

**Alabama Public Charter School Commission  
May 13, 2024, 9:00 A.M.  
Via Zoom**

**MINUTES**

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission (APCSC) meeting took place May 13, 2024, at 9:00 A.M. at Jefferson State Community College/Lurleen Wallace Hall and 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, Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

Chairman Luis Ferrer welcomed everyone to the meeting. Roll call was taken by Mrs. Logan Searcy. Nine Commission members were present which represented a quorum.

Members of the Commission who participated:

- |                               |                         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Luis Ferrer                   | M Javed Khan            |
| Shelia Austin                 | Charles Knight          |
| Deborah Alvis (absent)        | Julie Ann McCulley      |
| Marla Green (entered late)    | Sharon Porterfield      |
| Faron Hollinger               | Terri Reynolds (absent) |
| Dorothy Huston (entered late) | Lakeshia Wheeler        |
| Ryan Kendall                  |                         |

Chairman Ferrer asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2024, meeting, and today’s agenda. Commissioner Khan made a motion to accept the minutes and agenda. Commissioner Wheeler seconded. The vote was unanimous, 9 - Yes.

Chairman Ferrer asked to add an item, job descriptions for possible job openings, to the agenda. Commissioner Wheeler made a motion to add job description discussion for possible job opening to the agenda. Commissioner Porterville seconded. The vote was unanimous, 9-Yes.

**Consideration of Application Cycle and Policy Changes**

The Chairman asked for a motion to consider a new application cycle and policy with a spring cycle beginning in March and deadline in May. There would be no application cycle in the fall; applicants would work with the Charter Commission on their submissions in the fall. Commissioner Knight made the motion to approve the application cycle. Commissioner Kendall seconded the motion. The Chairman asked for questions/comments. There was brief discussion. The vote was unanimous, 9 – Yes.

The Chairman introduced a new policy for applicants to demonstrate at least \$250,000 in financial capacity. Commissioner Wheeler made the motion to approve the policy. Commissioner Porterfield seconded the motion. There was discussion among the commissioners. The vote was unanimous, 9 – Yes.

**Presentations, Discussions, and Consideration of Charter School Appeals and Applications**

Chairman Ferrer moved to the presentation, discussions and consideration of the appeal applications and other applications. He stated that the appeal applicants would go first and then the other applicants.

Shorter Achievement Zone Appeal was presented by Rubin Morris, the spokesperson for Shorter Achievement Zone. Mr. Morris is the Founder and CEO of Alabama Aerospace and Aviation High School. Chairman Ferrer asked if there was anyone present or on Zoom from Macon County School System that wanted to make a statement regarding Shorter Achievement Zone. No one had comments.

Chairman Ferrer asked for a motion to approve the appeal for the application of Shorter Achievement Zone. Commissioner Wheeler made the motion, Commissioner Porterfield seconded. Chairman Ferrer opened the floor for questions from the commissioners. The commissioners asked questions. Chairman Ferrer called for a vote on the motion on the floor. The vote was 7 – No, 4 – Yes. The motion to approve the appeal of the application for Shorter Achievement Zone failed. The motion failed.

The vote:

Luis Ferrer	No	M Javed Khan	Yes
Shelia Austin	No	Charles Knight	Yes
Marla Green	Yes	Julie Ann McCulley	No
Faron Hollinger	No	Sharon Porterfield	No
Dorothy Huston	Yes	LaKeshia Wheeler	No
Ryan Kendall	No		

#### **Presentation, Discussion and Consideration of Freedom Preparatory Academy Charter Application Appeal**

Chairman Ferrer moved to the presentation for Freedom Preparatory Academy with spokesperson, Roblin Webb, the founder, and CEO of Freedom Preparatory Academy.

Chairman Ferrer asked if anyone from Montgomery Public School System wanted to make a statement regarding Freedom Preparatory Academy. Vernet Nettles, Charter Schools liaison for Montgomery Public schools spoke.

Chairman Ferrer asked for a motion to approve the appeal for the application of Freedom Preparatory Academy. Commissioner Knight made the motion, Commissioner Wheeler seconded. Chairman Ferrer opened the floor for questions from the commissioners. The commissioners asked questions. Chairman Ferrer called for a vote on the motion on the floor. The vote was 7 – Yes, 3 – No. The motion to approve the appeal of the application for Freedom Preparatory Academy passed with conditional approval that the applicant obtains a legal compliance review from appropriate state agencies and an opinion from the Attorney General’s Office to ensure legal compliance. The school will have 60 days from the passing of the resolution to obtain an opinion and enter into a charter contract with the commission.

