

**Alabama Public Charter School Commission**  
**March 10, 2022 10:00 A.M.**  
**Via Zoom**

**MINUTES**

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission (APCSC) met on March 10, 2022 at 10:00 A.M. in a Zoom meeting to consider matters relevant to duties of the Alabama Public Charter School Commission outlined in the *Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act* for public charter schools in Alabama.

**Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

David Marshall welcomed everyone to the meeting. Roll call was taken by Mrs. Logan Searcy. Eight members were present which represented a quorum. Members of the Commission who participated:

David Marshall	LaKeshia Wheeler
Marla Green	Ty Moody (entered late)
Paul Morin	Steve Siple (entered late)
Sydney Raine	Dick Brewbaker (absent)
Julie Ann McCulley	Anthony Overton (absent)

Chairman Marshall asked for a motion to approve today's agenda and the minutes from the February 10, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Raine made a motion to approve today's agenda and the minutes. Commissioner McCulley seconded. The vote was unanimous. Minutes and agenda were approved.

**Presentation from Legacy Prep**

Chairman Marshall introduced the first item on the agenda a presentation from Legacy Prep. Mr. Marshall introduced Ms. Rugayyah Abdullah from Legacy Prep. Ms. Abdullah said they want to share some of the exciting things they are kicking off for the school. She shared that their founder, CEO, and school leader resigned last September. She stated that today they are going to talk through how they are capitalizing on the momentum of the vision and mission of the previous founder to empower their scholars to embrace their identity, lead lives of choice and opportunity and impact their communities as the next generation of socially conscience leaders. Ms. Abdullah shared that they are kicking off an inclusive and thoughtful search process for a Head of School. Legacy Prep is partnering with the Alabama Association of School Boards (AASB) and two seasoned professional charter school consultants to help capture the voices and hearts of the school in this search. The search will include surveys of the school's board of directors, staff, families, and supporters. She said there will also be in person and virtual sessions to get feedback from all stakeholders. They are also creating a performance task with case study based interview process that will include input from staff members. Ms. Abdullah shared the timeline for the Head of School search with a target start date for the new leader of June 1<sup>st</sup>. She shared that she is excited to welcome the next leader who will help propel the mission forward. She is confident in their operational strength. They have found a strong CSFO in Mr. Willie Davis. Ms. Abdullah asked Mr. Davis to address how they are leveraging their operational strength to continue to be successful and be the lynch pin for the next school leader. Mr. Davis shared that some changes have been made regarding the school's financial bench strength. Such as gearing more money to the scholar's academic success. Mr. Davis has limited the school to one credit card. All purchases must be approved by the CSFO or his assistant. All items are checked to make sure they are part of the budget. Mr. Davis addressed school growth. He shared they have added 20 new applicants this year. The enrollment is now at 342 scholars. Legacy Prep will be adding fifth grade next school year and they already have 120 registrations. He said their lottery will be held in a

couple of weeks. Mr. Davis said they realize that they are going to need more space and have added four trailer to handle next years growth. Mr. Davis went on to address the need for a second campus. He said they are in the process searching for a suitable campus. They realize they will need a second campus in two years. He said ideally, they will need a facility to house 7<sup>th</sup>--12<sup>th</sup> grades. Mr. Davis said they have already begun working with SDE transportation to prepare transportation routes for a new facility. Mr. Davis thanked the commission for the opportunity to speak and turned the meeting back to Commissioner Marshall. Mr. Marshall thanked the presenters for sharing with the commission. He then asked the commissioners if there were any questions. Commissioner Morin stated that there have been previous concerns with the financials and the turnover. He asked to see the previous findings regarding the financial issues and the plan or documentation on how that has been rectified. He said they would like Commissioner Siple and himself to look that over. He also requested a progress report after the hiring of the new school leader. Mr. Morin would also like to know at the beginning of summer how teacher recruitment is going. He said he would also like to know what strategic plan that is in place for addressing academic gains because that was a concern he had when viewing Legacy Preps data. Mr. Davis responded that they are aware of the importance of academics and are emphasizing the importance of doing better every day. Mr. Davis said they have hired interventionists, gifted teachers, and are concentrating on special needs students. They are striving to put the tools in place to be successful. Mr. Davis added that they are using data to drive instruction. Ms. Abdullah added that there is a document that addresses the financial concerns of Commissioner Morin. She also stated that there is a report that compares Legacy Prep data to Birmingham City and some of the other charters. Ms. Abdullah said she would fold the two reports together and share them with the commissioners. She said she wants to make sure that commissioners have the right information regarding where Legacy Prep is positioned. Regarding the request for check-ins, she reported that Legacy Prep already had a 30, 60, 90, plan in effect and will continue with the new Head of School. Ms. Abdullah also shared that they have begun intensive after school tutoring and will continue that tutoring into the summer. She then thanked the commission for the opportunity to share and turned the meeting back to Chairman Marshall. Chairman Marshall again thanked the presenters and asked for any additional questions or comments.

