

Public Education Commission Work Session

November 16, 2023

Open Public Meeting via Zoom Webinar and in person at
the Jerry Apodaca Education Building, 300 Don Gaspar Ave., Santa Fe, NM 87501

Link to Meeting Recording--Add from [PEC YouTube](#)

Chair Alan Brauer called the work session to order at 9:02am

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Commissioners in attendance in person:

Commissioner Alan Brauer, Chair, District 2, Albuquerque
Commissioner Rebekka Burt, Vice-chair, District 4, Rio Rancho
Commissioner Timothy Beck, District 3, Albuquerque
Commissioner Stewart Ingham, District 6, Deming
Commissioner Patricia Gipson, District 7, Las Cruces
Commissioner Michael Taylor, District 8, Roswell
Commissioner K.T. Manis, District 9, Hobbs
Commissioner Steven J. Carrillo, District 10, Santa Fe

Commissioners not in attendance:

Commissioner Sharon Clahchischilliage, District 5, Aztec
Commissioner Melissa Armijo, Secretary District 1, Albuquerque

Also Present:

Julia Barnes, PEC Attorney
Corina Chavez, Charter School Division (CSD) Director
Dr. Brigette Russell, CSD Deputy Director
Sharyn Perea, PEC Liaison, CSD
Melissa "Missy" Brown, CSD
Lucy Valenzuela, CSD
Cheryl Rowe, CSD
Samantha Ramirez, CSD
Julianna Montoya, CSD
Theodore Farnath, CSD
Martica Davis, CSD
Jessica Juarez, CSD
Kimberly Gonzales, CSD
Sam Obenshain, Cottonwood Classical Head Administrator
Valery Ratliff-Parker, PCSNM
Matt Pahl - PCSNM

Members of the Public in person and on Zoom are listed on the attendance document.

2. **PEC Self- Evaluation and Values Development** Naomi DeVeaux, National Charter Schools Institute. Naomi discussed the purpose of the Self-Assessment, goals and creating a mission statement. Naomi shared Key Standards and overall Agreements which encompass exceptional leadership and effective partnership (with staff and school boards). Ms. DeVeaux responded to Commission Patricia Gipson regarding leadership oversight and explained this is for alignment of the Commissions leadership and values. Naomi reported witnessing the Commissioners working well within the consensus of their framework as a Commission. There was discussion about continued work on the strategic plan. Commissioner Rebekka Burt responded to Ms. DeVeaux's questions regarding the regular communication from PEC to the community. Ms. DeVeaux mentioned barriers including language and communication sent to constituents. Commission Chair Alan Brauer discussed the transition of the Advisory Council and agreed the newsletter would support the connection to the community. Dr. Brigitte Russell shared CSD newsletter information, timeline and offered support to PEC with communication. Ms. DeVeaux shared results that showed overall consensus of an effective and a well run Commission. Commissioner Michael Taylor discussed continued work to build relationships with schools to ensure effective communication. Commissioners and Ms. DeVeaux discussed Equity and opportunity within schools and across the board. There was discussion of Data and Correlation to human connection. Naomi shared information about being a Value Driven Authorizer. Commissioners took a vote and discussed whether they are believers, value drive, not values based, and regulatory. Commissioners collaborated to start developing a mission statement, and creating five core values. Commission Chair, Brauer shared his thanks to the Commissioners for respecting unique opinions and values across the board.

3. **Food Service for Charter Schools**

- a. Presentation: Director Mike Chavez, Health Educator Team Manager, Rachelle DiQuarto and Deputy Director, Laura Henry-Hand from PED Student Success and Wellness Bureau. The Bureau is working with schools to increase seat time, decrease waste and their priority areas are New Mexico Grown, Freshly prepared, Engagement of Student and Family Voice, Food and Nutrition and Food Waste and Certification Process. Through Senate Bill Four (SB4), the goal is to ensure students' equal access to healthy meals. They advised there's grant money available to schools for infrastructure, equipment and to purchase locally grown food. There is increased collaboration with universities and culinary specialists to ensure healthy meals. The team discussed what charter schools are participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). There was mention of fifteen state charters that are not participating in the NSLP program, seven are self operating and six schools receiving nearby food authority and twenty-nine go through food service management companies. The goal is to ensure schools are meeting the requirements of the program.

b. Discussion and questions

Commissioner Carrillo, Commissioner K.T. Manis, and Commissioner Gipson had questions regarding schools participating, opting out and accountability for schools participating. There was a discussion of determining eligibility, family support of completing qualifying paperwork, and oversight of schools who don't participate. Mr. Chavez shared SB4 will be implemented in the 2024-25 school year. Matt Pahl from PCSNM addressed the fact that several schools are asking about the program availability and school contracts. There was discussion about incentivizing districts to work to ensure rural area charters can participate. Commissioners were informed that Per SB4 whether or not schools are participating in SNLP they need to serve breakfast and lunch which comes with specific meal requirements. Chair Brauer discussed how this affects new school applications. Suggestion made for CSD to reach out to 15 schools who are not participating and gather more information and update the waivers to ensure schools are participating.

