

Alabama Public Charter School Commission
August 11, 2025, 12:00 P.M.
Via Zoom

MINUTES

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission (APCSC) meeting took place on August 11, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom 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

Presiding: Co-Chairman Mr. Charles Knight

The following commission members were present:

Dr. Shelia Austin - Absent

Ms. Deborah Alvis

Mrs. Marla Green – Entered late

Dr. Faron Hollinger

Dr. Dorothy Houston

Mr. Ryan Kendall

Dr. M Javed Khan – Entered late

Mr. Charles Knight

Dr. Cynthia McCarty

Mrs. Julie Ann McCulley

Dr. Sharon Porterfield

Mrs. Joslyn Reddick

Mrs. LaKeisha Wheeler – Entered late

Also present: Mrs. Logan Searcy, Alabama Charter School Commission Executive Director

Mr. Lane Knight, Esq.

On motion by Commissioner Hollinger and seconded by Commissioner Houston, the commission voted unanimously to approve today's agenda and minutes for the June 12, 2025, meeting.

Consideration of the Renewal Contract for Dr. Doug Riley

On motion by Commissioner Hollinger and seconded by Commissioner McCulley the commission voted unanimously to approve the contract for Dr. Doug Riley. The motion passed. The contract was approved.

The vote was 9 – Yes 0 - No

Alvis – Yes

McCarty - Yes

Hollinger – Yes

McCulley - Yes

Houston – Yes

Porterfield - Yes

Kendal – Yes

Reddick - Yes

Knight - Yes

Consideration of the Charter Commission Budget for 2027

On motion by Commissioner Reddick and seconded by Commissioner McCarty the commission voted unanimously to approve the proposed Charter Commission Budget for 2027. The motion passed. The Charter Commission for 2027 was approved. The vote was 9- Yes 0 - No

Alvis – Yes

McCarty - Yes

Hollinger – Yes

McCulley - Yes

Houston – Yes

Porterfield - Yes

Kendal – Yes

Reddick - Yes

Knight - Yes

Consideration for Opening Plans for I Dream Big

Director Searcy shared that I Dream Big has presented a plan for their opening plans to the commission. The plan is posted in the Live Binder. Co-Chairman Knight called for questions/comments. On motion by Commissioner Hollinger and seconded by Commissioner Reddick the commissioners voted to accept the opening plan presented to the Commission contingent upon acquiring all appropriate permits and clearance from the Division of Construction Management. The motion passed. I Dream Big's opening plan was approved. The vote was 8 – Yes 0- No 1- Abstained

Alvis – Yes	McCarty – Yes
Hollinger – Yes	McCulley – Yes
Houston – Yes	Porterfield – Abstained
Kendal – Yes	Reddick – Yes
Knight - Yes	

Consideration of Opening Plans for Independence Prep

Director Searcy shared that Independence Prep has presented a plan for their opening plans to the commission. The plan is posted in the Live Binder. Co-Chairman Knight called for questions/comments. On motion by Commissioner Alvis and seconded by Commissioner Houston the commissioners voted unanimously to accept the opening plan presented to the Commission contingent upon acquiring all appropriate permits and clearance from the Division of Construction Management. The motion passed. Independence Prep's opening plan was approved.

The vote was 11 – Yes 0 – No

Alvis – Yes	Knight – Yes
Green – Yes	McCarty – Yes
Hollinger – Yes	McCulley – Yes
Houston – Yes	Porterfield – Yes
Kendal – Yes	Reddick – Yes
Khan – Yes	

Consideration of Opening Plans for Freedom Prep

Director Searcy shared that Freedom Prep has presented a plan for their opening plans to the commission. The plan is posted in the Live Binder. Co-Chairman Knight called for questions/comments. On motion by Commissioner Houston and seconded by Commissioner Kendall the commissioners voted unanimously to accept the opening plan presented to the Commission contingent upon acquiring all appropriate permits and clearance from the Division of Construction Management. The motion passed. Freedom Prep's opening plan was approved.

The vote was 11 – Yes 0 – No

Alvis – Yes	Knight – Yes
Green – Yes	McCarty – Yes
Hollinger – Yes	McCulley – Yes
Houston – Yes	Porterfield – Yes
Kendal – Yes	Reddick – Yes
Khan – Yes	

Consideration of Opening Plans for Legacy Prep

Director Searcy shared that Legacy Prep has presented a plan for their opening plans to the commission. The plan is posted in the Live Binder. Co-Chairman Knight called for questions/comments. On motion by Commissioner Hollinger and seconded by Commissioner Khan the commissioners voted unanimously to accept the opening plan presented to the commission contingent upon acquiring all appropriate permits and clearance from the Division of Construction Management. The motion passed. Legacy Prep's opening plan was approved.

