

**NEW MEXICO  
PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES  
For the June 8, 2012 Meeting**

**Item #1---Call to Order**

Chairman M. Andrew Garrison called the meeting to order at 8:30 am in Mabry Hall of the Jerry Apodaca Education Building, 300 Don Gaspar, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**Item #2---Roll Call**

Secretary Eugene Gant conducted the roll as follows:

M. Andrew Garrison, Chair, District 1, Albuquerque  
Mrs. Millie Pogna, Member, District 2, Albuquerque  
Michael Canfield--- District 3, Albuquerque  
Ms. Carla Lopez, Member, District 4, Santa Fe  
VACANT --- District 5, Gallup  
Mr. Gilbert Peralta, Member, District 6, Socorro ABSENT  
Mr. Eugene Gant, Secretary, District 7, Las Cruces  
Mr. Vince Berman, Member, District 8, Roswell  
Ms. Carolyn Shearman, Vice Chair, District 9, Artesia  
Mr. Jeff Carr, Member, District 10, Eagle Nest

**Item #3---Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to New Mexico Flag**

Commissioner Carla Lopez led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Commissioner Jeff Carr led the Salute to the New Mexico Flag

**Item #3---Statement of Aspiration**

Commissioner Vince Bergman gave the Statement of Aspiration.

**Item #4---Approval of Agenda**

Chair Garrison presented the Agenda. Commissioner Millie Pogna moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jeff Carr. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Garrison took an eight minute recess.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:45 a.m.

**Item #5---Open Forum**

Chair Garrison read the information about Open Forum.

No one from the audience signed up to speak at Open Forum.

**Item # 6---PEC Discussion on Albuquerque Public School's Letter to Secretary-Designate Skandera on Southwest Secondary Learning Center's (SSLC) Extended Learning Program.**

Chair Garrison:

The New Mexico Public Education Commission will discuss the issue above and gather information. Since this is not a hearing, Commissioners will not be asking directed questions to Southwest Secondary Learning Center (SSLC) or to Albuquerque Public Schools. Each Commissioner may discuss the topics or issues he/she would like the Public Education Department Charter Schools Division and the Licensure/Investigation Bureau to address in their audit/investigation of SSLC.

Chair Garrison opened the floor for discussion.

Vice Chair Carolyn Shearman summarized some of her concerns, specifically related to clarification of definitions of terminology, issues related to the New Mexico Administrative Code, and distance learning.

Commissioner Jeff Carr commented that he hoped the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) and the Public Education Commission (PEC) would fully investigate this appearance of impropriety so that the PEC can take appropriate action.

Secretary Eugene Gant commented that he read through the same administrative code as Commissioner Shearman read. He said that he took the statutes seriously and that the PEC needed to hold SSLC accountable.

Chair Garrison moves to Item #7.

**Item #7---Development of Oversight questions for Public Education Department's Charter School Division (CSD) related to SSLC.**

Chair Garrison welcomed Albuquerque Superintendent Winston Brooks to the meeting.

Commissioner Gant asked when questions from Commissioners would be due.

Chair Garrisons said he would recommend that Commissioner questions be submitted to PED by end of close of business today (June 8, 2012).

Kelly Callahan, Acting Director of the PED's Charter School Division informed the Commission that the PED's on-site visit and inquiry to SSLC was completed yesterday. She recommends that the PEC questions be given to her as soon as possible.

Chair Garrison requests that if the PEC questions go beyond what PED has done in its field study, the final report be expanded to include responses to the PEC questions.

Ms. Callahan responded that PEC questions will be answered in alignment with the PED inquiry report completed by the PED auditing office.

Chair Garrison commented that the PEC has a different view at this inquiry as the authorizing group for the SSLC, which is different from the PED and APS focus. He said he thought all groups will benefit from this inquiry.

Chair Garrison said that Kelly Callahan, Acting Director of the CSD would follow up on PEC questions.

