

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

Summary Minutes for PEC Work Session

Thursday, June 11, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Patricia Gipson called the PEC Work Session to order at 9:10 a.m. using a Zoom Webinar.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Commissioner Patricia Gipson, PEC Chair, District 7, Las Cruces
Commissioner Trish Ruiz, PEC Vice Chair, District 9, Hobbs
Commissioner Karyl Ann Armbruster, PEC Secretary, District 4, Los Alamos
Commissioner R. Carlos Caballero, District 1, Albuquerque
Commissioner David Robbins, District 2, Albuquerque
Commissioner Glenna Voigt, District 3, Albuquerque
Commissioner Georgina Davis, District 5, Aztec
Commissioner Tim Crone, District 10, Espanola
Commissioner Sonia Raftery, District 8, Roswell

Commissioners Absent:

Commissioner Michael Chavez, District 6, Deming

Also Present:

Alan Brauer, Acting Director, PED Charter School Division
Karen Woerner, Deputy Director, PED Charter Schools Division
Dylan Wilson, PED Charter Schools Division
Ami Jaeger, PEC Attorney
Megan Maestas, PED Charter Schools Division
Missy Brown, PED Charter School Division
Dolores Archuleta, PED Charter School Division
Eric Crites (NMSA)
Mike Ogas (SODA)
Kimberly Ritterhouse (Red River)
Raphael Martinez (ASLA)
Susan Fox (attorney for SODA)

WORK SESSION AGENDA

1. Annual Report Ratings for 2019-2020

CSD Deputy Director Karen Woerner discussed the Annual Report Ratings with the Commissioners. She showed the PEC the three versions of contracts with the state authorized charter schools and requested guidance on how CSD staff should rate the academic performance section, including mission goals, for 2019-2020. Due to the pandemic, schools were closed for the last quarter of the 2019-2020 year, the state received a waiver on administering state assessments, and schools were unable to complete assessments or projects related to mission goals. The PEC advised Deputy Director Woerner and staff to leave the academic rating blank and include a notation that, in light of the COVID-19 health emergency, the school has provided its Continuous Learning Plan in lieu of data regarding academic and mission goals. This will not be rated.

2. Capacity Interviews and Community Input Hearings for New Charter School applications

One application from an applicant in Rio Rancho was received by CSD. The capacity interview is set up for the first week of July. Since there is only one school, the PEC will schedule one Public Input Hearing. The suggested date is Monday, July 20 with the option of having the Public Input Hearing in Rio Rancho, but we will set up the meeting via Zoom in case the state is not allowing public meetings because of the COVID-19 medical emergency.

3. Residential Facility for New Mexico School for the Arts - Eric Crites

NM School for the Arts has a residential program. With the COVID-19 medical emergency and not being able to meet CDC guidelines and the mental well-being of the students, the Governing Council decided that the residential program will be suspended for the next school year. This is not an issue of funding since the private foundation provides the funding for the residential program. Even though some students will not be in residence, these students have said that they would make arrangements to attend NM School for the Arts. The school will be able to provide courses to all students enrolled. PEC attorney Ami Jaeger has crafted some language to reflect this change as an addendum to the school's contract for the July PEC meeting and Agenda. The new facility is being worked on and the school anticipates beginning the 2022-2023 school year in the new facility.

4. Alternate Virtual Model for Charter Schools- Mike Ogas

The Chair began the discussion commenting that schools are looking at establishing an on-line, virtual platform. The PEC will need to look at this issue in relation to a school's charter school contract, policies and procedures. The item is on the agenda for tomorrow's PEC meeting so the PEC can discuss. Mike Ogas, Director of School of Dreams Academy (SODA), was asked to present some of his ideas regarding this issue. He is proposing an amendment to his contract to implement an on-line component as a result of the COVID-19 medical emergency, but he would like to propose that SODA include the virtual platform as a permanent option for students, statewide. Mr. Ogas discussed his school's plan to implement this plan. The Commissioners discussed the problems with virtual programs and the advantages of personal contact with teachers. The Chair discussed the differences in blended learning and a virtual program for schools. She also mentioned the funding of SEG for a virtual program. The Chair commented that if a school wants to establish a virtual platform, not a blended platform, as part of their school program after the COVID-19 medical emergency, they will have to come before the PEC with an amendment request for a change in their educational program or the PEC can determine if they do not want to approve a virtual platform. The discussion will continue at the PEC meeting tomorrow for the Commissioners to make a decision on this issue.

ADJOURN

No votes were taken by Commissioners during this work session.
The work session was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Submitted by Beverly Friedman, PED Liaison to the PEC

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