

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 a meeting on June 7, 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; Shelley Reed; and William Shuttleworth.

Excused: Donald Mordecai

CALLED TO ORDER:

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

ADJUSTMENT TO THE AGENDA:

- A. Jana Lapoint requested to give James Banks authority to proceed in arranging necessary authorizer training(s) for Commission members.
 - James Banks has asked the National Association of Charter School Authorizers and SchoolWorks for a detailed list of services they could provide and the costs for these services. He will forward information to Commission members as soon as he receives anything.

- B. Jana Lapoint requested to give James Banks authority to begin process of hiring an administrative support person and a program director.
 - James Banks has asked William Shuttleworth to lead the interview process for these positions.

MOVED by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Shelley Reed, and unanimously voted by those present to grant James Banks the authority to move forward with the above requests.

Jana Lapoint offered that Mike Komich, financial director of Cheverus High School, has offered to review any application for the financial piece.

- C. Richard Barnes requested to add Maine Academy of Natural Sciences to the agenda for a recommendation by the review team.

- D. Possible date for training is June 25, 2012.
 - James Banks will verify his authority to enter into a contract for services.

MOVED by Shelley Reed, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to grant James Banks the authority to enter into a contract for services and encumbering funds for training.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, James Banks, Sr.:

- None.

Vice-chair, William Shuttleworth:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Recommendations by review teams –

1. Maine Connections Academy and Maine Virtual Academy -
 - o Met and review both applications – extensive and thoroughly written

“It is the recommendation of the review team to hold the applications for the Maine Virtual School and the Maine Connections Academy until the 2013-2014 cycle. We believe it is essential to receive formal training on the authorization of virtual charter schools. In order to render due diligence to these highly detailed applications, we believe this training is paramount to this important decision making process. While it is our intent to review these two applications for the 2013-2014 cycle, the Commission must be allocated the resources to receive the identified and needed training.”

MOVED by William Shuttleworth, seconded by Shelley Reed, and unanimously voted by those present to hold the applications for the Maine Virtual Academy and the Maine Connections Academy until the 2013-2014 cycle.

2. Baxter Academy of Technology and Science -
 - o Requested and received additional materials pertaining to the budget

“It is our feeling at this stage that we would like to recommend to our board that we begin to take the next steps with Baxter Academy. It doesn't mean that they are approved in the end; it just means that we have received enough information that says to us that there is a possibility that we can provide them with a charter at a later date this year. But right now, we have been given enough information to say that it looks like it is at least a go ahead at this stage. We still have many, many questions that we need answered but those will come in the open session and I'm sure that the Academy is well prepared to answer those for us at that time. We will also be submitting their budget to Mr. Komich for a review.”

MOVED by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Lynda Doyle, and voted favorably by those present to have an interview and public hearing with Baxter Academy of Technology and Science.

- Discussion about where to hold the interview and public hearing for Baxter Academy of Technology and Science
- Interview and Public Hearing scheduled for June 18, Southern Maine Community College, Jewett Hall, 9:00am - 12:00pm

3. Maine Academy of Natural Sciences –

“The review team has had the opportunity to go through the application fairly thoroughly and we believe as, and in accordance with what Jana said about Baxter Academy, the application has sufficient merit and sufficient detail at this point for us to be able to go to an interview and hearing and to schedule a more in depth review by the full Commission of the proposal. We would like to make that recommendation.”

MOVED by Richard Barnes, seconded by Shelley Reed, and unanimously voted by those present to have an interview and public hearing with the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences.

- Interview and Public Hearing scheduled for June 15, Cross State Office Building, Augusta, Room 103, 9:00am - 12:00pm

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Status update on Performance Indicators, Measures, Metrics and Contract Evaluation Criteria development

- Richard Barnes could not print for distribution – it’s on legal size paper
 - Target to be negotiated in contract with charter school operator
 - Dates and Frequency for Collection of Evidence
 - Evidence – do we have it, where did we get it?
 - Meets Performance Expectations
- Use when negotiating a contract and for follow-up performance monitoring

B. Performance Monitoring

- Monitoring timeline will be included in the contract
- Reviewed draft document distributed on May 21, 2012
- Questions needing Commission response
 - Should the monitoring teams be made up of only Commission members? No, others as necessary.
 - Shelley Reed will rework draft including a schedule

C. In Person Interview and Public Hearing

- Come up with a list of questions for Interview by Monday, 6/11 meeting
 - Will this prevent Commission members from asking further questions?
- May need additional time for interview or public hearing – will play it by ear
- Questions from expert consultants

- How will they be addressed?

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Turn in Expense Account Vouchers at the end of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Will you be accepting applications for a virtual school in October? Yes, the RFP will be posted in late August. Letter of Intent due by mid September. We need to have specific training on virtual charter schools.
- Would you expect these two groups that have put in applications, to put in new applications?

ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED by Shelley Reed, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to adjourn the June 7, 2012 State Charter School Commission meeting at 2:06 PM.

Transcribed by Jennifer Pooler.