

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Members, Utah State Board of Education

**FROM:** Rich Nye  
Acting Deputy Superintendent

**DATE:** May 12-13, 2016

**DISCUSSION:** East Hollywood High School Request for an Alternative School Designation

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**Background:**

The Standards and Assessment Committee requested the Director of East Hollywood High to present the reasons why the school should be designated as an alternative school.

**Board Strategic Plan:**

This item supports the following imperative(s) and strategies in the Board's Strategic Plan:

- Imperatives: I. Educational Equity, II. Quality Learning
- Strategies: Accountability and Educational Options

**Anticipated Action:**

The committee will hear information from the Director of East Hollywood High regarding their request to be designated as an alternative school.

**Contact:** Aaron Brough, 801-538-7922  
Rich Nye, 801-538-7550

# East Hollywood High Alternative School Designation



Prepared by the  
Utah State Office of Education

May 12 - 13, 2016

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November 4, 2015

Aaron Brough  
Data and Statistics Coordinator  
Utah State Office of Education  
P.O. Box 144200  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Dear Aaron:

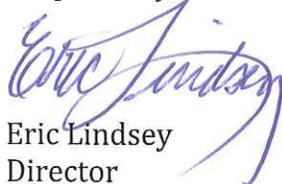
In a recent conversation with Ann White, she suggested I write you with a formal request that East Hollywood High School (EHHS) be given alternative school status. When EHHS was chartered, it was chartered with the express mission and purpose of being an alternative school that works with an at-risk population of high school age students. Since our charter was granted 11+ years ago, we have been true to that charter. Nearly all of our students are and have been considered at-risk of not graduating from high school. Our special education population averages between 20 and 25 percent. Well over 50% of our students are living in poverty. We are a Title I school.

Other than this letter of request, I am not certain exactly what is needed in this process. I am citing below quotes from the original EHHS Charter Application dated March 16, 2004. I am also enclosing minutes of the State Charter School Board meeting held on July 15, 2004, as well as the minutes of the State Board of Education meeting held on August 6, 2004. You will see in these minutes that our mission, as stated from day one, is to work with an at-risk population of students. Both boards unanimously voted to charter the school and board members were enthusiastically supportive of an alternative charter school, particularly one located on the west side of the Salt Lake valley.

Please give me a call or drop me an email with questions, or to let me know what else you might need in order to facilitate this request. My email address is [ericwindsley@gmail.com](mailto:ericwindsley@gmail.com). My cell phone number is 435-881-2410.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Eric Lindsey  
Director  
East Hollywood High School

cc: Ann White, Director of ESEA and Special Programs  
Utah State Superintendent Brad C. Smith

### **Quotes from East Hollywood High School original charter application:**

“As a group of educators, business professionals and concerned community members, we have come together with the common goal of opening and operating a charter high school for at-risk students in the Salt Lake City area. Many of the students we will be serving have dropped out or are in danger of dropping out of the public school system. Others are seriously behind, many of age to be juniors or seniors with insufficient credit to graduate by the age of 19. We desire to provide a positive and exciting learning experience in an inviting, safe, and stimulating atmosphere.”

“Mission Statement: It is the mission of East Hollywood High School to provide a continuously challenging curriculum in a safe and nurturing learning environment for students who have been identified as being ‘at-risk’, and to prepare them for high school graduation. Our primary goal is to help students learn how to learn, to love learning, and to become responsible citizens and productive members of society.”

“For many reasons too many youth are becoming discouraged in their pursuit of a high school education and are dropping out of school. Every year in the Salt Lake Valley more than 3,600 high school students drop out of school, as shown in the Enrollment and Dropout Report submitted each year to the Utah State Office of Education by each school district in the state. It has been estimated that as many as three times that number are seriously ‘at risk’ of not completing their high school education. Many end up on the streets, contributing to a rising crime rate, drug abuse and gang-related problems. It is clear that populations with high at-risk characteristics are rapidly growing. This alarming trend only promises to worsen in the future unless positive steps are taken to reverse it. In an effort to help these students to complete their secondary education, to prepare them for adult responsibilities, and to reverse the trends cited above, we [are requesting] to establish a charter high school targeting at-risk students in the Salt Lake City area.”

## MINUTES

August 6, 2004

Minutes of the meeting of the State Board of Education held August 6, 2004, at the Utah State Office of Education, Salt Lake City, Utah. Meeting commenced at 10:50 a.m. At the request of Chairman Kim R. Burningham, Vice Chairman Janet A. Cannon presided.

### Members present were:

Chairman Kim R. Burningham  
Vice Chairman, Janet A. Cannon  
Member Dixie L. Allen  
Member R. Michael Anderson  
Member Linnea S. Barney  
Member Tim Beagley  
Member Laurel Brown  
Member Edward A. Dalton  
Member Greg W. Haws  
Member David L. Moss  
Member John C. Pingree  
Member Joyce W. Richards  
Member Debra G. Roberts  
Member Sara V. Sinclair  
Member Gary C. Swensen  
Member Teresa L. Theurer

Member Jed H. Pitcher was excused.

