

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
July 12, 2010
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
Room 164

MINUTES

Members Present-

Norm Butler – President
Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez – Vice President
Mary Gifford – Superintendent Designee
Peter Bezanson– Charter School Operator (telephonically)
Janna Day – Public Member
Doug Ducey – Business Member
Dana Krals – Public Member
Jake Logan – Business Member

Members Absent

Steve Parsons – Charter School Teacher
Rep. Montenegro - Advisory Member

Meeting began at 9:37 a.m.

Agenda Item A: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item B: Moment of Silence

Agenda Item C: Roll Call:

Heather Kelley called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

Agenda Item D: Call to the Public

Heidi Mitchell, Charter Representative for Valley Academy, Inc. stated to the Board that she has concerns regarding language in the new contract which holds corporate board members financially liable and responsible for implementing the terms of the charter.

President Butler stated that a question/concern about contract language had also been raised at the meeting last month and that the Policy, Rules, and Contracts Subcommittee will review this issue.

Agenda Item E: Arizona Charter Schools Association Update

Eileen Sigmund, CEO of the Arizona Charter Schools Association, updated the Board on the National Charter Schools Conference held in Chicago. The Association, in collaboration with representatives from Arizona charter schools, as well as panelists from other states, presented on student achievement and instructional accountability using student performance data for alternative schools. The Association has assisted in the formation of a coalition called Arizona Alternative Education Campuses. Ms. Sigmund also stated the Association will be holding Data Learning Labs for school leaders and teachers to discuss performance management and student growth data.

Agenda Item F: Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's Designee Mary Gifford reported that there is a new ADE staff member with Grants Management, Eric Francis, that will be focused on charter schools and training for Title funds.

Agenda Item G: Executive Director's Report

1. Status of Charters with previous and/or on-going Board actions: Bradley Academy of Excellence, Inc., Cesar Chavez Learning Community, Inc., CPLC Community Schools, Discovery Plus Academy, Kin Dah Lichii Olta, Phoenix Advantage Charter School, Inc.

Executive Director DeAnna Rowe referred Board members to the On-going Actions document included in their materials

and noted that there were no additional changes at this time.

2. New Application Update

Ms. Rowe stated that 29 unique applications were submitted and 6 applicants took advantage of the early submission option.

3. Arizona Online Instruction Amendment Request Update

Ms. Rowe updated the Board on the Arizona Online Instruction Amendment process. Five applicants submitted an amendment request by the first deadline. The next deadline is August 1, 2010 and all requests that are deemed administratively complete will be forwarded to Rio Salado Community College for the substantive review.

Agenda Item H. Consent Agenda

1. Ambassador Academy – Increase grade levels served
2. Arizona Academy of Leadership, Inc. – Change in methods of instruction
3. Compass Pointes International, Inc. – USFRCS and Procurement Law Exceptions
4. Daisy Education Corporation – Increase grade levels served
5. Imagine Elementary at Coolidge, LLC – Increase grade levels served
6. Imagine Elementary at Tempe, Inc. – Increase grade levels served
7. Lake Havasu Charter School, Inc. – Change in instructional hours
8. Legacy Traditional Charter School – Increase grade levels served
9. Liberty Arts Academy Public Charter Elementary School – Increase grade levels served
10. Montezuma Public Charter Middle School – Decrease grade levels served
11. Opportunities for Youth, Inc. – USFRCS Exception
12. Sonoran Science Academy – Davis Monthan – Increase grade levels served
13. Ventana Academic Charter School – Updated Bylaws
14. Vista Grove Preparatory Academy Public Charter Middle School – Increase grade levels served

MOTION

Mary Gifford made a motion to approve consent items 1-9 and 11-13. Jake Logan seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

MOTION

Mary Gifford made a motion to approve consent items 10 and 14. Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

(Recused: Butler)

Agenda Item I. Consent Agreement for the Voluntary Surrender and Termination of the Charter Contract for Arizona Upgrade Academy, Inc.

Ms. Rowe informed the Board that Arizona Upgrade Academy, Inc. submitted a Consent Agreement for the Voluntary Surrender and Termination of the Charter Contract due to low enrollment and budget cuts. There are approximately 13 students enrolled in grades 5-8.

MOTION

Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez made a motion to accept the Consent Agreement for the Voluntary Surrender and Termination of the Charter Contract for Arizona Upgrade Academy, Inc. Doug Ducey seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

Agenda Item J. Charter Renewal Application

1. AZ-Tec High School

Tim Hardy, Charter Representative for AZ-Tec High School, and Molly Kelly addressed the Board and answered questions regarding the school's academic program and how they plan to reach the goals set. Ms. Kelly indicated that the school has added an English teacher, added 30 minutes of instruction and tutoring to the school day, created smaller classes and offers after school programs for the students that need further assistance.

MOTION

Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez made a motion to approve the renewal application and grant a renewal contract for AZ-Tec High School. Jake Logan seconded the motion.

