

Public Education Commission Work Session

November 8, 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 9:05am

1. Commissioners in attendance in person:

Commissioners in attendance by Zoom:

Commissioner Alan Brauer, Chair, District 2, Albuquerque
Commissioner Timothy Beck, District 3, Albuquerque
Commissioner Stewart Ingham, District 6, Deming
Commissioner Patricia Gipson, District 7, Las Cruces
Commissioner Steven J. Carrillo, District 10, Santa Fe
Commissioner Michael Taylor, District 8, Roswell

Commissioners not in attendance:

Commissioner Rebekka Burt, Vice-chair, District 4, Rio Rancho
Commissioner Melissa Armijo, Secretary District 1, Albuquerque
Commissioner Sharon Clahchischilliage, District 5, Aztec
Commissioner K.T. Manis, District 9, Hobbs

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
Bianca Olona-Elwell, CSD
Theodore Farnath, CSD
Martica Davis, CSD
Julianna Montoya, CSD
Cheryl Rowe, CSD
Dr. Kim Hite- Pope, Pecos Cyber Academy Head Administrator
Mike Ogas, School of Dreams Head Administrator
Jennifer DeGraaf-

2. Charter School Division and PEC Commissioners to provide input to Chair for letters to renewing school applicants to assist them to prepare for the December renewal hearings.

PEC Attorney Julia Barnes discussed the purpose of this work session is to address questions that will be asked of the schools prior to the renewal hearings. The letters sent to schools will allow the schools time to prepare to answer questions or address concerns. Attorney Julia Barnes said this was a great renewal process, including all the data collected. Commissioner Steven Carrillo mentioned seeing plans for educational progress for all schools. Commissioner Patricia Gipson would like to ask the schools what grants they have received, and what they have spent this on over the past five years. Commissioner Gipson would also like to know how students will be supported with funding received. Director Chavez said in the past the schools have not been asked to share about the future, mostly sharing the past focused on achievements. Director Chavez addressed how schools can address these questions. Ms. Barnes recapped three questions added to schools renewal letters.

Director Chavez affirmed, no additional comments for each school. Director Chavez provided instruction for commissioners to access school folders to review and access more information provided by the school for Part F.

Albuquerque Aviation Academy: No comment

Cesar Chavez Community School: Ms. Barnes said the Vista Score was corrected on Part A and Graduation Rates were added. Commissioner Carrillo would like to ask the school what support they are giving students to increase graduation rates.

Commissioner Michael Taylor would like information on how graduation rates and proficient rates are correlated because graduation rates have increased. Commissioner Gipson had questions about the 2021 Rights of Students- Special Education Students and concern for services.

Dream Dine Charter School: Ms. Barnes mentioned the school is coming from another Authorizer and therefore some information is different. Commissioner Carrillo had questions regarding doubling the school's attendance and what occurred. Commissioner Carrillo would like to know why they are leaving the authorizer, Attorney Julia Barnes affirmed they don't have to give a reason and it's not grounds for renewal. Commissioner Gipson had remarks regarding the school not successfully completing all components of the application whether or not it's still a complete application. Attorney Barnes echoed that she has the same concerns. Director Chavez replied to questions regarding the Head Administrator and the school going through their second renewal, third term.

Explore Academy: Ms. Barnes mentioned the school having adjustments to Part A and their scores improved. Attorney Julia Barnes answered questions from Commissioner Gipson regarding the schools Vista Scores. Commissioner Carrillo had a concern regarding the school's graduation rate being below the state average.

Middle College High School: No Comments or questions

New Mexico School for the Arts: Ms. Barnes pointed out the school had a strong application, no other comments.

Raices del Saber Xinachtli Community School: Ms. Barnes had questions for Dr. Russell regarding scores. Commissioner Gipson would like the schools plan to address deficiencies and the plan to avoid future audit findings. Chair Brauer asked about the school improving indicators since they fell below for two years.

San Diego Riverside Charter School: Attorney Julia Barnes discussed added conditions of renewal in the letter. Commissioner Steward Ingham had questions about taking over a school that has not had a current contract. Attorney Julia Barnes replied to Commissioner Ingham, explaining that districts vary and Charter Schools have the ability to change authorizers whether they have a contract or not. Commissioner Timothy Beck had concerns regarding Teacher Retention Rate, Governing Body Unknowns, and Attendance Rates. Director Chavez explained more work needs to be done regarding discussing context of the questions posed by the district and current progress made. Commissioner Gipson mentioned understanding the schools plan for becoming a board of finance if renewed by PEC and if they have the current occupancy. Commissioner Gipson would like the school to explain if they were able to obtain support from the current authorizer. Commissioner Chair Brauer agreed with questions posed by Commissioner Gipson. Commissioner Taylor would like to know how CSD came to a renewal decision, and PEC Attorney Julia Barnes answered by stating the question will be answered in December while schools are present.

School of Dreams Academy: Attorney Julia Barnes stated a few questions were removed today. Commissioner Carrillo has concerns regarding proficiency rates. Commissioner Beck mentioned possible grade inflation for graduation rate increase. Attorney Julia Barnes affirmed the questions have been added to the renewal letter. Commissioner Carrillo had questions regarding the Head Administrator being on the board of Finance and the history surrounding this concern.

Solare Collegiate Charter School: Commissioner Gipson had questions regarding money being paid back to the schools foundation for 200,000 debt. No other comments or questions.

Southwest Preparatory Learning Center: Ms. Barnes mentioned updates to their scoring that were completed today. Dr. Russell was asked to confirm if the language is correct

on the school specific goals. Dr. Russell affirmed the correct information is on the website and in Google drive.

Southwest Secondary Learning Center: Ms. Barnes noted there was an English language proficiency number that was missing. Commissioner Beck explained he had visited the school and witnessed students engaged with the smart lab. Commissioner Beck said the Mission Specific Goal of the smart lab needs to be broadened, and there is a concern for their proficiency rate. Commissioner Carrillo agreed with Commissioner Beck and would like to know more about the school's proficiency rate.

Taos Academy: Ms. Barnes said the application was strong. No other Comments.

Chair Brauer said letters will go out after 1pm tomorrow -11/9 and suggested the Commissioners reach out via email if there are any other questions or concerns.

Chair Brauer adjourned the meeting at 10:46am

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

Submitted by Bianca Olona-Elwell, CSD