Commissioner Mike Canfield arrived at 9:05 am. Chair Garrison welcomed him to the meeting.

CSD Acting Director Callahan commented that she couldn't say whether the PEC questions will become part of the PED report, but she added, I will have all your questions answered.

Chair Garrison read the letter sent by Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) Superintendent Winston Brooks. He said that the PEC has a different inquiry as the state authorizer for charter schools and that is why the PEC is meeting today to develop questions to add to that inquiry from the state charter school authorizer's perspective.

Secretary Gant made the comment that APS policies will also be looked at and that this will be part of the final report.

**Vice Chair Shearman made the following motion:**

**I move that the each Public Education Commissioner provide the PED Charter Schools Acting Director, Kelly Callahan, with questions for PED consideration that the Commission is requesting the PED to address in the audit/investigation of SSLC. These questions will be provided to**

**Ms. Callahan in person or via email no later than close of business today, June 8, 2012.**

**Motion seconded by Commissioner Carr.**

Chair Garrison opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Carr said that to avoid duplicate questions, he would like the Commissioners to read their questions so that these questions could be discussed.

Commissioner Canfield apologized for being late, but he asked whether the scope of the PED inquiry was discussed.

Chair Garrison said that no one from the PED audit bureau was present to define the scope of the inquiry. The PEC does not know the scope of the inquiry except for the APS letter to Secretary-Designate Skandera.

Commissioner Canfield said he had no questions at this time.

Commissioner Pogna asked what the situation was and how will it be resolved. What will the PEC do?

Commissioner Bergman wants to know if SSLC was charging this student \$200 and then counting this student in its SEG. I would like the PED to check with other charter schools in the state to see what their policies are regarding extended learning programs.

Ms. Callahan reiterated that all of the questions from the Commissioners would be answered.

Vice Chair Shearman read her list of questions. (Questions attached to these minutes.)

Secretary Gant read his list of questions. (Questions attached to these minutes.)

Commissioner Lopez said that Commissioner Gant covered her questions, but she had a core question. Did the student learn by doing the coursework this way? Did this student learn the materials to a level a competency by doing this coursework? Charter schools are supposed to be leading this endeavor.

Commissioner Lopez said that she needs to leave the meeting at this time.

Commissioner Lopez leaves the meeting at 9:35.

Commissioner Carr said he had nothing to add to the excellent questions.

Chair Garrison comments that Commissioner Lopez talked about ego and that some of us might be insulted when a child can go around the teacher to get credit. We need to support teachers in New Mexico and improve where we are today. How do you quantify the soft skills for a student to become a good citizen and adult? How do you quantify dignity and respect, holding people to rules, discipline, listening, being cordial and following procedure? I had a meeting with Secretary-Designate Skandera and brought up these questions. These things are hard to quantify. There's a lot of ego in teaching. There are things that must be weighed that are not in the New Mexico Standards and Benchmarks in order to be a solid human being, such as ethical behavior. I haven't seen that many ethics classes where students can test those boundaries in group work. That is why I have always been a little bit wary of the electronic classes. My major is physical education, and you must be hands on. There is a human condition that we must be able to quantify. How can we support teachers and give them professional skills through professional development. How can we get better? Those are the questions that I have. They are not for PED or Kelly Callahan, but that I ponder.

**Chair Garrison reads the Motion made by Commissioner Shearman and seconded by Commissioner Carr.**

**I move that the each Public Education Commissioner provide the PED Charter Schools Acting Director, Kelly Callahan, with questions for PED consideration that the Commission is requesting to address in the audit/investigation of SSLC. These questions will be provided to Ms. Callahan in person or via email no later than close of business today, June 8, 2012.**

**A roll call vote was asked for by Chair Garrison**

**Commissioner Gant reads roll call.**

**By a unanimous vote 7-0, the motion passed.**

**Item #8---Adjourn**

Chairman Garrison asked for a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Gant made the motion

Commissioner Carr seconded the motion

Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.