to clarify Idaho Code and the Commission was clear that the word “deny” could not be included in the resolution without a lengthy appeals process. He said he also spoke to the Journal which would run a story on the petition. He thanked the Board and the District staff for being so accommodating.

Adjourn Public Hearing and Reconvene Special Meeting to Take Action on the Summit Charter School Petition

Chair Donnelly adjourned the public hearing at 4:45 p.m. and reconvened the Special Meeting to take action on the Summit Charter School Petition.

A motion was made by Ms. Gebhardt and seconded by Mr. Sargent to adopt the Resolution that:

WHEREAS, representatives of the Summit Charter School submitted a petition to the Board of Trustees of the Pocatello/Chubbuck School District on May 17, 2011 communicating their intention to open a new charter school within the boundaries of District #25 in September 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Educational Program outlined in the petition does not acknowledge or incorporate the Common Core State Standards which must be implemented in all Idaho classrooms by 2013-2014 requiring Idaho schools to increase rigor and prepare students with 21st Century Skills; and

WHEREAS, the petition does not define a process for curriculum development to align curriculum to the Common Core State Standards nor do the instructional programs and strategies described in the petition align well with scientifically research-based programs and best practices to support the increased rigor required in the Common Core State Standards for mathematics, language arts, science and social studies; and

WHEREAS, the petition states that “students who have been enrolled at the school for three (3) consecutive years will meet the following educational benchmarks” when all Idaho schools are accountable to ensure all students meet adopted state standards whether they have been enrolled for three years or not; and

WHEREAS, the petition does not acknowledge the requirement for all Idaho schools to engage in continuous school improvement planning using the required Idaho State Department of Education process and tool for documenting and monitoring the school improvement plan; and

WHEREAS, the petition does not address the requirements for conducting and documenting pre-referral and pre-intervention efforts prior to referral for special education evaluation nor does the petition adequately address a continuum of services required for special needs students and does not state how students identified as gifted and talented will be served; and

WHEREAS, there are currently two charter schools and three private schools operating within the boundaries of the School District offering educational options to parents and students and the community may best be served by a fresh and innovative educational option rather than a replication of the Academy at Roosevelt Center, a Harbor Method school; and

WHEREAS, the District is the authorizer of the Pocatello Community Charter School and fully understands the responsibilities and oversight obligations required of authorizers under Idaho Code; and

WHEREAS, due to the actions of the Idaho Legislature over the past three years, District #25 resources have been dramatically reduced requiring increased workloads for all employees thereby limiting the District's ability to meet the oversight obligations required of a charter authorizer; and

WHEREAS, the Summit Charter School petition was reviewed by the Board of Trustees and a committee of District representatives in a reasonable effort demonstrating due diligence as required by Idaho Code 33-5205 (c).

THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED, pursuant to 33-5205, Idaho Code and State Board of Education Rules Governing Charter Schools, the Pocatello/Chubbuck School District Board of Trustees exercises its legal authority to refer the Summit Charter School petition to the State Charter Commission. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Ms. Gebhardt and seconded by Mr. Sargent to adjourn. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative. The Board adjourned the Special Meeting at 4:46 p.m.

APPROVED ON:

July 19, 2017

BY:


Chair

ATTESTED BY:


Clerk

MINUTES PREPARED BY:


Secretary, Board of Trustees