

Alabama Public Charter School Commission
April 1, 2024 10:00 A.M.
Via Zoom

MINUTES

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission (APCSC) meeting took place April 1, 2024, 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, Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Chairman Luis Ferrer welcomed everyone to the meeting. Roll call was taken by Mrs. Logan Searcy. Eight Commission members were present which represented a quorum.

Members of the Commission who participated:

Luis Ferrer	M Javed Khan
Shelia Austin	Charles Knight
Deborah Alvis (entered late)	Julie Ann McCulley (absent)
Marla Green (entered late)	Sharon Porterfield
Faron Hollinger	Terri Reynolds (entered late)
Dorothy Huston (absent)	Lakeshia Wheeler
Ryan Kendall	

Chairman Ferrer introduced new commissioner Dr. Faron Hollinger to the commissioners. Commissioner Hollinger shared some of his educational background and experiences. He said he was looking forward to working with the commissioners. Chairman Ferrer said that he would like to vote on the minutes and agenda separately because today's agenda needs to be amended. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2024, meeting. Commissioner Knight made a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Austin seconded. The vote was unanimous, 8 - Yes. The March 5, 2024 minutes were accepted. The Chairman asked that the agenda item considering the I Dream Big Academy's Charter Contract be removed because the Contract still needs to be finalized. Chairman Ferrer asked for a motion to approve today's agenda without the item considering I Dream Big Academy's Charter Contract. Commissioner Knight made the motion to accept today's agenda without the item considering I Dream Big Academy's Charter Contract. Commissioner Hollinger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 8 – Yes. Today's amended agenda was accepted.

Consideration of Changes to Commission Bylaws

Chairman Ferrer asked for a motion to accept the changes to the Commission's Bylaws. Commissioner Green made the motion to accept the changes to the Commission's bylaws and Commissioner Kendall seconded. The Chairman asked Mrs. Searcy for comments on the changes. She stated that a copy of the Bylaws with the proposed changes is posted in the live binder. She said that there are no big changes, just changes in wording regarding clarity. She asked if there were any questions or concerns with any of the changes. None came forth. Chairman Ferrer said that the Policy Committee had recommended the changes that were made. The Chairman called for a vote. It was unanimous. The changes to the Bylaws were accepted.

Charter School Commission Updates

Mrs. Searcy shared that the committee working on selecting the Teacher of the Year recipients is working hard on making the selections. The rubric that is being used is in the Live Binder. The selections will be announced at the May meeting. There have been 3 new charter applications and 2 appeal applications turned into the commission for this application cycle. There will be 3 Public Forums in April. They are scheduled for April 11th, 23rd, and 29th. Mrs. Searcy said that the Capacity Interviews will be scheduled soon, and commissioners should be included in the interviews. She asked for volunteers to participate. Commissioners Porterfield, Kendall, Wheeler, and Ferrer volunteered.

Consideration of Extension Request from Barnabas School of Leadership

Chairman Ferrer asked for a motion to approve an extension for Barnabas School of Leadership. Commissioner Knight made the motion to approve an extension for Barnabas School of Leadership and Commissioner Kendall seconded the motion. Chairman Ferrer called for questions and discussion. There was none. The motion to approve an extension for Barnabas School of Leadership failed, the vote was: 9 – No, 1- Abstention (Hollinger). The extension for Barnabas School of Leadership was not accepted.

Consideration of Executive Session

The Chairman asked for a motion to move to Executive Session for discussion. Commissioner Austin made a motion to move to Executive Session for discussion of the Findings of Fact and Commissioner Porterfield seconded. The Chairman asked for questions/discussion. Commissioner Wheeler asked if discussion should be done publicly. Judge Salle responded that it was within the Commissioners discretion to move into Executive Session for discussion. No further discussion. The vote was unanimous, 10 – Yes, the Commission moved to Executive Session.

Chairman Ferrer asked Mrs. Searcy call roll. The Commissioners listed below were present after the Executive Session. The Chairman then called for a motion for the commission to reconvene and continue today's agenda. Commissioner Austin made the motion for the meeting to reconvene and continue the agenda. Commissioner Kendall seconded. The vote was unanimous. The commission reconvened and moved to the next agenda item.

Commissioners present after Executive Session:

Luis Ferrer	M Javed Khan
Shelia Austin	Charles Knight
Marla Green	Sharon Porterfield
Faron Hollinger	Terri Reynolds
Ryan Rendall	Lakeshia Wheeler

Consideration of Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law for Barnabas School of Leadership

Chairman Ferrer asked Lane Knight for clarification of the parties involved in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law. Mr. Knight reminded the commission that the petitioners are the commission/state, and the opposition is Barnabas School of Leadership. He stated that the vote would be in support of either the petitioner's conclusion or the opposition's conclusion. The Chairman asked for a motion from the commissioners. Commissioner Kendall made a motion to adopt the petitioner's Finding of Fact and Conclusions of Law. Commissioner Knight seconded. The vote was 8- Yes, 2 – Abstentions (Hollinger, Reynolds) The motion to adopt the petitioner's Finding of Fact and Conclusion of Law was approved. Mr. Lane Knight stated that the Charter Contract of Barnabas School of Leadership has been revoked and that the school closure protocols will go into effect. The school will not open. Mr. Knight did say that Barnabas would be free to submit an application at a later date. Commissioner Green said she hopes

that Barnabas will regroup and resubmit. Dr. Roberts thanked the commission for their consideration and said they would be back.

Adjourn

Chairman Ferrer asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Knight made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Austin seconded. The vote was unanimous; meeting was adjourned.