

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

Summary Minutes for PEC Work Session on Thursday, September 23, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Patricia Gipson began the PEC Work Session at 10:00 a.m. in a Zoom Webinar

Commissioners in Attendance:

Commission Chair Patricia Gipson, PEC Chair, District 7, Las Cruces

Commission Vice Chair Glenna Voigt, District 3, Albuquerque

Commission Secretary Rebekka Burt, District 4, Rio Rancho

Commissioner David Robbins, District 2, Albuquerque

Commissioner Steven J. Carrillo, District 10, Santa Fe

Commissioner Georgina Davis, District 5, Aztec

Commissioner KT Manis, District 9, Hobbs

Commissioner Michael Taylor, District 8, Roswell

Commissioners Absent:

Commissioner Melissa Armijo, District 1, Albuquerque

Commissioner Michael Chavez, District 6, Deming

Also Present:

Julia Barnes, PEC Attorney

Corina Chavez, Director of PED Charter School Division

Melissa Brown, PED Charter School Division

Samantha Samoiel, PED Charter School Division

Melissa Sanchez, PED Charter School Division

Members of the Public Present

Patricia Matthews, Matthews Fox Law Firm

Karen Woerner, Explore Academy

Jessica Pollard, Santa Fe New Mexican

WORK SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

1. Updates on PEC Email and PEC Meetings

Commissioners were asked if they would like changes to their current email addresses. Currently PEC email addresses have the Commissioner's District number. There is an option to have Commissioner names added to the addresses. Commissioners will contact Beverly Friedman on their choice.

The PED Administrative Services Division is researching information on providing a ZOOM link and streaming services in Mabry Hall of the Jerry Apodaca Building. More information will be provided as it is made available.

2. PEC Subcommittees and OMA Compliance

PEC Attorney Julia Barnes and Chair Gipson discussed OMA compliance in regards to PEC Subcommittee meetings with individual charter schools to discuss contracts or CAPs. According to NMAG OMA Compliance Guide these meetings could be for either public business or they were fact finding. If a subcommittee will have a quorum of Commissioners, the meeting will be noticed and can be closed to the public. If there are fewer than a quorum attending, does the meeting need to be noticed.

Chair Gipson is going to seek a formal advisory opinion from the NM Attorney General's Office on this question and when and how the meetings are required to be noticed.

3. 2020-2021 Budget Review

CSD Director Corina Chavez asked if this budget review can be postponed to the October PEC Work Session so that PED Administrative Director Marian Rael can join the discussion. She discussed the issue of reversion of 2% funds to the General Funds and asked the PEC to consider legislation that could keep the funds from being reverted.

4. Authorizing for Quality Charters and PEC Policy

The Commissioners will discuss authorizing and the Performance Framework with some education experts, legislators as suggested by Commissioner Voigt. Director Chavez will send out a survey and questionnaire to charter schools requesting suggestions requesting that results be sent back in two weeks. In the next few weeks, a PEC subcommittee will discuss the purpose of the subcommittee and a possible meeting could be held the end of October or early November.

5. Lottery Guidance

Director Chavez updated the lottery guidance procedure document for the Commissioners to review. All schools will have the opportunity to review their lottery guidance to be in compliance with this guidance. The CSD will review all charter schools lottery process for 2022-2023 and produce a report to the PEC regarding these. The Commission also discussed whether a student's address should be part of the lottery process. The PEC will vote on the lottery guidance at their meeting tomorrow.

6. Renewal Process:

a. Renewal Site Visit Protocol

Director Corina Chavez presented the renewal site visit protocol. The purpose is to clarify what is included in the protocol and what is requested from the school. The site visit provides evidence cited in the renewal app and the school's mission statement. The visit validates school information through concrete evidence to triangulate information that is presented to the PEC. The Protocol also has a code of conduct component for both staff and school.

b. MOU for Renewal Schools

PEC Attorney Barnes invited charter school attorney Patricia Matthews from the Matthews-Fox Law Firm to this work session to discuss the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for renewal charter schools with the PEC.

Director Chavez mentioned that Contract, Performance Framework, and Site Visit Reports for schools will be posted. These reports were previously posted on Web-EPS for the schools to review.

The schools are being renewed this year have multiple versions of contracts and some schools are being asked to respond to the renewal application. Commissioner Burt and Chair Gipson commented that there seem to be three years of performance data for the schools whether it is called a letter grade (A-F) or Vistas prior to the COVID pandemic. Commissioners Carrillo and Robbins stated that schools will need to provide as much data as possible for renewal. Chair Gipson mentioned that PEC provides an opportunity for schools to provide this information in any format the school would like.

This MOU for Renewal Schools will be voted on at the PEC meeting tomorrow.

7. Legislative Topics for the 2022 Session

The Legislative Session this year will be a 30 day session and will be at the call of the Governor. Chair Gipson has discussed some topics with Secretary Steinhaus and would like to work hand in hand with the PED on legislative items. According to Chair Gipson, the LESC has two topics on their list that concern PEC. One is the discussion of virtual charter schools and the second is quality authorizing. There is also a possibility of the topic of a moratorium of new charter schools being added to that list.

Commissioner Robbins, PEC's liaison to the PSCOC, discussed issues discussed by PSCOC that affect charter schools. Commissioner Carrillo suggested that PEC work with NMSBA on increasing teacher salaries and teacher education. Chair Gipson mentioned that there may be a bill for virtual schools in the state and the impact of broad band connectivity.

8. Greetings with Dr. Kurt Steinhaus, Secretary Designate

Dr. Kurt Steinhaus, PED Secretary Designate, joined the PEC Work Session from Gallup. Commissioners introduced themselves and Secretary Designate Steinhaus discussed his background with New Mexico charter schools. Commissioners questioned the Secretary Designate on innovations and recognitions for charter schools, hiring staff for the CSD, and discussing his Year of Literacy initiative. Chair Gipson thanked him for taking the time to meet with the PEC. Secretary Designate offered to join another PEC meeting if he can provide information.

ADJOURN

No votes were taken by Commissioners on items during this work session.

The PEC Work Session adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Submitted by Beverly Friedman, PED Liaison to the PEC
September 27, 2021