

Alabama Public Charter School Commission

May 14, 2018 9:30 A.M.

Gordon Persons Building in P103

And Via Teleconference

MINUTES

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission met on Monday, May 14, 2018, 9:30 A.M. in Gordon Person Building P103 and via teleconference 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 and through teleconference were as follows:

Mac Buttram

Lisa Williams

Henry Nelson

Ibrahim Lee

Charles Jackson

Terri Tomlinson

Chad Fincher

Tommy Ledbetter

Melissa McInnis

Welcome

Mr. Mac Buttram opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. He asked for a roll call of the Alabama Charter School Commission (APCSC).

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Mac Buttram introduced the Agenda. The motion to approve the agenda was given by Mrs. Lisa Williams, and Mr. Tommy Ledbetter seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Mac Buttram called for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 15th meeting. Mrs. Lisa Williams made the motion and Mr. Ibrahim Lee seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

New Business

Mrs. Lisa Williams expressed concern about communication from Lead Academy. Mr. Mac Buttram asked Mrs. Logan Searcy to direct Lead Academy to include the Commission on any communication given to the public. Mr. Mac Buttram introduced information about the Auburn Center for Evaluation and asked Logan Searcy to give more details. He called for a motion to approve the group for annual school review of Acceleration Day and Evening Academy after its first year and University Charter after

its first year with students. Mr. Henry Nelson stated that he felt that it would be better to continue using a national group for application review. The motion was made to approve the Auburn Center for Evaluation for the annual charter school review. The motion was made by Mr. Henry Nelson and Mrs. Lisa Williams seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. They will begin with Accel Day and Evening Academy's annual review. Mr. Mac Buttram introduced the 2018-2019 timeline for applications. Mr. Charles Jackson made the motion to approve the timeline and Mrs. Lisa Williams seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous Mr. Mac Buttram expressed appreciation for Mrs. Terri Tomlinson's service on the Commission.

Presentation by Applicants for a Proposed Charter School in Bessemer

Mr. Mac Buttram introduced the applicant group, Eugene Edwards Technology School in Bessemer, AL. The applicant group presented information in response to the NACSA report. The presentation was followed by questions and answers from the Commission. A motion was made by Mrs. Lisa Williams to deny the application. Mrs. Terri Tomlinson seconded the motion

Those who voted in favor of denial were Charles Jackson, Lisa Williams, and Terri Tomlinson.

Those who voted against denial were Ibrahim Lee, Mac Buttram, Tommy Ledbetter, Melissa McInnis, Chad Fincher, and Henry Nelson.

A discussion followed the vote with the legal counsel to determine direction. It was agreed to table the discussion until later in the meeting.

Community Input

Mr. Mac Buttram welcomed those who had come to speak from Washington County in regards to a proposed charter school. Mr. Henry Nelson and Mr. Tommy Ledbetter expressed concern around the mail they had received from stakeholders in Washington County. It was clarified that there is accountability in place for charter schools. Directions were given for those who wished to speak. There were speakers opposed and in favor of the proposed school.

Mr. Henry Nelson made the motion to postpone the decision for a later time in the meeting. Mr. Tommy Ledbetter seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous.

Ibrahim Lee made the motion to adjourn for lunch and return at 1, and Henry Nelson seconded the motion.

Presentation by Applicants for a Proposed Charter School in Washington County.

Mr. Mac Buttram called for the roll and all were present. Mr. Mac Buttram introduced the applicants from Washington County. Mr. Jacob Snow presented an overview of the Woodland Prep application with a PowerPoint outlining areas of concern addressed from the NACSA report and information about Unity Services. Mr. Soner Tarim addressed the Commission. The Commission asked questions after the presentation for further clarification including questions about the background of Unity Services. The motion was made by Mr. Henry Nelson to approve the application, and Mrs. Lisa Williams seconded the motion. Those who voted in favor of approval were Charles Jackson, Lisa Williams, Mac Buttram, Tommy Ledbetter, Melissa McInnis, Chad Fincher, and Henry Nelson. Those who voted against the approval were Ibrahim Lee and Terri Tomlinson. The motion for approval passed with a 7-2 vote. Mr. Mac Buttram asked Logan Searcy to contact the approved charter school board about the charter contract.

Decision on Eugene Edwards Technology School

Further discussion with legal counsel occurred in regards to possibilities for Eugene Edwards Technology School. Mr. Ibrahim Lee made the motion to approve the proposed charter school. Mr. Henry Nelson

seconded the motion. Four voted in favor of approval and 5 voted to not approve. The motion did not carry.

Charles Jackson, Ibrahim Lee, Mac Buttram, and Henry Nelson voted for approval.

Meeting Adjourned

Mr. Mac Buttram called for the meeting to be adjourned. Mr. Henry Nelson made the motion to adjourn, and Mr. Ibrahim Lee seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous.