

MINUTES

July 13, 2005

Minutes of the meeting of the State Board of Education held July 13, 2005, at the Iron School District Office, Cedar City, Utah. Meeting commenced at 9:20 a.m. Chairman Kim R. Burningham presided.

Members present were:

Chairman Kim R. Burningham
Vice Chairman Janet A. Cannon
Member Dixie L. Allen
Member Tim Beagley
Member Laurel Brown
Member Mark Cluff
Member Bill Colbert
Member Thomas Gregory
Member Greg W. Haws
Member John C. Pingree
Member Debra G. Roberts
Member Richard Sadler
Member Gary C. Swensen
Member Teresa L. Theurer

Members Bonnie Jean Beesley, Edward A. Dalton and Sara Sinclair were excused.

Also present were:

Executive Officer Patti Harrington
Associate Superintendent Patrick Ogden
Associate Superintendent Raymond Timothy
Public Affairs Director Mark Peterson
Board Secretary Twila B. Affleck

Associate Superintendent Christine Kearl and Executive Director, USOR, Blaine Petersen were excused.

Members of the Press:

Meg Cady, Daily News
Stephen Speckman, Deseret Morning News
Susan Hardy, Entheos Charter School
Monty Hardy, Entheos Charter School
Celia Johnson, Paradigm Charter School
Todd Witzel, South Ridge Academy
Dave Moss, Utah State Charter School Board
Phil Jefferies, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
Val Johnson, Paradigm Charter School

Utah State Office of Education Staff:

Larry Shumway, Law, Legislation, and Educational Services

Board Secretary Twila B. Affleck recorded the minutes.

Chairman Burningham excused Board Members Bonnie Jean Beesley, Edward A. Dalton and Sara Sinclair.

Chairman Burningham commented that we have a lot of people who do a lot of service for their community and for something they believe in. He was in Washington, D.C. recently for eight days including the 4th of July, and it was a marvelous moving experience. He shared two of the most memorable experiences of the trip: The first, they attended a Marine concert at Iwo Jima and when they played the Marine Hymn and the audience all stood to attention. There was a woman to their side, who was in some way associated with the Marines, either herself, parents, or spouse, and she stood rigidly and erect and with every fiber of her being expressing her appreciation for a free country. The second was a cab driver from Afghanistan whose wife and children are still in Afghanistan. He is driving cab to save money so he can bring them here. It was his hope that in one year he will have saved enough money for them to come here. Chairman Burningham stated that he felt this was such a belief in a system and in self and a principle of how service is important. He further stated that the Board commits a great deal of service and it is admirable. Service is what makes our country and beyond great wherever people serve one another.

Chairman Burningham shared a quote from Eleanore Roosevelt. “The feeling that I was useful was perhaps the greatest joy I experienced.” He expressed appreciation for the service and time shared by the Board members.

Charter School Application Recommendations

The State Charter School Board met on June 16 and reviewed the charter school applications for two conversions from State Charters to State Charter School Board agreements, two amendments to charters, four new charter applications, two follow-up applications, and one application to convert from a district charter to a State Charter.

Associate Superintendent Ray Timothy, and John Broberg, Executive Director of the Utah State Charter School Board made the following recommendations:

The Walden School (formerly Discovery Charter School)

Recommendation from the State Charter School Board to convert The Walden School (Formerly Discovery Charter School) from the State Board of Education to the State Charter School Board.

Superintendent Harrington presented and reviewed the Audit completed by Karen Kowalski relative to special education services in charter schools in response to a request made earlier by the Board. (For complete details, see General Exhibit No. 9657.)

Vice Chairman Janet Cannon noted that the Executive Summary Report indicates that an administrative assistant reviews the books and signs the checks. She was of the understanding that charter schools were required to have two signatures on the checks. Mr. Broberg indicated he would follow-up with the school to make sure this is the case, as well as in all other charter schools. Associate Superintendent Ray Timothy further responded that the State Charter School Board has also required that each charter school submit a financial report on a monthly basis to them.

Member Teresa Theurer commented that it was her understanding that the test scores would provide a comparison between the district, charter school and the state. A parent from the school indicated she had received this information. Mr. Broberg indicated in the future this would be included in the report.

Member Laurel Brown voiced concern that there seems to be an inconsistency in whether or not there is a special education teacher hired or contracted. Their report indicates they cannot afford a special education instructor, yet it also indicates they have one. Mr. Broberg responded that the law states that they have one hired and on staff. Further, if the school is expanded, will there be enough special education instructors to deal with the increase in student population. Member Brown wanted to insure that there are certified special education instructors to adequately deal with any expansion in student population.

Mr. Broberg clarified also that if the school wishes to expand to additional grades it needs to come back before the State Charter School Board requesting the expansion.

Motion was made by Member Laurel Brown and seconded by Member Mark Cluff to accept the State Charter School Board recommendation and convert The Walden School (formerly Discovery Charter School) from the State Board of Education to the State Charter School Board. Further, that as they are able to expand through 10th grade deleting the 6th grade it is done under the condition they hire adequate special education staff to address the needs of special education students. Motion carried unanimously.

American Preparatory Academy

Recommendation from the State Charter School Board to convert the American Preparatory Academy from the Jordan School District to the State Charter School Board.

Member Teresa Theurer commented that there needs to be further clarification on No. 10 of the Executive Summary Report that the charters schools are in the same grade configurations as the district.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Janet A. Cannon and seconded by Member Bill Colbert to accept the recommendation of the State Charter School Board to convert the American Preparatory Academy from the Jordan School District to the State Charter School Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Entheos Academy and Paradigm High School

Recommendation from the State Charter School Board to approve Entheos Academy and Paradigm High School Charters previously reviewed by the State Charter School Board and have made revisions based on concerns of the State Board or the State Charter School Board.

Motion was made by Member Tim Beagley and seconded by Member Richard Sadler to accept the recommendation of the State Charter School Board to approve Entheos Academy as a State Charter School. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Member Mark Cluff and seconded by Member Tim Beagley to accept the recommendation of the State Charter School Board to approve Paradigm High School as a State Charter School. Motion carried unanimously.

South Ridge Academy, Renaissance Academy, and Noah Webster Academy

Recommendation from the State Charter School Board to approve New Charter Applications for South Ridge Academy, Renaissance Academy, and Noah Webster Academy.

Motion was made by Member Laurel O. Brown and seconded by Member Bill Colbert to accept the recommendation of the State Charter School Board and approve South Ridge Academy as a State Charter School. Motion carried unanimously.

Member Bill Colbert suggested that the State Board have a presentation similar to that of the State Charter School Board relative to the IB program.

Member Debra Roberts requested that the Board receive a report on the DaVinci Academy relative to the number of minority and low-income students being served by that school.

Motion was made by Member Dixie L. Allen and seconded by Member Gary C. Swensen to accept the recommendation of the State Charter School Board and approve Renaissance Academy as a State Charter School. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Member Richard Sadler and seconded by Member Dixie L. Allen to accept the recommendation of the State Charter School Board and approve Noah Webster Academy as a State Charter School. Motion carried unanimously.

(For complete details of the Charter School Board Recommendations, see General Exhibit No. 9658.)

Chairman Burningham indicated that there is a filtering process happening with the State Charter School Board and he expressed appreciation to them for their diligent work.

The Board adjourned at 11:00 a.m. to attend the Utah Rural Schools Conference Luncheon and Keynote Speaker, Superintendent Patti Harrington.