

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
STATEWIDE VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD
OLIVER HODGE EDUCATION BUILDING
2500 NORTH LINCOLN BOULEVARD, ROOM 1-20
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

January 14, 2014

The Statewide Virtual Charter School Board met in regular session at 1:04 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2014, in the Board Room of the Oliver Hodge Education Building at 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The final agenda was posted at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, January 13, 2014.

The following were present:

Ms. Terrie Cheadle, State Board of Education

Members of the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board present:

Mr. John Harrington, Edmond

Ms. Debbie Long, Claremore

Mr. Jaared Scott, Stillwater

Ms. Pamela Vreeland, Jenks

Ms. Denise Floyd, Lawton

Others in attendance are shown as an attachment.

**CALL TO ORDER
AND
ROLL CALL**

John Harrington called the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board regular meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Cheadle called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, OKLAHOMA
FLAG SALUTE, AND MOMENT OF SILENCE**

John Harrington led Board Members and all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, a salute to the Oklahoma Flag, and a moment of silence.

**December 10, 2013 Statewide Virtual Charter School
Board Regular Meeting Minutes Approved**

Debbie Long made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2013, regular Statewide Virtual Charter School Board meeting. Jaared Scott seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Harrington, yes; Ms. Long, yes; Mr. Scott, yes; Ms. Vreeland, yes; and Ms. Floyd, yes.

OPENING COMMENTS

John Harrington said it is a historic day for students and parents in the state of Oklahoma, and it is a solemn charge the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board has for them. I personally want to see every child in the state to have the opportunity to avail themselves of the educational tools and resources available to them, as well as the very finest education to the extent that online schools are a viable option for certain families and students. It is a very important role and our work today is important in supporting that.

ADMINISTRATION

**Presentation to the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board on
the Virtual Charter School application process, SDE review
process of applications and the acceptance/rejection process**

Sam Duell reviewed the virtual charter school objectives, application timeline, process, and application guidelines for accepting and rejecting per the *Oklahoma Charter School Act*; the State Department of Education (SDE) six member application review panel process, review of measures, scoring rubric, and recommendations; and second review of the objectives/questions.

**Acceptance or Rejection of the Virtual Charter School
application from ABLE Charter School Rejected**

Mr. Duell reviewed the review panel composite findings of the ABLE Charter School application; rubric percentage scores, missing items, application completion, and panel/SDE recommendation to not approve at the present time.

Mr. Harrington clarified options for appeal and submitting amended applications. Board Members thanked ABLE Charter School for the application submission.

Debbie Long made a motion to reject the ABLE Charter School virtual charter school application. Pamela Vreeland seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following vote: Ms. Vreeland, yes; Ms. Floyd, yes; Mr. Scott, yes; Ms. Long, yes; and Mr. Harrington, yes.

**Acceptance or Rejection of the Virtual Charter School
application from Insight School of Oklahoma, Inc. Rejected**

Mr. Duell reviewed the review panel composite findings of the Insight School of Oklahoma, Inc. application; rubric percentage scores, missing items, application completion, and panel/SDE recommendation to disapprove at the present time.

Jaared Scott made a motion to reject the Insight School of Oklahoma, Inc. virtual charter school application. Debbie Long seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Harrington, yes; Ms. Long, yes; Mr. Scott, yes; Ms. Vreeland, yes; and Ms. Floyd, yes.

**Acceptance or Rejection of the Virtual Charter School
application from Oklahoma Connections Academy Accepted**

Mr. Duell said there is an amendment to Viewer #2's response. It should reflect "No with conditions" rather than "Yes." He reviewed the review panel composite findings of the Oklahoma Connections Academy application; rubric percentage scores, missing items, application completion, and panel/SDE recommendation to approve.

Debbie Long made a motion to accept the Oklahoma Connections Academy virtual charter school application. Ms. Floyd seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Ms. Floyd, yes; Ms. Vreeland, yes; Mr. Scott, yes; Ms. Long, yes; and Mr. Harrington, yes.

Mr. Harrington said the work, time and effort of the applicants were much appreciated. He encouraged reviewing the rubric material which provides the feedback that would be instrumental in informing their future work.

Update on proposed Virtual Charter School rules

Stephanie Moser Goins, Assistant General Counsel updated the status of current proposed rules open for public comment that are the "Track A" rules which distinguishes them from the State Board of Education "Track 1" rules. The first set of rules is currently open for public comment until Friday, January 17, 2014, at 4:30 p.m. On this date a hearing is also scheduled at 10:00 a.m. for the public to submit comments orally. A summary of the public comments, recommended response, and revisions will be presented for the Board's consideration at the February 11, 2014, regular meeting. One rule will be open for public comment on January 15, 2014 of the 30-day start period. It is the last of the required APA rules pertaining to individual proceedings and will be presented at the March 11, 2014, regular meeting.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Joel Robinson, Chief of Staff said in December 2013 Superintendent Barresi conducted a press release that pertained to requesting the Legislature to review issues surrounding statewide virtual schools. Superintendent Barresi is a champion of choice in public education and would take no action that impedes or damage any parent's ability to have the maximum amount of choices available to them. If there is any concern by the public or the Board on any legislative action that we would not in any way inhibit or limit any educational choice in Oklahoma is not the direction we want to go. Our interest is in looking at the issues of statewide virtual schools from an agency perspective which we believe need more clarification. The reason is because virtual schools operate somewhat differently from the traditional brick and mortar environment. As well they should be with the different processes and concerns, for example, attendance. How students are accounted for when attending school daily? Attendance is important for various reasons with state aid allocations and accountability measures.

From a research perspective, which will be talked about in the coming weeks, it is the impact of absenteeism on student performance and how detrimental absenteeism is. Not having a good method to identify absenteeism for virtual schools will inhibit our ability to see the impact in that environment. Generally, state aid has several different parts to the formula. When the funding formulas were written it contemplated a small identified buck boundary school district that did traditional things such as offering school lunches and daily transportation of students. Virtual schools do not participate in this way. We are looking at how all the different parts of the funding formula apply to the schools in a new statewide district.

There have been challenges when working with districts on how they meet the financial transparency requirements. The state law requires that all teachers have a contract with their local school boards, and all the expenditures must go through the Oklahoma Cost Accounting System (OCAS) so that taxpayers' dollars are identified and accounted for. There have been situations when there is a corporate sponsorship of the school; and the school writes checks to the corporate sponsor who provides the services. What we want to review is how does it matchup.

At this time, we do not have solutions but we are in discussions with Senator Gary Stanislawski who has filed legislation. He would like to meet with the SVCS Board and all interested parties in the next few weeks after the start of the legislative session. Hopefully, we will come to a general understanding all can agree with, and have the language in the legislation to move forward with the legislative process. We want the SVCSB to be involved and please share the best avenue to do that and I will be happy to do it. Once again we do understand with the board's creation you were not exactly benefitted with a great deal of staff. Anything we can do from the SDE to assist you to be successful we want to do and I appreciate your time.

Stephanie Moser Goins advised that the legal counsel for the accepted applicants contact the Kim Richey, General Counsel, SDE and a plan for proceeding with the contract negotiation phase as to who generates the initial draft contract will take care of the negotiating, and then a recommendation will be presented to the Board of the final language.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Denise Floyd made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:40 p.m. Jaared Scott seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Harrington, yes; Ms. Long, yes; Mr. Scott, yes; Ms. Vreeland, yes; and Ms. Floyd, yes.

The next meeting of the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will convene at the State Department of Education, 2500 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

John Harrington, Chairperson of the Board

Terrie Cheadle, State Board of Education