

Community Choice Schools Commission Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2023
Montana State Capitol Building, Room 102
1301 E 6th Avenue, Helena, MT

Call to Order

Chair Schreiber called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM and led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Kris Stockton took Roll Call, and the Chair read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests.

Commission members present: Ms. Trish Schreiber, Chair; Ms. Cathy Kincheloe; Ms. Dee Brown; Ms. Katy Wright; Mr. Mark Hufstetler; Mr. Jon Rutt. Dr. Katey Franklin-excused. Board of Public Education staff present: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist. Guests: Mr. Dylan Klapmeier, Education Policy Advisor for Governor Gianforte; Ms. Jenny Murnane Butcher, Montanans Organized for Education; Ms. Jane Hamman, Board of Public Education member; Dr. Jim Goenner, National Charter School Institute; Mr. Pad McCracken, Legislative Services; Ms. Julia Pattin, Legislative Services; Mr. Ben Lindquist, Arcadia Education; Ms. Heather Irving; Ms. Judy Snow.

*****Items are listed in the order in which they are presented*****

Item 1 Approval of Consent Agenda

Member Wright moved to approve the Minutes and Agenda. Motion seconded by Member Brown.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 2 Chairperson Welcome Statement; Jon Rutt, self-introduction

Chair Schreiber thanked everyone for attending the meeting and gave opening remarks regarding the purpose of the Commission, a brief overview of the scheduled presenters, and how the meeting is organized. New member Mr. Jon Rutt introduced himself to the Commission and reviewed his educational and professional background.

Item 3 Discussion/Training: Dr. Jim Goenner, President and CEO of National Charter School Institute: What It Means to Be an Authorizer: An Introductory Conversation

Chair Schreiber introduced Dr. Jim Goenner to the Commission and reviewed his professional background, specifically his experience with public charter schools. Dr. Goenner discussed his work with the National Charter School Institute, a 501(c)(3) dedicated to helping families find the best educational pathway for their children. Dr. Goenner discussed the impact authorizers can have and how they can change education for students, how to create conditions where excellence can thrive, and what schools want from their authorizers. Dr. Goenner answered members' questions.

Item 4 Discussion/Presentation: Pad McCracken, Research Analyst Legislative Services Division and Julia Pattin, Fiscal Analyst Legislative Fiscal Division: An overview of traditional school funding in Montana with Q&A

Mr. Pad McCracken and Ms. Julia Pattin presented an overview of school funding in Montana, discussing how monies are allocated, how funding is distributed, and a general overview of how the school funding formula works for traditional public schools in Montana. Ms. Pattin displayed a new interactive tool

available to the public on the Legislative Services website. The tool displays district budgets, adopted budgets, and district maps which are all available for public information. Mr. McCracken and Ms. Patten answered members' questions.

Item 5 Action: Officer Elections for Vice Chair and Treasurer

Chair Schreiber opened the floor for nominations for Treasurer.

Member Hufstetler nominated Member Rutt for the position of Treasurer. Motion seconded by Member Wright.

Member Rutt accepted the nomination.

Member Rutt was elected to the position of Treasurer by unanimous vote.

Chair Schreiber opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

Member Brown nominated Member Wright for the position of Vice Chair. Motion seconded by Member Kincheloe.

Member Wright accepted the nomination.

Member Wright was elected to the position of Vice Chair by unanimous vote.

Item 6 Discussion/Training: Ben Lindquist from Arcadia Education: CREDO and Understanding CMOs, EMOs, Free Standing Charter Schools, and CSOs: An Introductory Conversation

Chair Schreiber introduced Mr. Ben Lindquist to the Commission. Mr. Lindquist discussed the different types of charter schools that operate around the country, how charter structures differ based on state law, the types of schools and students served by charter schools, how authorizers work in different states, and how for-profit and not-for-profit entities assist charter schools in handling centralized services. Mr. Lindquist answered members' questions.

Future Agenda Items

Chair Schreiber discussed meeting length and frequency, noting that upcoming trainings scheduled may require monthly meetings through spring 2024. Members discussed options for meeting length and days of the week which work best.

Chair Schreiber discussed future training which may require an overnight stay in a location which the Commission can choose and a possible out-of-state trip to Boise, Idaho to meet with their the Bluum Foundation to tour charter schools, see their offices, meet with school founders and local philanthropists. Chair Schreiber asked everyone to consider if perhaps combining these events (training and school tours) into a two-night stay makes sense. Vice Chair Wright suggested that each member send the Chair an email with the best dates for them for an overnight or out-of-state trip.

Chair Schreiber asked members to consider possible committees which should be formed and possible action items or business for next meeting. She requested members bring prepared motions for committee formations to the December meeting.

Public Comment

Mr. Ben Lindquist recommended who to contact in Idaho at the Bluum Foundation regarding any possible trips to Idaho.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 PM.