

MINUTES OF THE
MISSISSIPPI CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER BOARD
Regular Monthly Meeting
Thursday, July 10, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board was held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 10, 2014, at the office of the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, located at 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, Mississippi. In attendance were:

Tommie Cardin, Chairman
Chris Wilson, Vice Chairman
Dr. Bonita Coleman-Potter
Krystal Cormack
Johnny Franklin
Dr. Karen Elam

Board member Dr. Carey Wright was unable to attend today's meeting.

Board Chairman Tommie Cardin called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Also attending today's meeting are Beth Seling and William Haft of NACSA.

ITEM I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was previously circulated to all Board members. Chairman Cardin requested that section VIII. Executive Session (Personnel Issues) be moved under section V. Committee Reports, b. Executive Director Search Committee.

Chairman Cardin requested a motion to adopt the agenda, as amended.

MOTION: Dr. Elam

SECOND: Mrs. Cormack

There being no discussion and following a vote in favor by all members present and participating, the motion carried.

ITEM II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the June 2, 2014 meeting were previously distributed to the Board members for review.

Chairman Cardin requested a motion for approval of the Minutes of the June 2, 2014 meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Wilson

SECOND: Mr. Franklin

There being no further discussion and following a vote in favor by all members present and participating, the motion carried.

ITEM III. CHAIR REPORT

Chairman Cardin stated that there were two matters on which he wished to report. The first would be to commend Amelia Huckins, the intern who has been working with the Board this summer on the outstanding job she has done with each task that has been assigned to her. Specifically, she has been a significant help to the RFP committee in getting the RFP in place, she has developed a newsletter for the Board, and she has been critically important to the Executive Director Search Committee in their efforts thus far. He thanked her for all of her hard work.

The second matter is the establishment of a separate committee whose sole focus will be in negotiating the charter contract for the newly approved Reimagine Prep. He stated that because of the complexity of the contract, particularly involving the academics performance standards, it is necessary that the Board has individuals with the appropriate expertise assigned to negotiate and establish those guidelines. He has asked Dr. Coleman-Potter to chair that committee along with Board members Krystal Cormack and Dr. Carey Wright. He thanked all three for their willingness to handle this task.

ITEM IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. RFP and Application Committee

Mrs. Cormack reported that RFP committee has continued to meet weekly via teleconference along with members of NACSA and Amelia. A draft of the new RFP has been circulated to the entire board with an overview of the major changes that have been made. Mrs. Cormack stated that some modifications to the RFP include: an adjustment to the timeline to build in opportunities for orientation sessions to assist applicants wishing to submit letters of intent; the requirement of proof of eligibility at the Letter of Intent stage so as to ensure the eligibility of an applicant before a significant amount of time is spent preparing a proposal; and the shift to an online application system called Fluid Review, which will allow applicants to submit all documentation electronically and enable the Board to see where each applicant stands in the process and to communicate with applicants through a portal. She further stated that the Committee has built into the RFP an applicant code of conduct, public disclosure statements, and plagiarism notices, and has made some adjustments so that certain applicant types are not prohibited from applying. Mrs. Cormack stated that two public comments had been received and both were very helpful. The intent of the committee is to publish the new RFP by July 15, 2014 and for Fluid Review to go live no later than July 18, 2014.

Two orientation sessions have been scheduled for prospective applicants, the first will be held in Jackson on July 23rd in conjunction with the conference of the Mississippi Charter Schools Association, and the second will be held via webinar on July 30th at 11:30. Information on each of these will be posted on the Board's website.

Chairman Cardin stated that consideration of the RFP will be added to the agenda of today's meeting as the first item under Old Business.

Mr. Franklin asked if any contact had been made with the groups that submitted Letters of Intent in the first cycle to encourage them to keep working toward their goal of establishing a charter school in their area. Mrs. Cormack stated that the committee has discussed a public relations campaign they would like to hold that would include reaching out to previous applicants and those ideas will be discussed with the Chairman to ensure compliance with all statutes or policies before implementation.

B. Executive Director/Consultant Search Committee

Mr. Wilson reported that 38 applications have been received in response to the publication of the executive director job description. He discussed the process by which each of these applications were reviewed and critiqued by the committee members.

ITEM V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Franklin, all Board members present and participating voted unanimously **to close the meeting to determine whether or not it should declare an Executive Session** for the purpose of the discussion and consideration of a personnel matter.

On motion of Dr. Elam, and seconded by Mr. Wilson, all Board members present and participating voted unanimously **to go into Executive Session** for the reasons reported to the public and as stated in these minutes, as follows:

Discussion of one Board personnel matter.

On motion of Dr. Elam, and seconded by Mrs. Cormack, all Board members present and participating voted **to close the Executive Session and return to Open Session.**

No official action was taken during Executive Session.

ITEM VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Authorization of the Publication of the RFP

Chairman Cardin announced consideration of the publication of the revised RFP as discussed earlier by Mrs. Cormack.

Chairman Cardin requested a motion for approval of the publication of the revised RFP for the 2014-2015 application cycle.

MOTION: Dr. Coleman-Potter

SECOND: Mr. Franklin

There being no further discussion and following a vote in favor by all members present and participating, the motion carried.

B. NACSA Contract Extension

Chairman Cardin announced that the Board would defer consideration of this item until another date. William Haft with NACSA will today be making a presentation that will be a part of that consideration.

C. Cornerstone May Invoice

Kathryn Stewart stated that the May invoice from Cornerstone Consulting has previously been circulated for review by the Board members

Chairman Cardin requested a motion to approve payment of the Cornerstone Consulting May 2014 invoice.

MOTION: Mr. Franklin

SECOND: Mr. Wilson

There being no further discussion and following a vote in favor by all members present and participating, the motion carried.

D Reimagine Contract

Dr. Coleman-Potter reported that the committee, with assistance from NACSA, has begun work on the charter contract with Reimagine Prep. She assured the Board that due diligence had been done in terms of cross referencing all applicable state statutes that refer to public school operations and charter school operations. She believes the Board will see a seamless alignment between what Reimagine promised in their application to create and provide and what the Board will hold them to contractually. She stated that the work is not complete and is not ready for a vote today but it is receiving legal review and progress is being made. William Haft with NACSA has worked to incorporate the performance framework into the contract and he offered a power point presentation entitled Performance Framework Orientation to further explain this aspect of the contract to the Board and the public. A copy of that presentation is attached hereto as Exhibit A

ITEM VII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ITEM VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Marilyn Young asked if the power point presentation will be available on the website and was told that it would be along with a link to an electronic copy of the booklet that was handed out to the Board members.

Mike Sayer with Southern Echo asked if someone could go through the dates of the new RFP timeline once again, particularly with regard to the Letters of Intent. Beth Selging reviewed the

timeline dates as follows: RFP launch, July 15th; target date to have online portal up and running, July 18; two information sessions July 23rd and July 30th; Letters of Intent due August 15th by 3:00 p.m., (accepted only online); and complete proposals due on September 15th.

ITEM IX. NEXT MEETING

The August meeting will be held on Monday, August 11, 2014. Notice will be posted on the website.

ITEM VIII. ADJOURN

Vice-Chairman Wilson requested a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Mr. Franklin

SECOND: Mrs. Cormack

There being no discussion and following a vote in favor by all members present and participating, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

ADOPTED, this the 11th day of August, 2014.



TOMMIE S. CARDIN, Chairman