

Maine Charter School Commission Meeting - July 17, 2012

Minutes

The State Charter School Commission held a meeting on July 17, 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

Also present were: Jennifer Pooler and Deb Friedman, Department of Education

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair, James A. Banks, Sr. called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Letter of Resignation - Donald Mordecai
- Minutes of last two meetings (June 29, July 2) are not available - item moved to next meeting

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, James Banks, Sr.

- Needs to leave at 12:00 for an out of state funeral.

Vice-chair, William Shuttleworth

- None

Resignation of Donald Mordecai -

MOVED by William Shuttleworth, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the resignation of Don Mordecai with deepest regret and appreciation for the work he has accomplished on behalf of the Charter School Commission.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Consideration of the application for a public charter school

- Baxter Academy for Technology and Science

Baxter Academy of Technology and Science presented further information at an interview session prior to Charter School Commission business meeting on July 17, 2012. All questions and concerns were address, except for those listed as condition of approval below.

Meeting turned over to Jana Lapoint, review team chair. Jana Lapoint turned the meeting over to William Shuttleworth, who turned the meeting over to Richard Barnes for a motion.

MOVED by Richard Barnes, seconded by William Shuttleworth to approve with conditions the application from Baxter Academy and move to the contract phase for a September 2013 opening. The two conditions are 1) submit a revised application by Sept 30, 2012 incorporating all of the changes that have been submitted over the past couple of weeks, and 2) enter into a contract by January 30, 2013 - unanimously voted by those present. Motion carried.

Recess 11:15 – 11:25

B. Recommendation by review team on the Fiddlehead School of Arts and Science application

- Well thought out proposal
- Value of program is excellent (arts and science)
- Re-think the governance and organizational structure

MOVED by Shelley Reed, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to move the Fiddlehead School of Arts and Science to the interview and public hearing stage – September 11, 2012 at 10:00am.

C. Consideration to re-open discussion of Cornville Regional Charter School application

MOVED by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Lynda Doyle, and unanimously voted by those present to re-open discussions with the Cornville Regional Charter School.

Justin Belanger, chair of the board of directors of the Cornville Regional Charter School presented the following information:

- Cornville provided the Commission with updated budget figures
- Their executive director to be hired at the beginning of the year
- Insurance covers what if's the Commission was concerned with – roof collapse, boiler blow up
- Contingency fund increased because of declining insurance costs

- Have not had a thorough facilities analysis completed recently
- Do not have a 1-, 3-, or 5-year capital improvement plan
- Own the building (no lease or payment)
- Three bus stops
- Personal learning plan for every student
- Excited about the partnerships you are developing with your curriculum

MOVED by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Shelley Reed, to approve the Cornville Regional Charter School and begin the negotiations to enter a contract with an opening date during the fall of 2012. Five votes in favor – One opposed. Motion carried.

William Shuttleworth and Richard Barnes will begin contract negotiations.

Jim Banks was excused at 12:15pm.

Recess 12:15 – 12:25

Vice-chair, William Shuttleworth called the meeting back to order

William Shuttleworth shared an opportunity for a workshop on virtual education offered by Connections Academy.

- Most members thought it would be seen as a conflict of interest.
- Jana Lapoint suggested that Judith Jones and MACS arrange for training as an outside group.
- Send particular topics to William Shuttleworth and he will forward them to Judith Jones.
- No letter has been received from Ruth Summers to remove the Maine Virtual Academy application from the website.

D. Election of Officers -

William Shuttleworth has asked that his name not be placed in nomination for any office at this time.

Nominations for chair opened

- Richard Barnes nominated Jana Lapoint, seconded by Shelley Reed, as chair of the Maine Charter School Commission
- No further nominations – nominations closed
- Unanimously voted by those present

Nominations for vice-chair opened

- Jana Lapoint nominated Richard Barnes, seconded by William Shuttleworth, as vice-chair of the Maine Charter School Commission
- No further nominations – nominations closed

- Unanimously voted by those present

Special thanks to the work Jim Banks has lead as chair.

OTHER:

- Need to schedule special meeting prior to the August 7 meeting to review and approve any complete contracts.
 - July 31, 2012 - Room 103-A; 9:00-10:00 AM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Commenter appreciates the cooperative nature of the Commission to work with applicants.
- K-12, Inc. offered their services at a virtual education workshop.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Lynda Doyle, and unanimously voted by those present to adjourn the July 17, 2012 State Charter School Commission meeting at 12:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Pooler.