### Also present were:

Executive Officer Patti Harrington  
Associate Superintendent Christine Kearn  
Associate Superintendent Patrick Ogden  
Associate Superintendent Raymond Timothy  
Executive Director, USOR, Blaine Petersen  
Public Affairs Director Mark Peterson  
Board Secretary Twila B. Affleck

### Members of the Press:

Tiffany Erickson, Deseret Morning News  
Ronnie Lynn, Salt Lake Tribune  
Amy K. Stewart, Standard Examiner  
Nola Lodge-Hurford, Coalition of Minorities Advisory Committee  
Janice Jones Schroader, Salt Lake City School District  
Rick Young, Pearson Educational Measurement  
Mary Russon, Hec Reading Horizon's  
JoAnn Neilson, Utah PTA  
Mark Cluff, Citizen  
Cheryl Phipps, Utah PTA  
Bill Thorne, Utah Court of Appeals

David Olsen, Grand County School District  
David Armstrong, Superintendent, Carbon School District  
Ron Ferguson, Superintendent, Grand County School District  
John Andrews, Citizen  
Ryan Anderson, Grand Education Association  
Kay Chatterton, Utah Education Association  
Royce Van Tassell, EdEx Utah  
Teresa Carey, Moab Community School  
Anne Peterson, State Charter School Governing Board  
Brian Allen, State Charter School Governing Board

Utah State Office of Education Staff:

Carol Lear, Law Legislation and Education Services  
Carol Ann Goodson, Student Achievement and School Success  
Ken O'Brien, Student Achievement and School Success

Board Member Dixie Allen lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Member Edward A. Dalton offered the reverence.

Board Secretary Twila B. Affleck recorded the minutes.

Vice Chairman Janet Cannon excused Board Member Jed Pitcher.

Vice Chairman Cannon shared a quote from Goethe relative to helping others become what they can become.

Introduction of Associate Superintendent

Superintendent Patti Harrington introduced Christine Kearn, Associate Superintendent over Student Achievement and Student Success Division. She indicated that Ms. Kearn is the former superintendent of the Rich School District.

Boardsmanship Development

Board Member Edward A. Dalton shared information on Developing Communication Strategies. (For complete details, see General Exhibit No. 9366.)

American Indian Tribal Sovereignty

In April 2004, the Board heard a report on the American Indian Education Plan. Several action steps were approved by the Board at that time and four were sent back to committee for revision. One action step needing revision suggested training for the Board regarding tribal sovereignty.

Tribal sovereignty is an issue cogent to revising the remaining action steps of the American Indian Plan.

Superintendent Patti Harrington introduced Judge William A. Thorne, Jr., who sits on the Utah Court of Appeals. Judge Thorne presented training for the Board on tribal sovereignty. (For complete details of the materials presented see General Exhibit No. 9367.)

Board Members questioned what they could do to help Indian children with their public education. Judge

The Committee reviewed the request of the Charter School Governing Board for a waiver of the application timeline of charter school applications for this year and moves that the State Board of Education approve the waiver of the application timeline of charter school applications for this year. Motion carried unanimously.

Charter School Application Approvals for  
East Hollywood High School and  
Moab Community School

On July 15, 2004, the State Charter School Board voted to recommend that the State Board of Education approve East Hollywood High School and Moab Community School's applications for charters to open at the beginning of the 2004-2005 school year.

Brian Allen, Chairman of the State Charter School Board reported that they are pleased with the appointment of Patricia Bradley as Executive Director of the Charter Schools Office and Jo Schmitt as her administrative assistant.

Mr. Allen provided some background relative to the Charter School Governing Board and history of the evolution of charter schools.

Mr. Allen reported that the State Charter School Board reviewed two applications, received presentations, public comment via letters, email and public hearing, and information from individuals in the State Office of Education, the State Charter School Board unanimously approved two charter requests; East Hollywood and Moab Community School. He presented information on their deliberations and information presented to the Charter School Board. (For complete details, see General Exhibit No. 9372.)

Mr. Allen, as chair of the State Charter School Board, respectfully and formally submitted to the Board its recommendation for approval of the charters for the East Hollywood Charter School and the Moab Community School and approval of their respective waivers of the 10 month waiting period rule.

