

Maine Charter School Commission Meeting - August 7, 2012

Minutes

The State Charter School Commission held a meeting on August 7, 2012, at the Cross State Office Building, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta, Maine. The following members were present: James Banks, Sr.; Richard (Dick) Barnes; Jana Lapoint; Shelley Reed; and William Shuttleworth.

Excused: Lynda Doyle

Also present was: Jennifer Pooler, Department of Education

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair, Jana Lapoint called the meeting to order at 12:40 PM.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Shelley Reed, seconded by Richard Barnes, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the minutes from the July 31, 2012 meeting.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Jana Lapoint

- None

Vice-chair, Richard Barnes

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Consideration of the letter of withdrawal received from Amy Carlisle of Maine Virtual Academy

MOVED by Shelley Reed, seconded by Jim Banks, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the letter of withdrawal from Maine Virtual Academy.

- B. Consideration of the for the RFP/Application 2013-14 cycle
- Discussion regarding the possibility of delaying for one month
 - Timeline already posted in last year's RFP
 - Need to set a date for the Information Session
 - September 11, 2012 – 2-4pm
 - Keep mcsc@maine.gov as the contact for questions
 - Add "labels and tabs all sections and exhibits" to format requirements
 - Bound sets reduced to 8
 - Added clarifying language in the special student population section
 - Added clarifying language in governance section
 - Added clarifying language in business and financial services section
 - Added clarifying language to the virtual school section

MOVED by William Shuttleworth, seconded by Shelley Reed, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the RFP/Application for the 2013-14 cycle as revised.

- C. Jon Nass (from the Governor's Office) provided an update on the funding and technical assistance opportunities offered by the National Governor's Association.
- August 20, 2012 (11:30-12:30) – conference call for Commission
 - August 21, 2012 (10:00-11:00) – conference call for potential founders
 - September 20 & 21, 2012 – Two day conference for all interested in charter schools (with the assistance of MACS)
 - Monitoring
 - Virtual schools
 - Authorizing
 - Operating a school
- D. Review and discuss job descriptions and available options for hiring
- Executive Director
 - Hours – flexibility (20 hours)
 - Duties/Responsibilities/Authority
 - Pay scale
 - Administrative Assistant
 - Hours – flexibility (24 hours)
 - Duties/Responsibilities
 - Pay scale

OTHER

- None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED by Jim Banks, seconded by Shelley Reed, and unanimously voted by those present to adjourn the August 7, 2012 State Charter School Commission meeting at 3:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Pooler.

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Also present were: Jennifer Pooler, Department of Education; Sarah Forster, Attorney General's office

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair, Jana Lapoint called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Add approval of the Minutes of the July 17, 2012 meeting
- Letter of withdrawal from Maine Connections Academy

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Jim Banks, seconded by Shelley Reed, and unanimously voted by those present to approve the minutes from the June 29, July 2, and July 17, 2012 meetings.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chair, Jana Lapoint

- Very excited to be signing the first two charter contracts.
- Special thanks to Deb Friedman, Sarah Forster, William Shuttleworth, Dick Barnes, Shelley Reed, Jim Banks, Lynda Doyle and Jennifer Pooler for their work.
- Asked for a motion to accept the letter of withdrawal from Maine Connections Academy.

MOVED by William Shuttleworth, seconded by Shelley Reed, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the letter of application withdrawal for the 2012 cycle and removal of the documents from the Commission's website from Ruth Summers, chair of the board, for the Maine Connections Academy.

- The deadline from applicants to serve on the Commission is August 10. Please share with anyone who may be interested in serving.

Vice-chair, Richard Barnes

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Consideration of the charter contract for the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences

Meeting turned over to Richard Barnes to explain the contract negotiations process with MeANS.

- Very collaborative process
- Four areas of concern from the original application were negotiated
 - Governance structure
 - Agreed that the Good Will Home Association members on the MeANS board will be in the minority.
 - Enrollment and enrollment policy
 - How to set the enrollment target/limits especially considering the residential program run by GWH.
 - Lottery of applicants
 - Interviews not allowed before the lottery
 - School closure protocols

MOVED by Richard Barnes, seconded by Shelley Reed, and unanimously voted by those present to accept and sign the negotiated charter contract between the Maine State Charter School Commission and the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences to open October 1, 2012.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Thank you to the Commission for accomplishing this unprecedented, enormous task. Thank you to the GWH and MeANS teams for their input and support during this process.

- B. Consideration of the charter contract for the Cornville Regional Charter School

Meeting turned over to William Shuttleworth to explain the contract negotiations process with CRCS.

- Key points of the contract –
 - Opening day is October 1, 2012 with a maximum of 60 students.
 - Negotiated very clear performance indicators that will be benchmarks for student success. Will continue to work toward incorporating the Common Core into their curriculum.
 - Justin Belanger has become Executive Director and is no longer on the Board of Directors.
 - Agreed that Board of Directors should have an odd number of members as to prevent a tie.

MOVED by William Shuttleworth, seconded by Lynda Doyle, and unanimously voted by those present to accept and sign the negotiated charter contract between the Maine State Charter School Commission and the Cornville Regional Charter School to open October 1, 2012.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Thank you to the Commission for your work and diligence and for recognizing the hard work and passion that Cornville has put into this process. Thank you on behalf of the kids for the amazing opportunity you have provided them with.
- Thank you for giving the folks in Cornville a chance to do what they can do.

OTHER

- Both of the charter schools approved today can serve as models for other rural schools across the country serving at-risk or underserved students in truly unique ways.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED by Jim Banks, seconded by Shelley Reed, and unanimously voted by those present to adjourn the July 31, 2012 State Charter School Commission meeting at 10:13 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Pooler.