### **Consideration of Evaluator for Submitted Application and any Appeals**

Chairman Marshall introduced the next item on the agenda consideration of an outside evaluator for the spring application cycle. Mr. Marshall explained that the external evaluator committee had chosen the University of Alabama team to conduct the evaluations during the winter cycle. Mr. Marshall asked the members of the external evaluator committee who are present in the meeting to share thought on how the process should proceed. Commissioner Moody said who did it the last time did a great job and she commended them for that. Commissioner Morin stated that because of time constraints and the turn around time that they are in that the commission should stay with the University of Alabama team with the caveat that there's got to be additional instruction. Mr. Morin said he didn't find the last report robust or detailed enough. Chairman asked for additional comments or a motion. Commissioner made a motion to use the University of Alabama team to review spring applications. Commissioner Green seconded. The vote was unanimous. The motion was approved.

### **Consideration of the Release of an RFP for a Quality School Reviewer**

Chairman Marshall shared the importance of having a quality school reviewer and that there is no longer a contract with last year's reviewer. Mr. Marshall asked Logan Searcy to explain the RFP process for the new commissioners. She shared the rules and procedures with the commissioners. She shared

that the process is lengthy and could take some time. Ms. Searcy said she is hopeful that the process will be completed in time for the May reviews. Commissioner Marshall asked if there any questions, if not was there a motion to release the RFP for a Quality School Reviewer? Commissioner Raine made the motion and Commissioner Moody seconded. The vote was unanimous. The release of the RFP for a Quality School Reviewer was approved.

### **Consideration of Contract Amendment for I3 Academy**

Chairman Marshall introduced the next item on the agenda a contract amendment for I3 Academy. Mr. Marshall reminded the commissioners that this is the second amendment for I3 regarding I3s grade expansion to K-12. The first amendment was in November 2020 allowing the expansion to K-12. This amendment is to clarify the expansion for the total student enrollment. Mr. Marshall reminded the commissioners that they had received a copy of the proposed contract amendment along with a note from Mr. Lane Knight the commission's attorney. Mr. Marshall asked Mr. Knight to make comments on the proposed new amendment. Mr. Knight shared that there had been some questions at the time of the first amendment regarding the expanding the enrollment capacity of the school. He also stated that I3 has requested that the commission clarify and memorialize the action taken previously. That is the point of this amendment to clarify and memorialize that they have been expanded to a K-12 School and that their maximum allowed enrollment is also increased as the add grades each year. Mr. Marshall commented that the commission made it clear in the first amendment that I3 Academy expanding grade configuration by the commission didn't simultaneously add a line that expanded the number students that would be allowed to enroll. He said certainly it was the commission 's intent that when grades are added that that comes with additional students. Mr. Marshall suggested that the commission consider review other contracts with similar amendments to make sure there is alignment regarding when there is a change in one place that it is updated in any other. Chairman Marshall asked if there any discussion regarding this item or is there a motion to approve this amendment to I3 Academy's charter contract? Commissioner Moody made the motion to approve the amendment and Commissioner Morin seconded. The vote was unanimous. The motion was approved.

### **Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Green and seconded by commissioner Morin. Commissioner Marshall adjourned the meeting.