

**New Mexico Public Education Commission  
Work Session**

April 18, 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](#)

Chair Patricia Gipson called the work session to order at 9:04am

**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 Timothy Beck, District 3, Albuquerque  
Commissioner Sharon Clahchischilliage, District 5, Aztec  
Commissioner Stewart Ingham, District 6, Deming  
Commissioner Michael Taylor, District 8, Roswell

**Commissioners in attendance by Zoom:**

Commissioner K.T. Manis, District 9, Hobbs

**Commissioners not in attendance:**

Commissioner Rebekka Burt, District 4, Rio Rancho  
Commissioner Melissa Armijo, Secretary District 1, Albuquerque

**Also Present:**

Julia Barnes, PEC Attorney  
Corina Chavez, Charter School Division (CSD) Director  
Dr. Brigitte Russell, CSD Deputy Director  
Melissa "Missy" Brown, CSD  
Consuelo Constantine, CSD  
Kim Faulkner, CSD  
Jorge Gonzalez, PED IT  
Eilani Arellano, PED Policy  
Kimberly Gonzalez, CSD  
Valery Ratliff-Parker, Public Charter Schools of New Mexico (PCSNM)

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

Lucy Valenzuela, CSD  
Bianca Olona-Elwell, CSD  
Cheryl Rowe, CSD  
Julianna Montoya, CSD

Kelli Renken, CSD  
Samantha Ramirez, CSD  
Martica Davis, CSD  
Ted Farnath, CSD  
Karen Woerner, Explore Academy  
Naomi DeVeaux, National Charter Schools Institute  
Samantha Gonzales  
Karen Ehlert

1. PEC Mission, Vision and Values Development, Naomi DeVeaux, National Charter Schools Institute. NOTE: In-person attendance only

Data templates for academic performance framework are still undergoing revision. They will not have to be amended in future years. Options 3 template is unique to each school, and they will take time and probably will be ongoing. Templates technically are not part of the contract.

Commissioner Carrillo suggested that at the beginning of every Friday PEC meeting they start it off with the commission's mission and values.

Commissioner Stewart Ingham said one thing that is missing from the statement: supporting charter schools as opposed to oversight. Commissioner Carrillo suggested acknowledging schools' successes more often. Commissioner Timothy Beck said Commissioners need to stay in contact with their schools to know their successes. Chair Gipson agreed this is the piece missing and mentioned keeping lines of communication open.

Director Chavez expressed concern regarding clear lines between Commission and CSD functions. PEC attorney Julia Barnes stated that the PEC rule that establishes how the PEC, the schools and CSD interact which is the primary guiding document. It is now the PEC establishing a record for the school, an annual notice of performance. Naomi stated how do we succinctly show the division of the three organizations in the document (PED, CSD and General Counsel PEC). Chair Gipson stated the schools get confused who they need to answer to CSD or PEC – I tell them ultimately you answer the questions that CSD is posing to you and we (PEC) make the decisions based off the answers you have given CSD.

2. **Debrief and assessment of recent contracting negotiations process**

Commissioner Carrillo thanked CSD staff for work on contracts. Thirteen schools are signing contracts this year and 21 are expected next year. He updated the PEC on the work he and Ms. Barnes had explained that there were a few hiccups because the performance framework was new but that Ms. Barnes and Patty Matthews, attorney for some of the renewing schools, drilled down little technical changes that were needed. We learned a lot that will make the negotiations better next year.

Chair Gipson pointed out that the state does not have the definition of a reengagement school. PEC used to have the A, B, C report card they had a Sams designation and then that disappeared. So, there is no Supplemental

Accountability Model (SAMS) designation and no reengagement definition, so the PEC needs to define for the performance framework what a reengagement school is.

Chair Gipson said there was a level of support to schools this year that was never given before. She hopes to continue this when looking at 25 schools next year a, getting the schools more prepared so that they are not so crunched and will be working on the transition year checklist during the summer.

The board approval process was a challenge. In many cases we did not have things ready for them on time for their board meeting. Commissioner Carrillo said the PEC needs to manage time, deadlines, and documents better next year. Commissioner Taylor said we should not expect schools to do what the Commission is not; we don't want to send the message that our time is more important than theirs.

Chair Gipson said there will be an Option 3 Work Session at the Charter Schools Conference in June with Dr. Jody Ernst and Naomi DeVeaux. Hopefully schools are already looking at it and will bring some quality questions to the conference workshop to help them in the process. Some of the renewal schools had new administrators who need extra support through the renewal process. Chair Gipson said she would like to see more and hear from a governance council and how it was engaged in the process. The governance council needs to understand this is a contract with the governance council and not the head administrator. It would be helpful if other governance councils heard how they were involved. Director Chavez confirmed that Carrie Irvine, an expert in charter school governance, will give the conference keynote and offer follow-up sessions. Commissioner Carrillo agreed that a discussion with governance councils about renewal, a really good board helps make a successful charter school. Ms. Barnes said it would be helpful if the training sessions were recorded from the conference so they can go back and review them.

### **3. Discussion of Performance Framework**

#### **a. Mission-specific goals**

- i. Can there be two mission goals with different school levels in each?

