

Public Education Commission Work Session

February 15, 2024

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– [PEC YouTube](#)

Chair Patricia Gipson called the work session to order at 9:03am

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Commissioners in attendance in person:

Commissioner Patricia Gipson, Chair, District 7, Las Cruces
Commissioner Steven J. Carrillo, Vice-chair, District 10, Santa Fe
Commissioner Alan Brauer, District 2, Albuquerque
Commissioner Rebekka Burt, District 4, Rio Rancho
Commissioner Timothy Beck, District 3, Albuquerque
Commissioner Sharon Clahchischilliage, District 5, Aztec
Commissioner Stewart Ingham, District 6, Deming
Commissioner Michael Taylor, District 8, Roswell
Commissioner K.T. Manis, District 9, Hobbs

Commissioners in attendance by Zoom:

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
Bianca Olona-Elwell, CSD
Cheryl Rowe, CSD
Julianna Montoya, CSD
Kelli Renken, CSD
Samantha Ramirez, CSD
Martica Davis, CSD
Jessica Juarez, CSD
Ted Farnath, CSD
Kimberly Gonzalez, CSD
Valery Ratliff-Parker, PCSNM
Matt Pahl, PCSNM
Karen Woerner, Explore Academy

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

2. PEC Mission, Vision and Values Development, Naomi DeVeaux, National Charter Schools Institute. NOTE: In-person attendance only
3. Second review and discussion of documentation for Performance Framework Compliance Indicator 3.B.
PEC Attorney Julia Barnes explained changes made on 3A, 3B and 3C on new Performance Framework Compliance Indicators. Commissioner Rebekka Burt requested the document be made into one page. Commission Chair Patricia Gipson had questions about the timeline for review from the schools Governing Council on their performance framework. There was a review of Compliance Certification from indicator 3.B.
4. Review and discussion of clarifications to Academic Performance Framework
Chair Gipson mentioned there were questions with mission specific goals, and goals being differentiated by grade. Clarification was provided that if schools choose to have a second goal, it can pertain to a portion of students. Clarification of this is in the footnotes. Ms. Barnes said schools who were affected by data measurement tools have already been notified by email.
5. Second discussion of Notice of Intent (NOI) feedback form and FAQ
Chair Gipson shared that based on input from the Policy Committee there was feedback provided to update the NOI form to provide clear and adequate guidance on the application. There was discussion about verbiage used and reviewers ability to determine school founders' capacity. Commissioner Steven J. Carrillo, suggested strike "capacity" and keep the verbiage regarding diversity. Commissioner Timothy Beck suggested an update to reflect adequate background and experience for #2- Experience and Expertise. Commissioners agreed and edits were made to 5.c. Review of #6 - Vision/Mission to update verbiage. Matt Pahl from PCSNM had questions about who the NOI feedback would go to. Chair Gipson clarified the NOI feedback will go back to applicants to assist them with having a stronger application. Review of #8 Community needs.
6. Discussion of scheduling renewal hearings and document submissions for contract amendments.
Commissioner Michael Taylor made the suggestion of adding days in November for Renewal Hearings. Ms. Barnes asked Director Chavez about scheduling more schools for November. Dr. Russell confirmed data of preference from schools, 7 schools for November, 6 schools for December and 1 school had no preference. Mr. Pahl mentioned the dates of the PCSNM Conference and how this may impact the renewal earnings. Ms. Barnes discussed giving the schools the 30 day notice. There was discussion of hosting the 1 hour Zoom meeting on October 9 for the November renewal schools. Applications are due September 1 for November renewal schools. There was agreement to add two calendar days and a 1-hour Zoom session for renewal hearings.

7. PEC signup for contract negotiations (March 11 - 13, 4 each day, March 14, 1 school)
Ms. Barnes discussed the dates and schedules. Commissioner Stewart Ingham had questions about schools and their contract negotiation deadlines. Chair Gipson clarified that schools have until October 1 to submit their application. Director Chavez indicated that CSD keeps track of contract terms and schools will be in contact if they are interested in applying. Commissioners were assigned by date to the contract negotiation schedule.

8. Discussion of math symposium for state charter schools
Commissioner Carrillo explained schools are not performing well in math and shared that New Mexico School for the Arts sent their staff to training on how to increase proficiency in math, taking a fresh approach and how to reach kids. The idea is for PEC to host State Charter leaders and instructors at a math symposium. Commissioner Michael Taylor agreed with the idea of symposium and said math scores are significantly lower and the impact of COVID on math scores was immense. There was discussion by Commissioners on the effects of conferences, the use of the 2% of Charter Funds and how this needs to be spent equitably across all schools. Commissioners questioned whether or not a symposium would work for all schools and suggested schools should have the opportunity to say what their professional development needs are in order to raise student achievement. Commissioner Burt suggested reaching out to the PED Math and Science Bureau and to schools if they are interested because of school autonomy. Commissioner Carrillo said training would not be forced, but the scores reflect something needs to be done. Commissioner K.T. Manis said change only occurs when schools want to correct the issue and take the initiative. There was discussion on the efficacy of the board and how this correlates to school success. Commissioner Ingham discussed the idea of PEC traveling to visit with governing boards across the state to share appreciation for their dedication and provide additional support. Commissioner Manis suggested a meet and greet for governing board members at the CSD conference and Commissioner Burt agreed and added they could offer more qualitative training.

