

Maine Charter School Commission Meeting - May 7, 2013

Minutes

The Maine Charter School Commission held a meeting on May 7, 2013, at the Cross State Office Building, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta, ME.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair, Jana Lapoint called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

The following Members were present: Dick Barnes, John Bird, Jana Lapoint, Shelley Reed, Heidi Sampson, William Shuttleworth and Ande Smith.
Deanne Lavallee, Administrative Assistant

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

It was moved by John Bird, seconded by Shelley Reed, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the meeting minutes from March 5, 2013.

It was moved by Shelley Reed, seconded by John Bird, and voted by six of those present to approve the meeting minutes from April 8, 2013; one abstention, William Shuttleworth absent on April 8.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

A. Chair, Jana Lapoint:

- Reported on the status of the Education and Cultural Affairs Chairs request to the Government Oversight Committee (GOC) for a review of Charter Commission authorizing practices; the GOC has not made a decision to place the request on their work plan.
- Legislature, the Charter Commission has been present and testifying at Education and Cultural Affairs Committee public hearings and work sessions on those bills relating to public charter schools, represented by R. Barnes, S.Reed, J. Lapoint and R. Kautz.

B. Vice Chair: None

C. Executive Director:

- Deferred to the end of this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Three applications that have come before the Commission: Baxter Academy for Technology and Science, Fiddlehead School of Arts and Science and Harpswell Coastal Academy.

They were taken in alphabetical order.

- Discussions, recommendation, vote on Public Charter School Contract for Baxter Academy for Technology and Sciences.
- Commission members discussed the Baxter revised application and proposed contract. The revised enrollment projections were discussed.

Dick Barnes moved that we accept the amended application as presented to us on May 3rd (2013) and the revised enrollment figures as presented to us on May 4th (2013) for approval and addition to the contract.

John Bird: Second.

Jana Lapoint: Any other discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? Motion carried unanimous.

R. Barnes moved that we accept negotiated charter contract between the Maine Charter School Commission and Baxter Academy for Technology and Sciences to open in September 2013

Shelley Reed: Second.

Jana Lapoint: Any discussion? All those in favor? Motion carried unanimous.

- Discussions, recommendations, vote on Public Charter School Contract for Fiddlehead School of Arts and Science.

The Commission and Fiddlehead representatives discussed the proposed public charter school contract.

S. Reed move to accept and sign the negotiated charter contract between the Maine Charter School Commission and the Fiddlehead School of Arts and Sciences to open in September 2013.

John Bird: Second

Jana Lapoint: Any further discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? Motion carried unanimous.

- Discussions, recommendation, vote on Public Charter School Contract for Harpswell Coastal Academy.

H. Sampson led a discussion on the proposed contract with the Commission and Harpswell representatives.

Heidi Sampson moved to accept the amended application and sign the negotiated charter contract between the Maine Charter School Commission and Harpswell Coastal Academy to open September 3, 2013.

John Bird: Second.

Jana Lapoint: Any further discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? Motion carried unanimously.

OFFICER'S REPORT:

- Executive Director

R. Kautz reviewed a DOE proposal that would be an alternative to the current method of funding public charter schools. The alternative would treat them in a manner similar to any other school district in the EPS formula. Also, the status of proposed legislation was reviewed.

Also reported that the Commission might be asked to manage the Commission website, as DOE assistance may not be available as it has been. He will be looking into this and determine what is needed.

- Discussion/vote on RFP for payroll services for the Administrative Assistant position for Fiscal Year 2013-14.

The Commission Members discussed the proposed RFP.

William Shuttleworth moved to authorize going out to bid for the payroll service for the Administration Assistant position.

Shelley Reed: Second.

Jana Lapoint: Motion carried unanimously.

- Discussion/vote on Tri-State Staffing / First-year Contract Renewal for payroll services for the Executive Director position for Fiscal Year 2013-14.

The proposal was discussed by the Commission members.

Shelley Reed moved to approve the renewal of the contract with Tri-State Staffing for fiscal year 2013-14..

John Bird: Second.

Jana Lapoint: Motion carried, unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Expense Account Vouchers were turned in at the end of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

J. Lapoint called the meeting adjourned.