The vote was 11 – Yes 0 – No

Alvis – Yes	Knight – Yes
Green – Yes	McCarty – Yes
Hollinger – Yes	McCulley – Yes
Houston – Yes	Porterfield – Yes
Kendal – Yes	Reddick – Yes
Khan – Yes	

Consideration of the Amendment Application from Acceleration Day and Evening Academy

Director Searcy shared that Acceleration Day and Evening Academy has sent an amendment to their application. Co-Chairman Knight asked for comments/questions. The requested amendment is posted in the Live Binder. She recommended the commissioners accept the plan. On motion by Commissioner Khan and seconded by Commissioner McCarty the commission voted unanimously to accept the amendment to the application for Acceleration Day and Evening Academy. The motion passed. The amendment plan was approved.

The vote was 11 – Yes 0 – No

Green – Yes	McCarty – Yes
Hollinger – Yes	McCulley – Yes
Houston – Yes	Porterfield – Yes
Kendal – Yes	Reddick – Yes
Khan – Yes	Wheeler – Yes
Knight – Yes	

Consideration of Invictus Charter Application (Bessemer)

Co-Chairman Knight turned the floor over to the leadership of Invictus to make a presentation in support of their charter application. Director Searcy shared that the Invictus Application received a good evaluation from the Charter Office. Co-Chairman Knight asked for questions/comments. Commissioner Houston asked for clarification of the school's grade levels. The leadership stated that the school would be a middle and high school. It would open with 7th and 9th grades. On motion by Commissioner Green and seconded by Commissioner Khan the commission unanimously voted to accept the motion to approve Invictus Career Institute. The motion passed. The application was approved.

The vote was 11 – Yes 0 – No

Green – Yes	McCarty – Yes
Hollinger – Yes	McCulley – Yes
Houston – Yes	Porterfield – Yes
Kendal – Yes	Reddick – Yes
Khan – Yes	Wheeler – Yes
Knight – Yes	

Consideration of the Resolution for Invictus Application

Co-Chairman Knight asked for any question/comments regarding the resolution. On motion by Commissioner Khan and seconded by Commissioner Hollinger the commission voted unanimously to accept the resolution confirming the vote approving the Invictus Charter Application. The motion passed. The vote was approved. The vote was 11 – Yes 0 – No

Green – Yes	McCarty – Yes
Hollinger – Yes	McCulley – Yes
Houston – Yes	Porterfield – Yes
Kendal – Yes	Reddick – Yes
Khan – Yes	Wheeler – Yes
Knight – Yes	

Rehearing of Alabama Aerospace and Aviation Birmingham

Attorney Knight explained that Alabama Aerospace and Aviation is being granted a rehearing on merit pursuant to Alabama Administrative Code. Their first replication-application was denied in May. Alabama Aerospace and Aviation representative Rubin Morris shared a presentation with the commission in support of their replication application. Co-Chairman Knight asked for questions/comments. Questions: 1.How many students do you have currently? Response: 194, predicted 225. 2.Do you have a waiting list to show demand for replication? Response: no waiting list, but 80 families are interested in registering their children in the Birmingham location. 3. Will you be offering transportation? Response: Yes, both campuses will offer transportation. Cedric Tatum spoke on behalf of Birmingham City Schools. On motion by Commissioner Khan and seconded by Commissioner Kendall the commission voted to deny the Replication Application for Alabama Aerospace and Aviation Birmingham. The motion failed. The application was denied.

The vote was 3 – Yes 7 – No

Green – Yes	McCarty – No
Hollinger – No	McCulley – No
Houston – No	Porterfield – No
Kendall – No	Reddick – No
Khan – Yes	
Knight – Yes	

Consideration of the Resolution for Alabama Aerospace and Aviation Birmingham

Co-Chairman Knight asked for any question/comments regarding the Resolution. On motion by Commissioner Khan and seconded by Commissioner Kendall the commission voted unanimously to accept the Resolution confirming the commission vote denying Alabama Aerospace and Aviation's Application to Replicate. The vote on the resolution passed. The vote denying the application was approved. The vote was 9 – Yes 0 – No

Green – Yes	McCarty – Yes
Hollinger – Yes	McCulley – Yes
Kendall – Yes	Porterfield – Yes
Khan – Yes	Reddick – Yes
Knight – Yes	

Executive Director Updates

Director Searcy shared the following updates:

1. Plans for the September 14-17 convening at Point Clear are moving along.
2. There will be a commission meeting during the convening on Monday September 15th. It will be in person and via Zoom.
3. Other opportunities for professional development are coming up. The National Association of Charter School Authorizers conference will be held October 20 -23 in Texas.

Adjourn

Co-Chairman Knight thanked everyone for their time. On motion by Commissioner Reddick and seconded by Commissioner McCarty the commission voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 1:59 P.M.

Submitted : Peggy Haveard Printed Name: Peggy Haveard

Approved by: Sheila Austin Printed Name: Sheila Austin

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Sheila Austin

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Interim Chair

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Completed	Security Checked	9/19/2025 12:22:12 PM
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