4. CSD Overview of Renewal Recommendation Process

Dr. Russell provided an update on the preliminary renewal process. CSD will review and complete updates from responses received, and send final recommendations by December 1, 2023. Any changes between the preliminary or final recommendation will be noted on the final report. The 2023 Vistas scores will be included in the final recommendation. PEC Attorney Julia Barnes discussed the rule regarding schools response timeline and CSD discretionary if responses are late. Attorney Julia Barnes, mentioned Chair Brauer has been in communication with schools about Tribal Consultations. Chair Brauer will meet with the Secretary of Indian Education on November 17th, 2023. Ms. Barnes discussed adding additional agenda items to the renewal hearings. Ms. Barnes requested Commissioners reach out directly to discuss a draft motion in advance of renewal hearings.

5. First Discussion of 2024 New School Application

a. Discuss of Language for additional questions for schools proposing replication of models

Dr. Russell discussed edits made by Ms. Barnes. The changes are in 5.A, Replication section in the Glossary and Replication section under Section I. There were questions, concerns and discussion amongst Commissioners regarding the Replication of a Charter School and a Replication of a Model, and what this process is within the application process. Commissioners discussed Notice of Intent (NOI), a new rubric being developed for schools to receive feedback prior to submitting an application. Dr. Russell made mention of the Administrative Code and not making changes a year in advance. Dr. Russell asked for clarification on the timeline and said she will draft language for the proposed updates.

6. Second Discuss of Regular Site Visit Protocol

Dr. Russell discussed CSD doing a redline of the site visit protocol. 6.B has changes accepted. Commissioners requested Dr. Russell discuss all the changes made. Commissioner Burt asked for a rubric to be discussed by next month. Commissioner Gipson had questions on ratings. Valery Ratliff-Parker from PCSNM commented that schools are asking for rubric, they would like to be aware of how they are being graded prior to site visits. Commissioner Chair Brauer mentioned that this has been a topic of discussion that needs to be addressed.

7. Discussion of PEC Methodology for Reviewing Annual Reports and Issuing Annual Notices

Ms. Barnes discussed the memo procedure and rule process: CSD provides a majority of the information about the renewal process, then PEC reviews the annual report, and results are a short letter of areas of concern.

8. Discussion of Purchase, Installation, and Implementation of a System to Streamline Data Collection Specifically for State Charters

- a. CSD report on the progress towards contracting for charter authorizer software
Dr. Russell shared the posting of the RFP. Proposals will be reviewed January 10, 2024, with Commissioner(s) serving on the evaluation committee.

9. Subcommittee Updates

None of the subcommittees met since the last work session.

10. REPORTS FROM PEC LIAISONS

- a. Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) – Commissioner Gipson
Commissioner Gipson reported that she attended the LESC meeting yesterday. There was discussion of the school's compliance with the new school calendar. There was concern with what the rule said and the intent of the legislation.
- b. Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) – Commissioner Gipson
There was an updated presentation provided on the construction issue.
- c. NM Indian Education Advisory Council – Commissioner Clahchischilliage
- d. NM Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC) – Commissioner Ingham
No update. Meeting is next week.
- e. NM Public School Insurance Authority (NMPSIA) – Commissioner Manis
Commissioner Manis attended the meeting in Albuquerque. The NMPSIA would like to partner with the Governor's initiative to drive down the cost of health care premiums. Benefit providers presented some of their information and services. There was discussion about telehealth services not being utilized as much as they could be by residents.
- f. NM School Boards Association (NMSBA) – Commissioner Carrillo – No update
- g. NM State Library Commission – Commissioner Taylor – No update
- h. NM Coalition of Educational Leaders – Commissioner Beck – No update

Chair Brauer adjourned the meeting at 5:40pm

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

Submitted by Bianca Olona-Elwell, CSD