

Public Education Commission Work Session

March 14, 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 10:35 am

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Commissioners in attendance in person: [move if not in person or not there]

Commissioner Patricia Gipson, Chair, District 7, Las Cruces
Commissioner Steven J. Carrillo, Vice-chair, District 10, Santa Fe
Commissioner Timothy Beck, Secretary, District 3, Albuquerque
Commissioner Alan Brauer, District 2, Albuquerque
Commissioner Rebekka Burt, District 4, Rio Rancho
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-EIwell, CSD
Kimberly Gonzalez, CSD
Jessica Juarez, CSD
Samantha Ramirez, CSD
Martica Davis, CSD
Cheryl Rowe, CSD
Ted Farnath, CSD
Wayne Sherwood, PCSNM
Dr. Kim Hite-Pope, Pecos Cyber Academy Head Administrator
Cristina Weeks, PED
Karen Ehlert

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

2. Presentation and discussion regarding state charter school grants including award letters, funding and delayed payments

a. Survey results of school grant survey

Commission Chair Patricia Gipson addressed the Commission and explained that Dr. Brigitte Russell had sent a survey to schools regarding delay of payment. The survey was done because there was a concern that schools were having to request extensions from vendors due to not receiving funding in the appropriate amount of time. Director Corina Chavez shared results and explained there were multiple reasons for delay. Thirty-nine schools responded out of 58 surveys sent, which Chair Gipson felt was a reasonable sample. Commissioner Alan Brauer suggested the survey at the last worksession.

b. Discussion of school impacts

Director Chavez asked Commissioners if they would like someone from PED accounts payable or someone who is responsible to address the PEC as a spotlight. This survey was shared with Antonio Ortiz from accounts payable, who recognizes the challenges and is making efforts to ensure things move quicker. Commissioners agreed to not having Mr. Ortiz address PEC but to have Director Chavez provide an update on the Director's report.

3. Report from Chair on commissioner reimbursements delayed over 30 days

Chair Gipson said they are closer to being up to date. Three Commissioner reimbursements from the conference in Oakland in October are still outstanding. Commissioners who have submitted in a timely manner are up to date. Once Consuelo Constantine joins the team as PEC Liaison there will be more of a system in place because of her experience. Director Chavez informed the Commission that there are 16 reimbursements still outstanding. Commissioners were instructed to work with Samantha Ramirez and Jessica Juarez until they are notified that Ms. Constantine is ready to take over travel.

4. Discussion on ways to support renewing schools

a. Schools that may be looking to transition to the PEC

i. Renewal application

Chair Gipson mentioned challenges with district schools moving to PEC and the contract process. Chair Gipson explained they would like to spend time to ensure a smooth transition. There are 20 schools that will have the new performance framework in their contracts and Commissioners want to ensure they have fewer challenges. Recommendation to continue work with Naomi DeVaux and Dr. Jody Ernst for support and adding additional support at the Charter Conference. Commissioner Steven J. Carrillo discussed when charters decide to change authorizers they have the burden of completing so much in such a short amount of time, and requested to offer more support to assist in their preparation.

ii. Trainings

Director Chavez clarified that schools up for renewal begin receiving training in the spring and all schools are emailed to ensure they have support on the

renewal process. Missy Brown explained on the application training there are three sessions and four if requested by the school's team. Ms. Brown shared the topics: application, expectations, site visits, data presentation, added new performance framework, business rules, academic framework changes, mission goals changes, and expectation of ED program language/evidence. PEC Attorney Julia Barnes explained what the Commission has not put into the renewal application yet is the requirement that they have all the policies and items that are in the transition year checklist. Ms. Barnes received feedback from attorneys that felt as though it was appropriate to have the policy requirements in the application rather than a condition for the renewal. Ms. Barnes explained it has been a lot for the schools and to add the forms on top of everything can be difficult.

iii. Setting expectations

Director Chavez said that CSD scaffolds what a new charter should have in place before they open their doors. She also shared that during their implementation year, dates are set for various items to be due. Director Chavez requested that before the Commission make a decision on a deadline for policies and compliance, and add more to the renewal application they request feedback from schools. Preparing for the charter application is a lot so before more is added, she requested the Commission consider all options. Chair Gipson shared that a lot of the policies are standardized and they should have the policies in place prior to coming to the PEC. Recommendation for Ms. Brown to provide more guidance in training. The development of policies can be reinforced at the charter conference if they want to change to the PEC being the authorizer. Chair Gipson is less comfortable with the June deadline for policies and everything to be ready because PEC will be voting on contract during the same time. There was discussion of when CSD had the CSP grant last year, there was a contract for policy templates to be created by PCSNM. Ms. Barnes will follow up with Matt Pahl from PCSNM on the templates developed. Ms. Barnes would like clarification on when the timeline will be for submission because making it a condition of renewal seemed like the wrong approach. She clarified this could be an appealable condition. Chair Gipson shared this item should be on the agenda when looking at renewal applications.