9. Discussion of budget expenditures
 - a. Expenditures that can equitably benefit all state charters
Mr. Pahl shared information about governing board members attending training, their roles, hosting more targeted training, allotted workshop time, complaint process and offering hours in innovative ways and incentives.

 - b. Funding for math symposium for state charter schools
Chair Gipson shared stakeholders should have the opportunity for input on schools needs for using the Charter 2% funding. Mr. Pahl will put together a proposal and build out training opportunities. Commissioner Burt suggested giving awards for exemplary boards at the CSD conference. Commissioner Alan Brauer suggested investing in schools food service programming, facilities, and transportation. Chair Gipson mentioned schools possibly needing assistance with technology due to the new governing board legislation requiring them to keep

recordings of board meetings for three years. Suggestions for CSD to send another survey about schools needing additional technology to meet their mission.

10. Discussion of PEC policy regarding reports by CSD if concerns from PED bureaus are received off-cycle

Chair Gipson discussed concerns being raised by a school during the off cycle from their Annual Report. Chair Gipson would not like to engage in the ladder of intervention immediately and requested other Commissioners input. Commissioner Beck suggested a letter needs to be sent immediately as follow-up for resolution. If there is a significant issue, the Commissioners can call an emergency meeting. Commissioner Carillo agreed with Commissioner Beck and said a letter from the Chair needs to be sent. Ms. Barnes said the letters can be one step down from the ladder of intervention. There was discussion of Director Chavez working with the school to provide support if there is an issue. If the issue is serious enough, Director Chavez can work to notify PEC only if all else has failed and the school still has a serious issue.

11. Discussion of role of the PEC Liaison position

Chair Gipson asked Director Chavez to put this on the agenda to have a brief discussion of the position description and share what the role entails. Director Chavez discussed the job duties and responsibilities. Director Chavez clarified that the new PEC liaison will work on Commissioners' travel, track reimbursements, and ensure meetings run smoothly. Chair Gipson will support Director Chavez with interviews.

12. Discussion of technical changes to PEC rule

Ms. Barnes asked Commissioners if they would like to change the rule. Commissioner Burt said no, wait until it goes through a whole cycle for a full year and make adjustments at a later time. Commissioner Carrillo said the reason they brought it up was because there were issues with the 45-day rule with Annual Reports. Director Chavez mentioned that the CSD team has been stretched thin to get the annual reports done by March. Chair Gipson agreed with Commissioner Burt about not changing the rule because it can be difficult. Commissioner Burt gave praise to CSD staff for getting the reports processed while completing site visits. Chair Gipson suggested Director Chavez review if more staff is needed to complete responsibilities.

13. Report from Chair on Reimbursements

a. Status of reimbursements payments delayed over 30 days

Director Chavez provided Commissioners a chart of travel. She explained some Commissioners did not initiate travel reimbursements. Director Chavez explained steps from envelope being created, then to accounts payable, then vouchered to DFA for payment.

b. Instructions for Commissioners to submit reimbursements. There was discussion of the expectation to submit travel within a timely manner. Chair Gipson said

Commissioners need to be mindful of the timeline because of the delay for the liaison working to process. Director Chavez has spoken with ASD/DFA to discuss prioritizing the Commissioner travel. Director Chavez explained that Commissioners can ask where their travel reimbursement is in the system.

14. Subcommittee Updates

- a. Performance Framework: Chair Gipson reported that footnotes are done.
- b. Budget: No update
- c. Policy: No update
- d. Centralized Lottery and Enrollment System- No Update
- e. Food Service: Commissioner Burt said they will be reviewing school survey results and meeting with representatives from PED.
- f. Review of RFP for Authorizer Software: Commissioner Manis said meeting is Tuesday, February 20, 2024

15. Reports from PEC Liaisons

- a. Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) – Commissioner Gipson
No update
- b. Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) – Commissioner Gipson
No update
- c. NM Indian Education Advisory Council – Commissioner Clahchischilliage
No update
- d. NM Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC) – Commissioner Ingham
No update
- e. NM Public School Insurance Authority (NMPSIA) – Commissioner Manis
No update
- 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
- i. No update

Chair Patricia Gipson adjourned the meeting at 6:01pm

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

Submitted by Bianca Olona-Elwell, CSD