The vote:

Luis Ferrer	Yes	M Javed Khan	Yes
Shelia Austin	No	Charles Knight	Yes
Marla Green	No	Julie Ann McCulley	
Faron Hollinger	Yes	Sharon Porterfield	Yes
Dorothy Houston	No	LaKeshia Wheeler	Yes
Ryan Kendall	Yes		

#### **Presentation, Discussion, and Consideration of Innovations Leadership Academy Charter Application**

Chairman Ferrer moved to the presentation for Innovations Leadership Academy with spokesperson, Marcus Baskerville.

Chairman Ferrer asked for a motion for approval of the application of Innovations Leadership Academy. Commissioner Wheeler made the motion, Commissioner Kendall seconded. Chairman Ferrer opened the floor for questions from the commissioners. The commissioners asked questions.

Chairman Ferrer called for a vote on the motion on the floor. The vote was 0 – Yes, 10 – No. The motion to approve the application for Innovations Leadership Academy failed.

The vote:

Luis Ferrer	No	M Javed Khan	No
Shelia Austin	No	Charles Knight	No
Marla Green	No	Julie Ann McCulley	
Faron Hollinger	No	Sharon Porterfield	No
Dorothy Huston	No	LaKeshia Wheeler	No
Ryan Kendall	No		

### **Presentation, Discussion, and Consideration of The Bridge Dual Language Charter Application**

Chairman Ferrer moved to the presentation for The Bridge Dual Language with spokesperson, Kristian Douglas.

Chairman Ferrer asked for a motion for approval of the application of The Bridge Dual Language Charter School. Commissioner Wheeler made the motion, Commissioner Khan seconded. Chairman Ferrer opened the floor for questions from the commissioners. The commissioners asked questions.

Chairman Ferrer called for a vote on the motion on the floor. The vote was 0 – Yes, 10 – No. The motion to approve the application for The Bridge Dual Language Charter School failed.

The vote:

Luis Ferrer	No	M Javed Khan	No
Shelia Austin	No	Charles Knight	Yes
Marla Green	No	Julie Ann McCulley	
Faron Hollinger	No	Sharon Porterfield	No
Dorothy Huston	No	LaKeshia Wheeler	No
Ryan Kendall	Abstain		

### **Discussion and Consideration of Charter Contract Amendments**

Chairman Ferrer moved to consideration of the Charter School contract amendments and asked Mrs. Searcy to explain the amendment submissions.

Mrs. Searcy explained the request for Breakthrough Charter School and recommendations for conditional approval. Chairman Ferrer called for a vote on the motion on the floor. Commissioner Kendall made the motion, Commissioner Porterfield seconded. The vote was unanimous; 9 – Yes.

Mrs. Searcy explained that Acceleration Day and Evening Academy had withdrawn their amendment application.

Mrs. Searcy explained the request for Empower Charter School and recommendations for conditional approval. Chairman Ferrer called for a vote on the motion on the floor. Commissioner Porterfield made the motion, Commissioner Kendall seconded. The vote was unanimous; 9 – Yes.

Mrs. Searcy explained the request for Legacy Prep Charter School and recommendations for conditional approval. Chairman Ferrer called for a vote on the motion on the floor. Commissioner Kendall? made the motion, Commissioner Porterfield seconded. The vote was unanimous; 9 – Yes.

Mrs. Searcy explained the request for I3 Charter School and recommendations for conditional approval. Chairman Ferrer called for a vote on the motion on the floor. Commissioner Kendall made the motion, Commissioner Porterfield seconded. The vote was unanimous; 9 – Yes.

Mrs. Searcy explained the request for Covenant Academy of Mobile Charter School. Chairman Ferrer called for a vote on the motion on the floor. Commissioner Porterfield made the motion, Commissioner Kendall seconded. Commissioner Kendall amended the motion to send the vote to the Charter School's board. Commissioner Porterfield seconded. The vote was unanimous; 9 – Yes.

Attorney Lane Knight made a request for the commission to allow him to seek an opinion form the Attorney General's office on the issues related to Freedom Prep. Chairman Ferrer called for a vote on the motion on the floor. Commissioner Kendall made the motion, Commissioner Knight seconded. The vote was unanimous; 9 – Yes.

Mrs. Searcy explained the two new job positions the commission would be advertising and hiring.

### **Adjourn**

Chairman Ferrer asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kendall made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Knight seconded. The vote was unanimous; meeting was adjourned.