

MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, October 12, 2023

USBE Board Rooms

250 East 500 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84111

www.youtube.com/utahscsb

Members Present:

Chair Bryan Bowles

Vice Chair Cynthia Phillips

Member Krystle Bassett

Member Stephanie Speicher (online)

Member Erik Olson

Member Rabecca Cisneros

Member Michelle Smith

Staff Present:

Marie Steffensen

Others Present:

AAG Kevin Olsen

USBE Liaison Joseph Kerry

UAPCS Representative Royce Van Tassel

(10:01 am) MEETING BEGINS

Public Comment

None

Member Thought -Rabecca Cisneros

Member Cisneros spoke on the profound responsibility as stewards of education. She states, “this entails not only understanding the tangible aspects such as budgets, resources, and infrastructure but delving deeper into the essence of learning, the impact on students lives, their growth and their readiness for the future.” She went on additionally to state, “Let us strive to foster a culture of continuous evaluation and improvement, seeking excellence and innovation in our approach, ensuring that every investment in education translates into meaningful and transformative outcomes for our students. The true beneficiaries of our efforts.”

Board Chair Report

Chair Bowles shares that the last few months have been busy and challenging without an Executive Director, but things are beginning to calm down. He thanks Vice Chair Phillips and staff for their efforts in stepping up and continuing the work,

Consent Calendar

Member Smith: "I motion to adopt the consent calendar"

Member Bassett: "I'll second that."

Motion passes unanimously.

Move to Executive Session

Member Olsen: "I move that we go into a closed session to discuss the character competency of an individual as outlined in the statute."

Member Smith: "I'll second that."

Roll Call Vote:

Member Speicher: "yes"

Member Cisneros: "yes"

Member Olson: "yes"

Member Smith: "yes"

Member Bassett: "yes"

Vice Chair Phillips: "yes"

Motion passes unanimously.

(10:11 am) Meeting moves into Closed Session.

Executive session is for the purpose of discussing the character and competency of an individual as outlined in statute. (see signed affidavit)

Member Smtih made a motion to go back into an open meeting at 10:32 a.m.

Member Cisneros seconded.

(10:32 am) Meeting moves back into Open Session.

Member Speicher: "yes"

Member Cisneros: "yes"

Member Olson: "yes"

Member Smith: "yes"

Member Bassett: "yes"

Vice Chair Phillips: "yes"

Executive Director Update

Chair Bowles describes the process the board engaged in to seek a new executive director. He states that twenty-eight applications were received, and details how Member Speicher led the process to identify five for interview and three as finalists. He states, “We narrowed that field to three individuals, all three tremendous, all three competent. We could not have lost with any one of the three.”

Member Speicher: “Based on our final three candidates, after our extensive search process, we would like to formally offer the position of the Executive Director of the Utah State Charter School Office to Dr. Paul Kremer.”

Member Olson: “I’ll second that motion.”

Board members express their appreciation for the process, and the final three candidates, and express confidence in Dr. Kremer moving forward.

Motion passes unanimously.

Associate Director Update

Chair Bowles announces that the board is also appointing Marie Steffensen to the role of Associate Director of the State Charter School Board.

RFP for Third-Party Survey

Vice Chair Phillips describes a meeting with the Administrative Rules Committee discussing the potential of the committee to send a survey to schools regarding the relationship between the State Charter School Board as an authorizer and its authorized schools. Vice Chair Phillips shared that concerns were brought up, while changes to the staff and previous surveys were also reviewed. As a result, the Administrative Rules Committee decided to not send a survey but to wait and see how the changes unfold. The pros and cons of sending a survey from the SCSB were discussed, as well as the possible timing for such data to be collected.

Vice Chair Phillips: “I would like to move that we initiate an RFP for a third-party survey that would be provided to all charter stakeholders on behalf of the SCSB and to direct staff to begin that process.”

Member Smith: “Second.”

Motion passes unanimously.

Board Retreat

Chair Bowles explains, “We’ve used the last couple of meetings to vet and approve a strategic plan. However, we have a new administrative team coming on. We have a new director and in the past, we have engaged consultants who have helped our group to reflect to sort of do a needs assessment, to look at ways that we can improve our relationship between board and staff as well as our productivity and even to look at values and how our decisions align with those.”

The board discusses possible timing options, being mindful of the legislative session as well as the end of term for some of the board members. The board tentatively plans on November for a retreat. A vote is not taken.

(11:25 am) *Member Bassett: "I'll make the motion to adjourn."*