Member Dave Moss, also a member of the State Charter School Board read an addendum to the statement made by Chairman Allen as follows: "Due to the legislative mandate, I am here in a somewhat altered capacity to ask you to ratify the recommendations of the Charter School Board. Although the vehicle for review and recommendation for charter applications is different, the question remains the same...' would the establishment of a particular charter school be truly beneficial to the children that would choose to attend?' That question is what drives my thought process. Although the legislature is looking closely at what will transpire today, my recommendations are my own. I believe that these are viable applications, if I felt differently, I would not support them. I have never been shy of withholding my support in the past, and I will not be shy to do the same in the future. Charter Schools are a viable alternative. If we don't learn to embrace them, we will face very unpleasant alternatives due to the cry for choice in this state." He indicated that Judge Thorne stated earlier that it is not always harmful to see things differently.

Motion from the Committee that the Board ratify the decision of the State Charter School Board and approve the East Hollywood High Charter School to begin opening in the 2004-2005 school year.

Member Mike Anderson questioned if this school was in Logan or Salt Lake City. It was clarified that the school is in Salt Lake City and Erick Lyndsey, the founder of Fast Forward Charter School in the Logan School District just wanted to start another school in Salt Lake City. He indicated that each school is independently governed by its own board and individually administered by its own principal, counselors, and faculty and staff. They are two separate schools, the only thing they have in common is that Mr. Lyndsey is the founder of both schools.

Member Teresa Theurer spoke in favor of the East Hollywood High Charter School indicating that Fast Forward has been a positive entity in the Logan School District.

Member Laurel Brown questioned what type of at risk students they are targeting and the staffing they will have available to deal with these students? Mr. Lyndsey responded that they are targeting students who have either dropped out of high school or who are failing in most of their classes in their existing placement. They are seriously at risk of completing their high school education. Mr. Lyndsey further indicated that the success of the Fast Forward Charter School in Logan has been to make certain that each of the employees hired has a strong background and training and passion for helping students who have or are struggling in their school experience. Many of the teachers, including the principal and guidance counselor have significant training in at-risk youth leadership and have also worked in Youth Corrections for a number of organizations who are focused in helping students who are in this population.

Member Brown further questioned what was in place at these schools in terms of licensed staff that are licensed in special education and have skills to provide the federal requirements for transition services and individual education plans for those students? Mr. Lyndsey responded that there will be a full-time special education teacher who is trained in IEP's and they will offer all special education services. That person has not been hired as yet, until they receive official notification of approval of the charter school. They have applications from teachers who are licensed in this area.

Motion to approve the Charter School Application of East Hollywood High Charter School carried unanimously.

Motion from the Law and Policy Committee that the Board ratify the decision of the Charter School Governing Board and approve the charter application for the Moab Community School for classes beginning school year 2004-2005.

Member Laurel Brown questioned who would be the administrator at the school. Ms. Carey responded that they have a two-fold process. They have a lead teacher that works to oversee the teachers work on evaluation, supervision and mentoring. This is a process that was developed with teachers within the community. She has worked

State Charter School Board

Minutes

July 15, 2004

10:00 – 1:30

USOE, Room 138

Attending: Brian Allen, Anne Peterson, Sonia Zisumbo, Scott Smith, Eric Smith, David Moss, Patricia Bradley

Excused: Barbara Killpack

Guests: John Vincent, Martin Bates, Matt Throckmorton, Steve Winitzky, Ray VanTassell, Tiffany Erickson, Janene Bowen, Robert Conder, Melissa Marchant, Stephanie Sorenson, David Adams, Danielle Adams, Blake Dursteler, Laura Lee Houck, Mark Allen, Theresa Carey, Rosie O'Connor, Dorothy Byrd, Sandra Fitzgerald, Clark Baron, Anna Trevino, Ronald Mortensen, Ron Ferguson, Mark Scorrin

Brian Allen welcomed the board and guests.

Eric Smith moved approval of the June 14 Minutes. Scott Smith seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as mailed. Allen shared copies of notes from a meeting held June 30, 2004. A quorum was not present so no action was taken and minutes are for information only, no motion.

Allen explained the consent provision in 53A-1a-501.7 requiring the Charter School Board to give consent to the appointment by the state superintendent of a Charter School Director. Superintendent Harrington has appointed Patricia G. Bradley to the position. There was discussion of the appointment and related duties. Anne Peterson moved that the board give its consent to the appointment. Dave Moss seconded the motion. Motion passed without objection.

Patricia Bradley introduced Jo Schmitt who has agreed to remain with Charter Schools as the new Administrative Secretary.

A proposed monthly meeting schedule was discussed. A regularly scheduled meeting on the third Thursday of each month was discussed. Scott Smith moved that this date be adopted for FY 05, Anne Peterson seconded and the meeting schedule was adopted with a second meeting for July – July 29, 2004 also approved.

Allen discussed a timeline for consideration of 2005-2006 charter school openings. Both the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget and Legislative Fiscal Analyst's Office meet with USOE about Oct. 15 of each year at a Common Data Committee meeting. It is at this meeting that all parties agree on the public education enrollment projections that will be used in the upcoming session. It has been important that figures for charter schools be relatively accurate for that meeting or problems arise during the session around appropriation decisions.

