

**New Mexico Public Education Commission
Work Session Minutes**

July 19, 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 9:04 am

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 Timothy Beck, Secretary, District 2, Albuquerque
Commissioner Alan Brauer, District 3, Albuquerque
Commissioner Sharon Clahchischilliage, District 5, Aztec
Commissioner Stewart Ingham, District 6, Deming

Commissioners on Zoom:

Commissioner Rebekka Burt, District 4, Rio Rancho
Commissioner Michael Taylor, District 8 Roswell
Commissioner K.T. Manis, District 9, Hobbs

Commissioners not in attendance:

Commissioner Melissa Armijo, Secretary, District 1, Albuquerque

Also Present:

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

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call**
- 2. PEC input to Chair regarding new school applications**
- 3. PEC input to Chair regarding new school applications**

Letters are drafted. Chair Gipson clarified that applicant teams may not submit revised applications based on PEC letters or feedback at the community input hearings. Director Chavez stated that CSD is eliminating the schools' editing access to their applications; Epicenter starting this year for new applicants will help with this issue.

Sun Mountain Community School: Commissioner Carrillo asked how issues that came up at the input hearings were being addressed. Chair Gipson responded that applicants could not revise applications at this point; the Commission would vote on the application as submitted.

The Multilingual International School: Commissioner Burt had questions regarding the applicant team's tribal communication.

Equip Academy of New Mexico: No comments.

Sacramento School of Engineering and Science: CSD Director Chavez had questions about why specific zip codes were chosen in the community outreach section of the application. Chair Gipson wanted more information in the transportation section about the community that could walk to the school and about outreach to the tribal community. Chair Gipson stated that significant portions of the application were cut and pasted directly from a prior year application; the special education section refers to services the other school offers but the Sacramento application does not mention it anywhere else in the application. Some sections had a few words changed, but some sections, e.g. the ESSA section, were copied word for word. Director Chavez also found sections that were copied verbatim or had just a few words changed. Director Chavez stated that the section on English learner (EL) identification is problematic because this is a proposed high school and the school whose application the team copied (Explore Rio Rancho) is a K-12 school and thus has different EL identification processes.

4. Discussion and update on Performance Framework templates and status of posting of corrected templates on the PEC website

Dr. Russell is working with Dr. Kim Faulkner, CSD Data Analyst, and Dr. Jody Ernst, CSD contractor, to correct an error that Dr. Faulkner discovered in the templates. All templates, including the Accuplacer template, will be corrected and posted to the website by the August PEC meeting.

5. Discussion of Closure Checklist and its implementation

Ms. Barnes informed the Commission of a technical change: the documents for the working session are a cleaned up version of the PEC's discussion the previous month. A note was included, providing instructions should there be a lease purchase agreement, This section was added to the section of leases, so that it would be addressed either way. It was added to number 3, "facility lease or lease purchase terms". She suggested it would vary depending on what the lease or the lease purchase says.

6. Discussion of options for Indicators of Distress

Chair Gipson said that the Indicators of Distress subcommittee needs to meet. This topic will be added to the next work session agenda to finetune it.

7. Discussion of clarification to PEC Rules of Procedure on reimbursements for virtual meetings and conferences

Chair Gipson said rules of procedure were in conflict with statute. They need to say simply "in compliance with statute".

Ms. Barnes prepared a redline version that includes the following language: "Pursuant to NMSA 22-8B-5.3, Commissioners shall investigate nationally recognized principles and standards for quality charter authorizing, which may include attendance at conferences provided by national and local entities with expertise on charter practices. There shall be a standing item on the PEC agenda in which Commissioners shall report back on information obtained at these conferences or through other sources."

The reimbursement section adds specific activities that can be reimbursed and what is required for that, including an agenda for subcommittee meetings. Other changes are clean-up language. Chair Gipson will send a letter to DFA to clarify DFA reimbursement rules.

The Rules of Procedure must be discussed by the PEC at least twice, either on the work session or regular meeting agenda or both. A vote may be taken at the second meeting after the second reading.

8. Report from Chair on reimbursements

- a. DFA's position on Commissioner per diem for meeting attendance, other travel reimbursements, guidance on submission and plans for travel
Discussed above.
- b. Reimbursement requests for virtual attendance at subcommittees
Discussed above.
- c. Updates on grants payment and timing of grant award letters remaining over 30 days.
No updates at this time per Chair Gipson.

Commissioner Ingham expressed disappointment that PEC/CSD did not apply for a charter school facilities federal Chair Gipson will look into how to procure the services of a grant writer for the future, but the issue of a fiscal agent remains.

9. Subcommittee Updates

- a. Charter Performance
 - I. Authorizer Software: update on status of rollout
No updates at this point and time per Chair Gipson. Director Chavez said the subcommittee has not met but CSD continues to work with Epicenter. Chair Gipson would like an update from Epicenter at the September work session. Subcommittee members are: Chair Gipson, Commissioner Beck, Commissioner Burt, Commissioner Manis, Director Chavez and Dr. Russell.
 - II. Discussion of logo
Commissioners voiced their opinions of each of the logos. Commissioner Manis will make changes to #2 to add a circular border with Public Education Commission in it as in #5 and #6. Chair Gipson will write to Zia Pueblo to seek permission to use the Zia symbol. Once adopted, the logo will be used on all PEC documents and forms. CSD will replace and update the date of the document but PEC does not need to vote on the change of logo for each document.
- b. Budget: No update as subcommittee has not met
- c. Policy: No update as subcommittee has not met
- d. Food Service: No update as the subcommittee has not met.
- e. Legislative: Met July 5, 2024, discussed legislative support for a stand-alone commission, transportation, capital outlay funds, and the Charter 2% budget. Chair Gipson stated that further action regarding the Charter 2% budget needs to come from schools rather than the PEC.

10. Reports from PEC Liaisons and members who attended conferences

- a. Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) – Commissioner Gipson will attend the next meeting
- b. Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) – Commissioner Gipson had planned to attend the LSCE meeting in Socorro, but the change to the PEC meeting schedule did not allow for that.
- c. NM Indian Education Advisory Council – Commissioner Clahchischilliage will attend the meeting next month.
- d. NM Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC) – Commissioner Ingham will attend the meeting next week.
- e. NM Public School Insurance Authority (NMPPIA) has not met. Commissioner Manis will attend the meeting next week.
- f. NM School Boards Association (NMSBA) – Commissioner Carrillo – no additional communication; need to decide what need to present at their next conference. Chair Gipson will put on a future work session agenda.
- g. NM State Library Commission – Commissioner Taylor – has not met
- h. Charter School conference reports regarding nationally recognized principles and standards for quality charter authorizing (NMSA 22-8B-5.3.H) - Commissioner Ingham said the presentation from the US Department of Education was very impactful. Commissioner Burt learned of the many opportunities and innovative ways to improve schools and realized that New Mexico charter schools are ahead of the game. She learned that 80% of families are very interested in the proficiencies of their children. She recommended a documentary called *The First Class*, which is about Crosstown High School, a charter school in Memphis, TN. Commissioner Manis stated his favorite session was the history of the charter school movement in integrating service learning and improving learning in general. Real life experiences were used to teach the kids they can make a difference and they can be the change they want to see. He attended technology and health sessions, as well. The overall takeaway was that New Mexico schools must adapt so students are kept up to date. Overall, the conference was productive.