b. Schools interested in developing Options 3

i. Re-engagement schools and schools serving special populations

Chair Gipson recommended a session at the Charter Conference so there can be the level of conversation of schools considering coming over to PEC. Director Chavez requested Dr. Ernst and Ms. Deveaux to present at the Charter School Conference to discuss performance framework and experiences schools have had in preparing for contract negotiations. Schools can begin to think of option 2 or 3 and what that would entail and share first hand experience of the renewal process. Chair Gipson requested two different sessions for the conference, one in general about the performance framework, including option 2 but also a session specifically to option 3. Director Chavez explained she is available to provide support to any authorizer, there are tools on the Charter website and she is attempting to get on the school board association agenda to do some training using what PEC has done as an exemplar of excellent authorizing.

- ii. Timing for a school to make the decision to select Options 3.

Ms. Barnes recommended PEC adding the options on the renewal application to help identify a school that CSD can reach out to earlier. She also discussed Option 2, the templates being created by Dr. Ernst and Ms. Deveaux, and using those to create templates for option 3, which are not required, but allow schools to have options. Commissioner Timothy Beck agreed that it would create a road map because they are complex. Examples can be included in conference sessions. There was a recommendation by Director Chavez to not add a checkbox on renewal application to ensure it is not used at an appeal hearing. Director Chavez recommended that once they made the decision the team would support them. Commissioner Rebekka Burt agreed to not add the checkbox to the renewal application. There was discussion of providing support to schools to ensure success. Brief discussion of implementation year deadlines. Chair Gipson recommended for schools to communicate about their assessments.

5. Discussion of calendaring timing

- a. Adding tentative dates for transitioning schools renewal hearings (December, 2024)

Commissioners reviewed the renewal calendar. Commissioner Beck explained adding November 14th, combining work sessions for the meeting on December 15th or having a renewal in the morning before the session. Commissioner Brauer recommended Commissioners study and prepare for renewal outside of worksession. Director Chavez clarified the letters have been sent to schools notifying them of renewal months. Commissioners agreed to adding November 14, 2024 and not adding December 4, 5 or 6. The schools who come from the district will be notified of their renewal date set for December.

- b. Consideration of dates to attend graduation (2025)
Commissioner Carrillo is requesting to review the calendar for next year to have meetings Mondays and Tuesday so they can attend graduations in May.

6. Subcommittee Updates

- a. Budget
Chair Gipson recommended that some of the remaining Charter 2% be used to reimburse schools for audits. Director Chavez said this was not approved. Director Chavez said they need to meet again to discuss. Chair Gipson said she was disappointed in the decision to not put funds back into the schools. There was discussion on the expected timeline for updates to Mabry Hall.
- b. Performance Framework
Chair Gipson said they are checking the business rules. There was a mistake in footnote that needs to be cleaned up.
- c. Policy
No update
- d. Centralized Lottery and Enrollment System
Commissioner Carrillo requested a withdrawal committee, this is not needed at this

time.

- e. **Food Service**
Commissioner Beck said Lucy Valenzuela emailed schools requesting attendance at a zoom meeting to discuss the grant. Several schools attended. There is \$5 million available in grants that are due April 30. Commissioner Burt mentioned there was \$5 million set aside for charters. The Student Success and Wellness Division spoke to the food service committee and was very mindful of setting aside money specifically for charter kitchen upgrades. There is a rule that is being drafted, Commissioners will have a chance to review. Charter questions can be directed to the Student Success and Wellness Division and at this time the Charter 2% funds will not be used for Food Support.
- f. **Review of Request for Proposals (RFP) for Authorizer Software**
Commissioner Beck said there was no update. There was no discussion of the RFP.

7. Reports from PEC Liaisons

- a. **Legislative Education Study Committee(LESC)- Commission Gipson**
No update
- b. **Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) – Commissioner Gipson**
No update
- c. **NM Indian Education Advisory Council – Commissioner Clahchischilliage**
Did not meet. Zoom meeting is on the 3rd Thursday of every month.
- d. **NM Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC) – Commissioner Ingham**
AMS meeting on Monday March 11, 2024 and PSCOC meeting next Monday, March 18, 2024. More information will be forthcoming.
- e. **NM Public School Insurance Authority (NMPSIA) – Commissioner Manis**
Biggest change is rate increase on the benefit side and its substantial due to premium increases. 12%-15% increase for health benefits. Vision and Dental is about 3%-5%. They are looking at getting more funding from legislation to alleviate pressure. Work to get premiums reduced or at the least a better rate.
- 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 Gipson adjourned the meeting at 12:26pm

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

Submitted by Bianca Olona-Elwell, CSD