

Alabama Public Charter School Commission
May 7, 2020 5:00 P.M.
Via Zoom

MINUTES

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission (APCSC) met on Thursday, May 7, 2020, 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.

Members of the Commission who participated in the meeting via Zoom were as follows:

Henry Nelson
Allison Haygood
David Marshall
Marla Green
Jamie Ison
Paul Morin
Sydney Raine
Kim Terry
Lisa Williams (late)
Absent: Eddie Hill

Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Henry Nelson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. He asked for a roll call of the Alabama Charter School Commission (APCSC). Eight members were present. Lisa Williams arrived 5 minutes after the meeting had begun. Chairman Nelson asked for a motion to approve the agenda and the minutes from the March 24, 2020 meeting. Sydney Raine made the motion to approve the agenda and the minutes, and Jamie Ison seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous with 8 votes to approve.

LEAD Academy's Request

Henry Nelson invited representatives from LEAD Academy to address the commission. Amber Anderson CSFO for Lead Academy addressed the Commission requesting a postponement of the audit deadline until September, 2020 citing COVID 19. Henry Nelson called for a motion. David Marshall made the motion to extend the deadline for a financial audit until September 1, 2020. Kim Terry seconded the motion. Green recused herself due to conflict of interest. The motion carried with 8 Yes votes, 1 Recused, and 1 absent.

Yes Votes

Henry Nelson
David Marshall
Kim Terry
Allison Haygood
Sydney Raine
Jamie Ison
Paul Morin
Lisa Williams

Recused

Marla Green

Absent

Eddie Hill

University Charter School's Request to Amend Charter Contract

Chairman Nelson introduced University Charter School's request to amend their charter contract to revise the following areas:

Revised Mission Statement

Revised Core Values

Revised Student Code of Conduct

Revised Attendance Policy

New Five Year Strategic Plan

Logan Searcy explained that there were some technical issues preventing a representative from being present. All commissioners received a copy of the requested revisions. Jamie Ison asked why they were revising. Logan Searcy explained they were revising to meet the needs of the school and the community. Henry Nelson called for a motion. Jamie Ison made the motion to approve the revisions and Lisa Williams seconded the motion. It was a unanimous decision with 9 votes to approve.

Addition of a Charter School Application Cycle

Chairman Nelson asked Logan Searcy to speak about the possibility of an additional charter school application cycle. She stated that the Commission had received no applications in the fall cycle and two in the spring cycle plus one appeal. The contract with SchoolWorks accommodates five. In consideration of interest and in light of conditions around COVID 19, the Commission could add a summer application cycle. David Marshall stated that with the current situation giving parties time and grace would be positive. Paul Morin agreed that more time to recover could cause no harm, and Lisa Williams also agreed. Chairman Nelson called for a motion. David Marshall made the motion to add another charter school application cycle, and Sydney Raine seconded the motion. It was a unanimous decision to approve with 9 voting to approve.

Woodland Prep Revocation Proceeding Information

Lane Knight, the attorney for the commission addressed the commission with information regarding the Woodland Prep revocation. American Charter Development, an entity contacted by Woodland Prep, had entered a motion to intervene citing a vested interest since they had invested three million dollars in a construction of a building. Woodland Prep's attorney made a motion to postpone stating the need for more time for administrative reasons and time needed due to COVID-19. Lane Knight stated as the commission's attorney, he opposed both motions since the proceeding had already been postponed twice; however, Judge Hampton granted both motions and set the date for May 28th with May 29th as an extra day in case the hearing lasted longer than one day. The meeting would begin at 8 A.M. and end at 5 P.M. Jamie Ison stated that she had a conflict since that is the date set for the Mobile Judicial Committee meeting. She is a member of the committee. She asked about the time. Lane Knight stated that a commissioner must be present for the entire proceeding in order to vote. Henry Nelson asked if any others had conflicts. Kim Terry stated that she may have a work conflict. Logan Searcy asked if there were any problems with commissioners participating by Zoom. Lane Knight stated that the charter school law allows virtual and teleconference participation. Jamie Ison asked if a decision would be made that day. Lane Knight stated that deliberation would occur that day and that a preliminary decision would be made; however, a written resolution that the commission would vote to approve would occur at a later time. Discussion occurred around the May 28th date. Lane Knight stated as long as a quorum could be obtained, May 28th should be kept as the date.

Adjourn

Henry Nelson called for the motion to adjourn. David Marshall made the motion to adjourn, and Lisa Williams seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved by a unanimous vote