

Alabama Public Charter School Commission
March 25, 2019 9: 30 A.M.
Face to Face and Teleconference

MINUTES

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission (APCSC) met on Monday, March 25, 2019, in the Gordon Persons Building Willie J Paul Conference Room 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 via teleconference meeting were as follows:

Mac Buttram	Absent: Chad Fincher
Tommy Ledbetter	Lisa Williams
Henry Nelson	
Ibrahim Lee	
David Marshall	
Melissa McInnis	
Charles Jackson	
Cedric Tatum (rotating member)	

Welcome, Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Mac Buttram opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. He asked for a roll call of the Alabama Charter School Commission (APCSC). He also introduced the rotating member of the APCSC, Cedric Tatum from the Birmingham City School Board. Tommy Ledbetter made the motion to approve the minutes. David Marshall seconded the motion. The agenda and the minutes were both approved by a unanimous vote of those present.

Vote on Resolution for Capstone Charter School

Mac Buttram introduced the resolution approving Capstone Charter School. He called for a motion to affirm the resolution. Henry Nelson made the motion to approve the Capstone Charter School resolution, and David Marshall seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. (Cedric Tatum abstained.) Mac Buttram introduced the resolution to deny the application of the Rosa J. Young Academy. Henry Nelson made the motion to approve the resolution denying the application of Rosa J. Young Academy. David Marshall seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the resolution. (Cedric Tatum abstained.)

Presentation from I3 Academy

Mac Buttram introduced representatives from I3 Academy to be located in Birmingham, Alabama. The application is before the APCSC as an appeal. The application was denied by the Birmingham City School Board as an authorizer. Michael Berson was introduced as the legal counsel for the APCSC. He reviewed aspects of the law as it pertains to the appeal process. He read the statutory language from the Ala. Code

16-6F-12. Dr. Tommy Bice and other staff made a presentation of the proposed school. A question and answer period followed the proposed application. Questions were asked around several areas of the application including community engagement, staffing, student to teacher ratio, and funding. Tommy Bice stated that the Goodrich Foundation was committed to support them. Henry Nelson asked about the diversity of the governing board. Tommy Bice briefly gave the background of board members. Tommy Ledbetter asked about future growth. Tommy Bice is hoping that CMOs will consider Alabama as a destination and is meeting with them. He also stated that they would like to work with Birmingham City School as partners. He spoke to recruitment. David Marshall asked about other grants and future fund raising. Tommy Bice spoke to address those concerns. David Marshall asked how they were defining at risk students. He also asked about the number of special education students and spoke to hiring special education teachers to meet the need of the students enrolled. David Marshall asked why Social Studies didn't have a letter. Tommy Bice assured him of a holistic curriculum. Mac Buttram stated that both evaluations mentioned special education. Tommy Bice said that projections are based on assumptions and that when they know the enrolled students, they will adjust the budget in order to meet the needs of the students for hiring special education teachers. Mac Buttram stated that this meeting is for commissioners to question. The public hearing was for the public. Michael Berson reiterated that if they take an affirmative vote that they will be addressing what is in the law. Henry Nelson made the motion to approve I3 Academy's application to be a public charter school. Tommy Ledbetter seconded the motion. Mac Buttram called for discussion. Mr. Cedric Tatum stated that Birmingham City School Board would like to be on record that Birmingham has given its findings and had considerable concerns around some areas such as recruitment and special education and wanted to be on record that they are standing behind their findings. They would like the Commission to find in favor of Birmingham and that when they find concerns, they would like the applicant to return to them in the next application cycle after having corrected the finding as opposed to going to the appeal process. The vote approve the application and reverse the decision of the Birmingham City School Board carried with seven in favor and one opposed.

Yes:

Mac Buttram
Tommy Ledbetter
Henry Nelson
Ibrahim Lee
David Marshall
Melissa McInnis
Charles Jackson

No:

Cedric Tatum (rotating member)

Approval of Timeline of 2021

Mac Buttram introduced timeline for the Commission. Mac Buttram asked for a motion. Henry Nelson made the motion. Tommy Ledbetter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the timeline.

Commissioner's Terms

Mac Buttram stated that the Commissioners whose terms are expiring need to let Logan Searcy know as soon as possible if they want to be reappointed.

New Schools for Alabama

Tyler Barnett for News Schools for Alabama explained the purpose of the nonprofit.

Address by Dr. Eric Mackey

Dr. Mackey stated that two names were from the Lt. Gov. for the open position on the Commission, and he wants to be supportive of the Commission. Mac Buttram expressed his appreciation for the support. Dr. Mackey talked about the efforts to get an efficient model for startup funds.

Statement of Economic Interest

Mac Buttram stated that all Commissioners needed to complete the Statement of Economic Interest by April 30th.

Motion to Adjourn

Mac Buttram asked for a motion for adjournment. The motion was made by Mr. Henry Nelson, and Mr. Tommy Ledbetter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve. The meeting was adjourned.