

Alabama Public Charter School Commission
July 8, 2022 10:00 A.M.
Via Zoom

MINUTES

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission (APCSC) met on July 8, 2022, 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, Introductions, Approval of Agenda and Minutes

David Marshall welcomed everyone to the meeting. Roll call was taken by Mrs. Logan Searcy. Eight members were present, which represented a quorum. Members of the Commission who participated:

David Marshall	Paul Morin
Dick Brewbaker (absent)	Anthony Overton (absent)
Marla Green	Sydney Raine
Julie Ann McCulley	Steve Siple
Ty Moody	Lakeshia Wheeler

Chairman Marshall asked for a motion to approve today's agenda and the minutes from the June 16, 2022, meeting. Commissioner Siple made a motion to approve today's agenda and the minutes. Commissioner Moody seconded. The vote was unanimous. Minutes and agenda were approved.

Consideration of Empower Community School's Request

Chairman Marshall turned the meeting over to the representative of Empower Community School, Anthony Oliver. Mr. Oliver thanked the commissioners for the time to address the commission. Mr. Oliver shared an update on the enrollment adjustment requested at the last commission meeting. Empower has met and exceeded the requested enrollment number of 110 students and have 130 students in the process of enrolling. Mr. Oliver stated that today's request is about two details regarding the building renovations. The first part of the request is about the stipulation in the charter contract that Empower have a Certificate of Occupancy by July 1st. Mr. Oliver explained that when the building was built in 1997 there was a Certificate of Occupancy issued and on file with the City of Bessemer. But neither of those originals can be located, and because their construction is not changing the use of the facility the building inspector will not issue a new Certificate of Occupancy. They can get a letter signed by the building inspector, fire marshal, and the City of Bessemer that the building is safe and operational for a school. The request is to change the language in the contract to be broadened to more than just a Certificate of Occupancy and that Empower get an extension to July 29th to get documentation.

Chairman Marshall asked what documentation/evidence are you going to bring to the commission to demonstrate that you have a safe facility? Mr. Oliver: A signed letter from the fire marshal and building inspector for the school building and for the lunchroom an inspection from Jefferson County Health Department. Mrs. Logan Searcy reminded Mr. Oliver that they would also have verification from the Division of Construction Management. Mr. Oliver responded that there was a change in the law regarding projects under \$500,000. They do not have to go through the Division of Construction Management. The Empower project is only \$399,000 so they would not need to go through the Division of Construction Management. Mrs. Searcy stated that the Division of Construction Management job was to make sure that all school facilities are up to code and perhaps they should make sure that the Division of Construction Management is aware that this project is a school facility. Commissioner McCulley: Mr. Oliver what is your plan for the school's start date if all things discussed don't take place? Mr. Oliver:

That is the second part of our request. The second part of our request is our start date be no later than August 29th. That would allow us more time. Our renovations are mostly cosmetic. We do have a few things to do in the lunchroom and maintenance on some AC units. Commissioner McCulley: It needs to be noted that you have to have an August start date to get the twenty day count because that affects funding. Mr. Oliver: Definitely. Commissioner Siple: Could we ensure that we have proper documentation from the Division of Construction Management? That whatever is needed to satisfy the commission that something will not come back to us later? Mr. Lane Knight: Yes, the motion could be phrased making sure they have the appropriate documentation by the specified date. Commissioner Siple: In the worst case scenario if you cannot get into this building is there any other plans for this school year? Mr. Oliver: Not in the City of Bessemer. This is the nicest and most prepared facility available. There's no other space we can get up and running and fit 130 kids in by August. Chairman Marshall: The request is that you have the appropriate documentation from the appropriate agencies by July 29th to ensure building safety and you have a start date of no later than August 29th. Do you anticipate starting before that date? Mr. Oliver: Yes, we're still on pace for our August 15th date. We are just asking for a cushion just in case. Chairman Marshall called for further discussion. Commissioner Green: What did you say had to be completed in the lunchroom? Mr. Oliver: Addition of two power poles so we can add two portable hot tables and a POS system. Commissioner Green: If the lunchroom is not ready will that stop everything? Mr. Oliver: No, our lunchroom is fully equipped. These hot tables are lower for the use of the smaller students. If the power poles are not ready it would only effect how we do lunch but wouldn't keep us from opening. Commissioner McCulley: Do you have a safety plan inside yet? Mr. Oliver: Yes, they're setting up our maps right now. Chairman Marshall called for any other questions or comments. Hearing non he called for a motion to approve Empower Community School's request to extend to July 29th for appropriate documentation certifying the safety of the building and the start date to August 29th. Commissioner Raine made the motion. Commissioner Siple seconded. The vote was unanimous, 8 yes. The motion passed to approve Empower Community School's request. Commissioner Green requested to be notified when all conditions have been met.

Adjourn

Chairman Marshall thanked everyone for their time and work. He asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Green made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner McCulley seconded. The vote was unanimous, and the meeting was adjourned.

Mrs. Logan Search reminded the commissioners that there was an applicant from the summer cycle and their public hearing will be on July 20th. The application will be considered on August 2nd.