

**Alabama Public Charter School Commission**  
**May12, 2025 12:00 P.M.**  
**In Person and Via Zoom**

**MINUTES**

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission (APCSC) meeting took place May 12, 2025, at 12:00 P.M. in person at the Gordon Persons Building 50 North Ripley Street Montgomery AL. and 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:** Dr. Shelia Austin, Chairman

The following commission members were present:

Dr. Shelia Austin- In person

Ms. Deborah Alvis - Via Zoom

Mrs. Marla Green – In person

Dr. Faron Hollinger – In person

Dr. Dorothy Houston - Absent

Mr. Ryan Kendall – In Person

Dr. M Javed Khan – Via Zoom

Mr. Charles Knight – In person

Dr. Cynthia McCarty – In person

Mrs. Julie Ann McCulley - Absent

Dr. Sharon Porterfield – Via Zoom

Mrs. Joslyn Reddick – In person

Mrs. LaKeisha Wheeler – Via Zoom

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

Mr. Lane Knight, Esq.

On motion by Commissioner McCarty and seconded by Commissioner Kendall, the commission voted unanimously to approve today's agenda and minutes for the April 14, 2025 meeting.

**Consideration of Emergency Funding Requests**

On motion by Commissioner Knight and seconded Kendall the commission voted unanimously to approve the charter schools' emergency funding request. The state department of education will make the final decision regarding amounts for each request. The commission is attesting that the schools are in good standing.

**Consideration of Part-Time Data Analytics Position and Other Part-Time Positions as Needed**

On motion by Commissioner Knight and seconded by Commissioner Khan the commission voted unanimously to approve the Executive Director to hire part-time positions as needed.

**Consideration for Hiring a Part-Time Data Analytics Employee**

Executive Director Searcy recommended Dr. Tony Tacker for the part-time analytics position. On motion from Commissioner Knight and seconded by Commissioner McCarty the commission voted unanimously to hire Dr. Tony Thacker for the Data Analytics part-time position.

### **Presentation by New Schools for Alabama**

Tyler Barnett CEO of New Schools for Alabama shared information on a HBCU Charter School Funding Pilot that New Schools for Alabama will be sharing with Alabama charter schools. The funding had been secured from a nationwide grant from UNCF.

### **Consideration of Summer Application Cycle**

On motion by Commissioner Knight and seconded by Commissioner McCarty the commission voted unanimously to approve a Summer Application Cycle to open in June with consideration in August.

### **Birmingham City School Request to Address Commission**

Representatives of Birmingham City Schools were given time to state their reasons for denying the application for Alabama Aerospace and Aviation High School Birmingham location. They urged the commission to uphold their denial of the application.

### **Consideration of the Appeal of the Application of Alabama Aerospace and Aviation High School Birmingham**

Representatives of Alabama Aerospace and Aviation High School were allowed to present information in rebuttal of Birmingham City's denial. Chairman Austin called for questions and discussion. Questions: What will be the exact location for the school? Answer: Miles College is working to purchase property. Question: Why a discrepancy in the absentee rates from the reporting groups? Answer: One group was looking at last year's percentage and the other group was looking at current year data.

On motion from Commissioner Khan and seconded by Commissioner Kendall to approve the appeal of the Application of Alabama Aerospace and Aviation High School Birmingham the commission voted 7 No, 4 Yes. The motion to approve the appeal of the application of Alabama Aerospace and Aviation High School Birmingham failed. The appeal was denied.

The vote was as follows.

Austin - No	Knight - Yes
Alvis - No	McCarty - No
Green - No	Porterfield- No
Hollinger - No	Reddick - No
Kendall - Yes	Wheeler - Yes
Khan - Yes	

### **Consideration of the Resolution for the Appeal of Alabama Aerospace and Aviation High School Birmingham**

On motion by Commissioner Knight and seconded by Commissioner Kendall the commissioners voted unanimously to approve the resolution denying the appeal of Alabama Aerospace and Aviation High School Birmingham.

#### **Consideration of the Application of Ignite Academy**

A representative of Ignite Academy presented information in support of the charter school application. Chairman Austin called for questions and discussion. No questions, no further discussion. On motion by Commissioner Knight and seconded by Commissioner Reddick the commission voted unanimously to approve the charter school application of Ignite Academy.

#### **Consideration of the Resolution for the Application for Ignite Academy**

On motion by Commissioner Knight and seconded by Commissioner Kendall the commission voted unanimously to approve the Resolution approving Ignite Academy

#### **Consideration of the Application for Under the Oaks Charter School**

Leadership for Under the Oaks Charter School made a presentation in support of their charter school application. Chairman Austin called for questions and discussion. Director Searcy shared that Huntsville City Schools had sent a letter that Under the Oaks would impact the desegregation court order in place. She also shared that the submitted application had some gaps and missing information. Under the Oaks had submitted some of the information but not in time to re-evaluate application.

On motion by Commissioner Knight and seconded by Commissioner Wheeler the commission voted unanimously to conditionally approve the charter school application for Under the Oaks Charter School. The conditions are that Under the Oaks provide an order through the court that the school would not impact the desegregation order already in place and within ten days provide proof in writing that the school has adequate financial sustainability.

#### **Consideration of the Resolution for the Application for Under the Oaks Charter School**

On motion by Commissioner Kendall and Commissioner McCarty the commission voted unanimously to move the consideration of the resolution for Under the Oaks charter application to the next meeting to allow time to add the conditions of approval to the Resolution

#### **Consideration of the Application for Invictus Career Institute**

Leadership for Invictus Career Institute made a presentation in support of their charter application. Chairman Austin called for questions and discussion. Director Searcy shared that there were sections of the application that were left incomplete. The Invictus did send some requested information but not in time for re-evaluation.

On motion by Commissioner Knight and seconded by Commissioner McCarty to approve the charter application for Invictus Career Institute the commission voted unanimously to deny the application. The motion was not approved.

#### **Consideration of the Resolution for the Application for Invictus Career Institute**

On motion by Chairman Austin and seconded by Commissioner McCarty to accept the Resolution approving the denial of the charter school application for Invictus Career Institute the commission voted unanimously to approve the Resolution to deny the application. The charter school application for Invictus Career Institute was denied.

### **Executive Director Update**


Director Searcy stated there will be in June. Date and time will be confirmed.

The director shared that there are two grants that have been opened for charter school. Discussion followed. Attorney Lane Knight sated that applying was at the discretion of the Executive Director.

### **Adjourn**

Chairman Austin thanked everyone for their time. On motion by Commissioner Knight and seconded by Commissioner Kendall the commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 3:00 P.M.

Submitted : Peggy Haveard Printed Name: Peggy Haveard

Approved by:  Printed Name: Sheila Austin

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Peggy Haveard

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Sheila Austin

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Interim Chair

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## Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

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## Signature

## Timestamp

## Editor Delivery Events

## Status

## Timestamp

## Agent Delivery Events

## Status

## Timestamp

## Intermediary Delivery Events

## Status

## Timestamp

## Certified Delivery Events

## Status

## Timestamp

## Carbon Copy Events

## Status

## Timestamp

## Witness Events

## Signature

## Timestamp

## Notary Events

## Signature

## Timestamp

## Envelope Summary Events

## Status

## Timestamps

Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Certified Delivered	Security Checked	6/3/2025 11:18:03 AM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	6/3/2025 11:18:18 AM
Completed	Security Checked	6/3/2025 11:18:18 AM
Payment Events	Status	Timestamps