David Moss made motion to adopt the following timeline for Charter School Board application process this year. Eric Smith seconded the motion and the board approved the timeline. It will be taken to the State Board of Education in August.

August 15, 2004	Intent to Apply due to office
September 15, 2004	Applications due to office
October and November	Charter School Board will read and make recommendations
December 6, 2004	State Board of Education will act on Charter School Board's recommendations for charters

Bradley shared an *Intent to Apply* document. Scott Smith made motion to approve the document with modifications. Sonia seconded the motion and document was approved for posting to the website.

The Board directed Bradley to post all of the documents (Application, Agreement, Conversion documents) that were being discussed at the meeting on the CS website and invite public comment. Scott Smith moved that the documents be posted and held for final approval at the July 29 meeting. Eric Smith seconded the motion and the motion passed without objection.

Moss discussed with the board that in the past, the State Board used the USOE to read and offer comments on grant applications. Readers came from curriculum, special education, evaluation and assessment, and finance. Dave asked if the board wanted to continue using that input. Allen will discuss this with Superintendent Harrington with whom he intends to meet before the next Charter School Board meeting.

Allen shared that Superintendent Timothy has offered the CS Board the resources of the office and that both he and Carol Lear will be invited to all CS Board meetings.

Final decisions regarding a process for converting District sponsored charter schools to the State Charter School Board were not made. However, the Board will probably use the Conversion Documents it is approving for State Board Charters.

Eric Lindsey made a presentation to the board on an application for charter for East Hollywood High School. Eric discussed proposed staffing for the school, the school's mission and film production emphasis. The Film Foundation Curriculum designed by the Film Makers Guild will be used and students will acquire skills in this career area. SL Community College (Bill Laney) has approached the applicants regarding the possibility of enrolling East Hollywood students in an associates degree of applied science under concurrent enrollment. Lindsey presented information about the KUTV facility that has been offered to the applicants. There is .5 to 1 million dollars worth of production equipment that will also be made available to the school. Lindsey commented that planning for the school began over a year ago. **The target population will be dropouts and students who are failing.** Lindsey appealed that the board expedite their decision because a delay of a year would mean the likely loss of the facility. Lindsey outlined the preparation necessary to open Sept. 1. The facility will cost \$5 – 6,000 the first year

Lindsey was asked about how the school would target at risk students yet maintain open enrollment. The experience Lindsey has had in recruiting for Fast Forward High in Logan was given as evidence of experience in reaching target populations. Lindsey explained that the community awareness campaign would be clear about the at-risk focus.

Lindsey commented that if the Charter School Board voted to recommend East Hollywood to the State Board, the owners of the KUTV building would proceed immediately to remodel the 10 – 15,000 square feet (five classrooms) of space needed in year one and they would indemnify the State Charter School Board against any loss suffered if the State Board did not accept the recommendation for approval to open in 2004. ADA required remodeling work will be the first work to be done and if all classrooms are not complete, studio space could be used as temporary classrooms.

Martin Bates spoke on behalf of the Granite School District and Board of Education. He mentioned that there exists at Kearns High School an academy of multi-media and that Granite viewed East Hollywood as possibly redundant; however, they would not resist the school. Granite School District did not deem it appropriate to charter East Hollywood in light of its operating a similar program at Kearns High School.

Allen asked the applicants to make financials available to the board. The applicants excused themselves to prepare this information.

Allen suggested that the applicants make information about this charter school plan available to the legislative film enhancement task force that is charged with developing the film industry in Utah.

Theresa Carey presented the history of the Moab Community School charter application. She explained that after the State Board denied an application for an elementary charter in Moab last year, the school opened as a private school with 21 students. They ended the year with 46 students. If this application is approved the private school will close and donate its assets to the Moab Community School. The school has operated over the past year on a budget of approximately \$80,000. A private donation of the facility has made this possible and the use of volunteer staff. The school has participated in the federal meals program. The school received \$45,000 in donations and foundation money. The school has hired an auditor. There are currently 40 students on a waiting list. Fifteen of the students to the Moab Academy this past school year were students formerly home schooled and new to the Moab community. The curricular emphasis of the school is an infusion of arts into the teaching and learning. Carey commented that the small size of the proposed charter positions it well to serve the increasing numbers of Navajo and Spanish speaking students locating in Moab.

Carey answered a claim that she had said if vouchers passed Moab Community School would revert to private school status. Carey clarified that what she had said was that if the applicants were denied charter status and if vouchers became available that made participation of low income students in the private school possible, she would eventually give up the fight to acquire charter status. She explained that as a private school, the school is attracting upper income families and her passion is working with behavior challenged students and tuition limits the