Chair Gipson reiterated that schools should have a single goal that includes all students, though one school slipped through contract negotiations with two. CSD was asked to categorize mission goals and create a sheet that was searchable by goal categories for the next work session. Chair Gipson asked for a conference session to support mission goal development as the PEC wants to make sure schools are serving their community and fulfilling their mission.

- ii. How to assess rigor and allow autonomy on goals

There is more than one way of measuring the rigor. One is the target 75% vs 90%, but then there is also what is being is

measured? Results-Based Accountability (RBA): how they are measuring whether students are better off as a result of them going to this school? Chair Gipson said if they are using a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) goal it has to be a nationally normed tool to assess.

- iii. Require data from previous year to assess a new or changed goal

Commissioner Beck said that's going back to go to the training in preparation of the renewal of the contract. We are expecting some kind of data analysis when they bring that forward, so we have something to work through when we are negotiating these percentages. Chair Gipson said it is difficult if a school is proposing something brand new. You have to see how they can best show, I don't want to stifle a new school's innovation. To the best of their ability to show something. It's a mindset change with the schools and we have to take a look at how we can support them through workshops in creating more innovative goals. Missy Brown suggested a conference session. Chair Gipson agreed and went on to say why be asking them for something if we don't offer them examples. Chair Gipson said only one school answered the RBA questions in the worksheets, that we let it go but if we can combine the two between the RBA and the mission goal that would be extraordinarily helpful. Ms. Barnes said RBA was pasted into the narrative goal and never really looked at. Could CSD create a different document on the RBA process to be filled out and we could ask them some questions for them to describe the rigor. A standard set of questions for this would be very helpful. We should make it a requirement. Commissioner Beck said that if we require the schools to do this then it will force them into providing what they have done and not what they want to do from an innovative standpoint. A data analysis will be needed. Chair Gipson said they will need to provide their projected targets. Ms. Brown said she will add a tab so it will be in the existing document.

- b. Performance Framework technical changes: these were reviewed and CSD was asked to edit the document again for the May 17 work session, removing any footnotes that were already in the business rules.
- c. Business rules technical changes, including guidance regarding mission goals: minor changes were made and CSD was asked to provide a new revision for the May 17 work session.

#### **4. First discussion of new or revised policies for July 1, 2024**

Updated performance framework, business rules, templates, and waiver policies will be on the website before July 1. The Commission discussed the timeline for completion of items on the Transition Year Checklist for schools moving from district-authorized to PEC-authorized. Schools cannot be required to provide documents to the PEC before the PEC is their authorizer. Assurances will be used instead for these requirements. No changes were made to amendment

forms, which will be voted on at the May meeting.

**5. Discussion to provide authorization to the PEC negotiation team for Cesar Chavez Community School to negotiate any item in the Academic Performance Framework as part of an Option 3 Academic Performance Framework**

This was agreed to. The templates should be completed by May 1. The school will meet with Dr. Ernst to finalize templates.

**6. Discussion on possible guidance related to requirements for students to pay for instructional materials, including Chromebooks**

Commissioners agreed that schools should not require families to provide Chromebooks or laptops for students, which is a chilling factor if a family is looking for a school as is told they must buy a computer in order for their student to attend.

**7. Discussion on newly adopted PED rule on accreditation (6.19.4 NMAC) and school calendar (6.10.5 NMAC) and impact on state charters and authorizing by the PEC**

The PEC discussed the impact on charter schools, which some schools have stated is burdensome, but the rule is not something the PEC has control over.

**8. Discussion and clarification of timeline for approval process of new school applications as set forth in the calendar for 2024**

CSD has received six Notices of Intent. Once applications are submitted by June 3, CSD will provide the ones that meet administrative requirements to PEC by June 5. Community input hearings will be held July 8-12 according to the following tentative schedule, depending on whether applications are submitted:

July 8th Grants 1PM (West Central Community Development, NMSU Grants)

July 9th 2 in Albuquerque (CNM or Indian Cultural Center, NMAA)

July 10th Santa Fe (Mabry Hall) and Bernalillo (Santa Ana Casino)

July 11th Alamogordo (NMSU satellite)

**9. Discussion and calendar options for 2025 calendar to not conflict with graduation dates**

Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday; will discuss at tomorrow's meeting.

**10. Report from Chair on Reimbursements**

- a. Commissioner reimbursements and plans for travel
- b. School grant funds: grant award letters have not been sent out for all grants

## **11. Subcommittee Updates**

- a. Performance Framework
- b. Budget
- c. Policy
- d. Food Service: Commissioner Beck said that some schools are paying for lunches out of their operational budgets
- e. Review of RFP for Authorizer Software: Dr. Russell said the contract is routing for signatures
- f. Indicators of Distress

## **12. Reports from PEC Liaisons**

- a. Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) – Commissioner Gipson
- b. Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) – Commissioner Gipson
- c. NM Indian Education Advisory Council – Commissioner Clahchischilliage (she did not attend this month)
- d. NM Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC) – Commissioner Ingham
- e. NM Public School Insurance Authority (NMPSIA) – Commissioner Manis
- f. NM School Boards Association (NMSBA) – Commissioner Carrillo
- g. NM State Library Commission – Commissioner Taylor
- h. NM Coalition of Educational Leaders – Commissioner Beck

Submitted by Consuelo Constantine, PEC Liaison, and Brigette Russell, Deputy Director