

**MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, June 1, 2016

Weber State University – Layton Campus
Building D3, Room 201

DRAFT

Members Present:

Chair Howard Headlee
Vice Chair Kristin Elinkowski
Member DeLaina Tonks
Member Tim Beagley
Member Bruce Davis
Member Dean Brockbank
Member Robert Enger

Staff Present:

Marlies Burns
Jennifer Lambert
Joe Heywood
Blanca Estrada
Rabecca Cisneros
Jo Schmitt

Others present:

Royce VanTassell, Craig Frank

Call to Order

Chair Howard Headlee called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Howard Headlee led the board and those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Chair Report

Chair Howard Headlee informed the SCSB that the USBE has created a task force to study charter school issues. Robb Enger, Bruce Davis and Howard Headlee serve on that task force. USBE members serving on the task force are David Thomas, leading the meetings, Jennifer Johnson, Terry Warner and Stan Lockhart and a representative from the State School Boards Association, Nancy Tingey. Bruce Davis stated the task force has planned four meetings over the course of the summer. The mission statement of the task force was presented and discussed. Some discussion items of the task force were: the application process, timeline the USBE receive the applications and documentation that is given; an annual report/status report; turnaround process.

Chair Headlee thanked the staffing committee for the work they have put forth in regards to the 360 evaluation.

Chair Headlee commented on Marlies Burns' email announcing her resignation on July 1, 2016, and that she is available through a sole source contract for the next twelve months. Chair Headlee expressed his thoughts regarding the impact Marlies has had with the charter schools of Utah; the massive growth she has seen and administered; the assistance she has provided; and the understanding and advocacy.

Executive Director Marlies Burns thanked the SCSB for the opportunity she has had working with them, and added that it has been a great 10 years. She stated that she has learned a lot and is excited to be moving forward to learn more about a lot of other things as well. Ms. Burns expressed her thanks and best wishes to the staff.

Member DeLaina Tonks recognized Marlies regarding the legacy and hard work in regards to the landscape of charter schools in the state of Utah, from a director's standpoint and a board member standpoint.

Member Dean Brockbank also expressed his thanks for Marlies helping him understand the charter community, professionally and personally.

Vice Chair Kristin Elinkowski stated the SCSB will miss the "human encyclopedia" that Marlies is, in regards to the law and procedures, always being professional.

Member Robb Enger expressed appreciation for what Marlies has done to teach him about the charter school world and that she is a huge part of why the state has successful charter schools.

Strategic Planning Session

Member Bruce Davis led the discussion regarding the Strategic Planning Consulting Project, including the vision and mission statement, as well as the background on the strategic planning effort. Member Davis stated that the strategic planning committee began operation in the spring of 2014 with Laura Belnap as chair.

Review of Kyle Braithwaite study was presented and discussed.

The Vision, Mission and Values were discussed and redefined.

The SCSB broke into groups and discussed the SWOT analysis.

Strengths-

- Support for charters (infrastructure)
- Funding, parity/stability
- Innovation
- Facilities
- Performance
- Transparent/collaboration process
- Application process, fair/predictable
- Political predictability
- Improved demographic inclusiveness

Weaknesses-

- School closure
- Governing lack of proactive policy
- Low performance of schools and students
- Untrained/grassroots boards
- Newness of the charter agreement & objectivity of implementation & use
- Staff structure/direction, distribution of resources
- Unclear roles & expectations/relationships between board and staff and USOE
- Conflict of interest
- Need more flexibility and resources

Opportunities-

- Strong support/legislature, community, associations
- Charter promotion
- In-state technology expertise/online & distance learning
- Utah-high growth
- Changing demographics
- Redefine/expand definition and accountability

Educational equity
Sharing of information between charters and districts
Innovation & replication

Threats-

Low performing schools
Public image – misinformation, conflict of interest
Tension
Scarcity of saturation
Animosity/internal criticism
Role ambiguity/high level
Growth outweighs resources
Few authorizer options
Potential bad operator(s)
Breakdown in governance training

Changes in environment-

P-Political/legal

E-Economic

S-Social/cultural

T-Technological

Posting of Executive Director Position

Discussion regarding posting the Executive Director's position vacated by the resignation of Marlies Burns.

Adjourn

MOTION: Member Tim Beagley moved to adjourn at 2:45 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.