

MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, September 22, 2023

Room 156

250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84111

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Members Present:

Chair Bryan Bowles

Vice Chair Cynthia Phillips

Member Krystle Bassett

Member Stephanie Speicher

Member Erik Olson

Member Rabecca Cisneros

Member Michelle Smith

Staff Present:

Joanne Castillo

Marie Steffensen

Others Present:

Corey Loomis

Paul Kremer

MEETING BEGINS (9:08 AM)

(9:09 AM) Budget Carryover

Chair Bowles expressed his appreciation for the work done on the carryover spend plan for one-time funds. School Support Coordinator Marie Steffensen presented the plan to the Members, identified how some of the monies were restricted, what monies were eligible to be returned to the USBE, and articulated some of the results working with USBE yielded. Vice Chair Phillips began conversation on funds for the possibility of negotiating up with a potential new Executive Director if necessary. Ms Steffensen expounded on the differentiation between the operating budget which would be used to address Vice Chair Phillips' concerns and the one-time funds represented in the carryover spend plan presented in this agenda item. Chair Bowles introduced conversation around extra travel that the new Executive Director might need to take to introduce themselves to the schools in the portfolio. Member Cisneros initiated conversations around ways monies that would otherwise be returned to USBE would be able to be sent directly to schools via grants. Ms Steffensen indicated that updating USBE Rule with a proposed amendment recognizing the "newness" of a school at various times in its growth could assist with allowing these extra monies to flow to schools from these one-time fund. Member Cisneros continued a

request clarification between the restricted start-up funds in the Operational Budget and the one-time funds in the carry forward spend plan mentioning ISIP. Member Olson introduced conversation regarding the possible obligation of the SCSB to return funds to USBE. Chair Bowles continued discussion on whether the SCSB has enough to have a balance between still supporting schools and the appearance of being fiscally responsible. Member Speicher reintroduced conversation on how to possibly innovatively use the monies to pursue the goals set in the Strategic Plan instead of returning it to USBE. Ms Steffensen identified specific amounts from specific funds that could be reallocated to the Executive Director Discretionary Fund under the CHBD code. Chair Bowles introduced discussion around how much would be available to schools in the form of grants given the current budget.

Member Cisneros: "I would like to make a motion that we have staff amend this to remove the 'returning to the Board items' and instead reallocate those to the CHBD account that allows us to resurrect the ISIP Grant in a modern iteration and allow staff to work with USBE to get new rules written for start-up funds."

Member Bassett: "I'll second that."

Discussion:

Member Olson intoned that the SCSB avoid returning monies at all costs and that the monies be used to benefit the schools. Chair Bowles commented on the need to be fiscally responsible with these carry over funds. Vice Chair Phillips suggested that monies such as these could be targeted at struggling schools. Chair Bowles reiterated the importance of a plan in fiscal responsibility. Member Cisneros suggested that staff be directed to have a draft of a plan for a grant and a draft of Rules Revisions for start-up monies for the next Board Meeting. Member Cisneros opened discussion on how these monies flow have an impact on MOU discussions and can unintentionally reinforce the notion that the SCSB is a section of the USBE. Vice Chair Phillips continued conversation on the nuances of working through the creation of an MOU and how the SCSB is related to USBE in the eyes of the State and the Federal Government. Vice Chair Phillips introduced discussion on the time-sensitive nature of the agenda item. Chair Bowles clarified that he understood the motion to request that the monies be held and that the details would be presented at a later meeting.

The motion passes unanimously.

Vice Chair Phillips: "I move that we go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the competence, character, and mental or physical health of an individual."

Member Olson: "I second that."

Roll Call:

Member Bassett: "Yes."

Member Speicher: "Yes."

Vice Chair Phillips: "Yes."

Member Cisneros: "Yes."

Member Olson: "Yes."

Member Smith: "Yes."

(9:47 AM) Closed Session in Accordance with the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act for Purposes outlined in Law: Action from Closed Session, if needed.

3:49PM (Open Meeting Resumes)

Member Speicher: "I'd like to make a motion to charge the Executive Committee to begin negotiations and checking references of potential Executive Director Candidates."

Member Cisneros: "Can I make a friendly amendment? To negotiate a contract as well. To negotiate salary, contract, and to check references."

Member Bassett: "I will second that motion."

Discussion:

None.

Motion passes with one absence.

Member Olson: "I will go ahead and move to authorize and direct the Executive Committee to explore potential bonuses or additional compensation, however it's characterized, for members of staff for this last period of time where we haven't had a full-fledged Director."

Member Olson: "Not just to explore, but to explore and actually award and offer... I would propose that you have the authority to go ahead and direct those payments."

Member Cisneros: "I'll second that motion."

Discussion:

None.

Motion passes with one absence.

Member Cisneros introduced conversation around the idea that the Board give the Executive Committee the authorization to create another staff position. Member Olson suggested that the creation of a new staff position would be something that should be discussed with the new Executive Director. Member Cisneros cited structural organization as reason for her suggestion. Chair Bowles suggested discussing this possibility in October if the Board is ready to announce a new Executive Director.

Member Olson: *I move that we adjourn.*