

State Charter School Commission

111 Sewall Street (physical address)
23 State House Station (mailing address)
Augusta, ME 04333-0023

The State Charter School Commission held meeting on March 6, 2012, at the Cross State Office Building, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta, Maine. The following members were present: James Banks, Sr.; Richard (Dick) Barnes; Lynda Doyle; Jana Lapoint; Donald Mordecai; Shelley Reed; and William Shuttleworth.

Also present were: Jennifer Pooler, Administrative Assistant, Department of Education.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair, James A. Banks, Sr., called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Donald Mordecai, seconded by Shelley Reed, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the February 7, 2012 minutes as written.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, James Banks, Sr.:

- Interviewed by Jennifer Rooks on Maine Watch (MPBN)
- Interviewed by the Kennebec Journal
- Interviewed by Caroline Cornish of WCSH 6

Vice-chair, William Shuttleworth:

- Questioned the evaluation process by which local educational agencies will authorize a local charter school. Hopes that it is somewhat consistent with what the SCSC is creating. Applications must meet the same statutory requirements regardless of who authorizes them.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Deb Friedman distributed the revised Part 2 of the rule – *Procedures for Commission Authorization of Public Charter Schools*.
 - Revisions received during morning workshop session were inserted and now explained and discussed.
- B. MOVED by Donald Mordecai, seconded by Shelly Reed, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the proposed rule – *Procedures for Commission Authorization of Public Charter Schools* and file with the Secretary of State to begin the APA process by March 13th at noon.
 - Will wait for approval from AG's office (Sarah Forster) and Governor's office (Jon Nass) before forwarding final draft to Commission members and Secretary of State's office.

- C. MOVED by Donald Mordecai, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the DOE proposed timeline as presented.
- D. Don Mordecai and Shelly Reed will begin working with Deb Friedman on the application and letter of intent.
- E. March 5 public input session in Portland was discussed
 - Went better than most expected
 - No clear direction on priority areas
 - Reaffirmed need for innovation in public education
 - Frustration from those in more rural areas that the Commission will view proposals from larger cities more favorably
 - A lot of interest in secondary level schools
 - Heard frustration and hope for relief
- F. Additional public input sessions should be scheduled for Presque Isle and Machias
 - Jennifer Pooler will schedule
 - i. Presque Isle – Shelley Reed, Donald Mordecai, William Shuttleworth; April 5
 - ii. Machias – Shelley Reed, Richard Barnes; April 9

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Submit Expense Account Vouchers to Jennifer Pooler at the end of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Early learners (K-8): a trend toward more students being homeschooled. Meeting the unique needs of students on both ends of the learning spectrum. Need to provide more opportunities and different avenues for early learners. Virtual learning provides many options for these students.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Shelley Reed, and unanimously voted by those present to adjourn the March 6, 2012 State Charter School Commission meeting at 2:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Pooler