

Public Education Commission Work Session

December 15, 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 9:00 am

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 Sharon Clahchischilliage, District 5, Aztec
Commissioner Stewart Ingham, District 6, Deming
Commissioner Patricia Gipson, District 7, Las Cruces na
Commissioner Michael Taylor, District 8, Roswell
Commissioner Steven J. Carrillo, District 10, Santa Fe

Commissioners in attendance by Zoom:

Commissioner K.T. Manis, District 9, Hobbs

Commissioners not in attendance:

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
Melissa “Missy” Brown, CSD
Lucy Valenzuela, CSD
Cheryl Rowe, CSD
Bianca Olona-Elwell, CSD
Julianna Montoya, CSD
Theodore Farnath, CSD
Jessica Juarez, CSD
Kimberly Gonzales, CSD
Samantha Ramirez, CSD
Wayne Sherwood, Public Charter Schools of New Mexico (PCSNM)
Baylor Del Rosario, South Valley Preparatory School Head Administrator
Michael Ogas, School of Dreams Head Administrator
Rachel Sowards, Solare Collegiate Charter School Head Administrator
Karen Woerner, Explore Academy
Karen Ehlert

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

2. Second Discussion of 2024 New School Application pursuant to 6.2.9.10 NMAC

- a. Language for additional questions for schools proposing replication of models. Dr. Russell reviewed the 2024 new application document with incorporated changes from previous work sessions. Changes reflect the updates from the NMAC and timeline deadlines for new Charter Applications. Dr. Russell explained updates to the section pertaining to a replication of a charter school model. Vice-chair Rebekka Burt and Commissioners Patti Gipson, K.T.Manis and Steven J.Carrillo made suggestions to the verbiage, transparency and academic data requested for replication of a school model. Commissioner Timothy Beck had suggestions for a timeline of three years for the replication model to show full capacity. PCSNM Wayne Sherwood asked Commissioners questions regarding the replication model and impact. Karen Woerner addressed the commission and expressed her concern for the three year timeline for the charter replication model. Commissioner Michael Taylor requested an update to the verbiage for the replication model to ensure clarity with bullet pointed expectations. There was mention of the food service plan and expectation in the new application, and comment from Mr. Sherwood.
- b. Timeline
Commissioners Gipson, Manis and Taylor had questions and recommendation for verbiage to application acceptance date. PEC Attorney Julia Barnes explained the reasoning for dates. Director Chavez, reviewed the statute for charter deadlines, and reasoning for timeline to include peer reviews. Commissioner Stewart Ingham made a recommendation for incentivising early submissions. Chair Brauer agreed with encouraging applicants to submit early. Commissioner Carrillo made suggestions to language to include, no omissions or additions after June 1, at 5pm. Vice-chair Burt suggested allowing schools to withdraw applications before June 1, 2024. Chair Brauer agreed. Director Chavez explained challenges to the timeline with peer review. Vice-chair Burt proposed not providing feedback until June 1, 2024. Ms. Barnes read the rule for charter timelines and application submissions. Commissioner Carrillo asked Missy Brown about guidance provided through the application process. There was discussion by Commissioners and Director Chavez regarding the Notice of Intent (NOI) to apply for a charter school and the deadline, statute and rule regarding new Charter applications. Commissioners made recommendations for FAQs for new Charter applicants.

3. Third Discussion of 2023-24 Annual Site Visit Protocol pursuant to 6.2.9.10 NMAC

Director Chavez shared site visit protocol and rubrics as requested by Commissioners for previous work sessions were satisfied with the changes and asked for Protocol to be posted on the website. Director Chavez explained that schools have access to the

monitoring tool prior to site visits. Mr. Sherwood shared that focus groups during site visits don't align with rubric giving the example of special education. Director Chavez explained the purpose of the focus groups and how they assist the CSD team understand the schools full picture and implementation of their mission. Mr. Sherwood explained the school having access to the rubric provides the administrator the flexibility to share mission specific goals, allowing site visits to be more successful. Commissioner Burt commended the CSD on building relationships with schools but expressed that she's received complaints about staff coming out of the focus groups not feeling great. Rachel Sowards commented on the process for renewal site visit being positive and there was clarity however, there was some concern regarding focus groups. Director Chavez appreciated the feedback.

4. Subcommittee Updates

Chair Brauer requested Director Chavez assign a CSD staff person to each subcommittee to support meetings. Director Chavez agreed and will follow up with an assigned person.

- a. Performance Framework - no update
- b. Budget - no update
- c. Policy - no update
- d. Centralized Lottery and Enrollment System - no update
- e. Food Service
Commissioners Beck, Burt and Taylor are on the committee.
- f. Review of Charter School Data System Request for Proposals (RFP)
Dr. Russell provided an update. An offerer had submitted a question regarding whether any members of the evaluation committee had contact with the vendor prior to recommendation. Commissioners had questions about this procurement policy. Only commissioners who had not been in contact with any potential offerors will serve on the evaluation committee.

5. Reports from PEC Liaisons

- a. Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) – Commissioner Gipson
No update
- b. Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) – Commissioner Gipson
Commissioner Gipson said she is aware there was a group of stakeholders that presented Legislative priorities as a group. Among the priorities was a recommendation for the elimination of the Cabinet Secretary and going back to the State Board of Education.

- c. NM Indian Education Advisory Council – Commissioner Clahchischilliage
No update
- d. NM Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC) – Commissioner Ingham
Meeting was earlier in December. Commissioner Ingham said they approved lease reimbursements and several projects in several districts.
- e. NM Public School Insurance Authority (NMPSIA) – Commissioner Manis
Board meeting was on December 7th and the next meeting is in February. No other updates.
- f. NM School Boards Association (NMSBA) – Commissioner Carrillo
No update. Commissioners Carrillo asked other Commissioners about presenting in February. Commissioner Carrillo will contact the lead to see next steps.
- 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 12:42pm

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

Submitted by Bianca Olona-Elwell, CSD