

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools  
Policy, Rule & Contract Subcommittee  
July 30, 2009  
Executive Tower  
1700 West Washington Street, Second Floor Conference Room  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

MINUTES

**Members Present -**

Norm Butler - Committee Chair  
Lynne Adams, Public Member  
Dana Krals - Public Member

**Members Absent-**

Magdalena Verdugo - Charter School Operator

Meeting began at 2:05 PM

**Agenda Item A: Roll Call:** Executive Director DeAnna Rowe confirmed a quorum.

**Agenda Item B: Call to the Public:** Subcommittee chairman Norm Butler opened the meeting by welcoming public members and requested those desiring to speak complete a Call to the Public form due to the size of the audience. Members of the NGA In-State Team participating in the meeting were Susan Chan, Charter Operator, and Dr. Karen Butterfield, Associate Superintendent for Academic Achievement, Arizona Department of Education.

**Agenda Item C: Discussion, review and possible consideration of a renewal process, including renewal application requirements, and determining an acceptable level of academic performance for charter schools as it relates to performance management plans:** Deputy Director Martha Morgan stated that the desired outcome of the meeting would be to approve moving the renewal process, the application instructions and a determined level of acceptable academic performance forward to the full board for consideration, possibly at the September Board meeting. Martha recapped the work the Policy, Rule and Contract Subcommittee and the NGA In-State Team has been doing since July, 2007 on developing the renewal process and associated activities. She reviewed other support for the work from the National Governors Association and the Building Charter School Quality grant, both of which provided funding for various activities related to renewal. She also reviewed legislative changes that have occurred over the past two years that will have an impact on renewal.

The subcommittee reviewed the draft renewal application instructions manual, which included a compilation of some previously approved work by the subcommittee. Martha highlighted several parts of the instructions, including how applicants will use the database to submit the renewal application. Lynne Adams suggested rewording some of the instructions for the online application. She also stated, in reviewing the materials ahead of time, certain questions came to mind and suggested that those should be addressed early on in the instructions, including "What is eligibility based upon?"

Martha said the statement of assurances will be taken out of the online application and will become a part of the contract when a charter with a performance management plan is renewed. Martha then led members through a review of the academic and business plan sections of the proposed renewal application. In the academic section, applicants that do not meet what the Board determines to be an acceptable level of academic performance, will be required to complete at least one of the requirements of the academic section, which the committee then reviewed. The subcommittee discussed eliminating option two in the list of requirements and incorporating that requirement into number one so that it reflects a school's participation in a school improvement plan. Lynne Adams stated that the school will need to include its work on a school improvement plan in the opening narrative to demonstrate how the performance management plan fits with previous efforts. An existing school improvement plan should be incorporated into the development of the Performance Management Plan to minimize the work of the charter operator as well as utilize existing efforts.

Dr. Karen Butterfield stated that she will be working with the leadership team at the Arizona Department of Education to solidify a process for reporting compliance with the department and will formalize the process with a letter to the Board before an adequate performance designation is made that includes the appropriate compliance information and history of a charter applying for renewal.

Martha reported that 34 charters will be eligible to apply on January 19, 2010. She reviewed the statutory requirement regarding renewal and reviewed the timeline of the application and Board consideration for renewal.

Martha presented a power point on the Board's level of adequate academic performance as a way to review the work thus far. The adequate level of performance will include considering the status level of performance of the school as well as a measure of student growth. The subcommittee has been discussing these measures for a period of time. Martha discussed how the academic data is reviewed and considered prior to determining whether or not a charter operator would have to submit something for the academic section. Site visits may be used to assist in making the determination regarding academic requirements. Lynne Adams stated that there will be instances that the data doesn't accurately capture the entire situation and will require looking more deeply at academic performance measures.

Lynne Adams asked staff to review for the group who would receive an academic assignment based upon the graphic presented on status and growth measures. Members discussed possible scenarios for how determinations would be made and other data that would need to be considered for decision-making. A public member asked if alternative education campuses would have different academic expectations. Subcommittee members said that the level would be the same because it is the state average and should be the aspiration or goal of the school. Executive Director DeAnna Rowe said that keeping in mind the level that would be considered for would be considered for high schools is the status measure since a growth measure is not available. There was continued discussion on the use of minus one standard deviation below the status line versus one-half of a standard deviation above the line. Chairman Butler questioned if it really mattered if standard deviation changed below the status line because, for a school that falls below the status line, it will still constitute a requirement for the academic section. Norm Butler thought that maybe there should be the same expectation regarding growth for schools that fall above the state average. Lynne Adams recommended taking the issue of whether or not to use one standard deviation or one-half a standard deviation below the median growth percentile for the bright line for growth to the whole Board to consider. She also asked if Rebecca Gau would be available to help the Board better understand the consequences of making this decision. Ms. Rowe said that she would check on her availability but she did want staff to take ownership of this particular work.

**MOTION**

Lynne Adams made a motion to adopt and move the renewal process information forward to the full Board for consideration. Dana Krals seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Agenda Item D: Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION**

Dana Krals made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 29, 2009, meeting. Norm Butler seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

Chairman Butler thanked subcommittee members and the public for attending the meeting.

**Agenda Item F: Adjournment**

The discussion ended at approximately 3:40 PM

  
Signature

12/14/10  
Date