Motion passed 7-1
(No: Bezanson)

2. Career Development, Incorporated

Klara Everson, representative for Career Development, Incorporated, addressed the Board and answered questions relating to the math scores in the past two years, how they were significantly low and future plans for improvement. Ms. Everson stated that the school had a turn over in math teachers every year and then changed the curriculum. This year the school has returning staff and is implementing better support services to help students succeed and will be implementing its curriculum with fidelity. Ms. Everson also stated that there have been leadership changes at the schools and attributed the differences in performance at the two schools to one having a more transient population.

MOTION

Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez made a motion to approve the renewal application and grant a renewal contract for Career Development, Incorporated. Mary Gifford seconded the motion.

Motion passed 6-2
(No: Bezanson, Butler)

3. Center for Academic Success, Inc.

Vada Phelps, Charter Representative for Center for Academic Success, Inc., and Don Derrick, Superintendent, addressed the Board and answered questions related to the academic performance differences between the schools. Mr. Derrick responded that #2 is an alternative school and serves an at-risk population and that #3 is an elementary school where the students' primary language is Spanish.

MOTION

Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez made a motion to approve the renewal application and grant a renewal contract for Center for Academic Success, Inc. Mary Gifford seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

4. The Edge School, Inc.

Greg Hart, Charter Representative for The Edge School, Inc., and Rob Pecharich, Principal, addressed the Board and answered questions regarding performance plans and how in the past the graduation rates were high and have since decreased. Mr. Pecharich indicated they work with an at-risk population of students who are transferring from schools with little credits and who are testing below their grade level. Mr. Pecharich stated they are working on improving this by hiring tutors, summer schools programs, adding web base courses and also in the process of hiring reading specialist to better prepare our students.

MOTION

Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez made a motion to approve the renewal application and grant a renewal contract for The Edge School, Inc. Mary Gifford seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

5. Espiritu Community Development, Corp.

Armando Ruiz, Charter Representative, and Adrian Ruiz, Business Manager for Espiritu Community Development, Corp., addressed the Board and answered questions regarding the academic future of the schools. Mr. Ruiz responded that they have invested in math curriculum for all grades levels, and committed to having professional development two weeks before school starts to get the teachers familiar with the new curriculum. Representatives also shared the changes in the school board and that the prevailing view was to decentralize the work of the school into committees.

MOTION

Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez made a motion to approve the renewal application and grant a renewal contract for Espiritu Community Development, Corp. Mary Gifford seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

Break 11:35 a.m. – 11:47 a.m.

6. Kachina Country Day School, Inc.

Janece Kline, Executive Director, Cristie Kline, Business Manager, and Steve Prahcharov, Principal for Kachina Country Day School, Inc., addressed the Board. Mr. Prahcharov stated the Board had been provided a document in response to the Executive Summary for the school and discussed the acquisition of Stars Prep Academy and its current enrollment and staff. Mrs. Kline stated she was impressed with the diligence of the Board in the renewal process and stated she was the founder of the school and has been the executive director for over 40 years. Mrs. Kline stated that mistakes have been made and that they have learned from the mistakes along the way. Each mistake was attended to and corrective action was proposed and feels like most of the mistakes have been taken care of. Critical issue is that of an outstanding IRS obligation which is a major concern and a result of the financial swamp resulting from taking on Stars Prep Academy. The school is currently working out the problem with the IRS and anticipates being able to complete its obligations to the IRS in the remaining year of the charter. In addressing questions from Mr. Logan related to the IRS matter, Mrs. Kline stated she knew about the problem all along and it began in 2006 when Kachina took over Stars Prep. The school did not take on any IRS obligation of the previous charter, but became delinquent when meeting the other operating expenses. Ms. Cristie Kline stated that after establishing an installment plan, the school entered an offer in compromise and stopped making installment payments while waiting for a response from the IRS. Mrs. Kline confirmed that no further payments were made because they didn't understand that they were required to do so. With regard to fingerprint clearance card violations, Mrs. Kline stated that the two issues were cleared up. The school had no response as to why it took 6 months of withholding to correct the matter. With regard to all of the previous violations included in the Executive Summary, Mrs. Kline stated that these are small things compared to all of the things the school does well. Mr. Logan stated that the areas of non-compliance are related to statutory requirements and that he would probably have to agree to disagree as to what the small things are. Ms Gifford commented that the Board has the obligation to look at the totality of the school's relationship with the State. Mrs. Kline provided information that the fingerprint committee was established a few months back. The audit committee was recently created. Mrs. Kline stated that she has recently brought people in to assist with the financial operations of the school and she feels like she has a competent staff in place. Taxes will be paid in the next year and thinks the payment will be approximately \$6000 month for the charter school. In explaining the management structure for the separation of the private school from the charter school, Mrs. Kline stated they have always had a combined audit of both programs with separate payroll and separate budget tracking. This year the auditor suggested separate bank accounts. Mrs. Kline stated the private school has been the cash support for the charter school, but it always comes out on the right side of the ledger. The school board is a policy making board, with Mrs. Kline making recommendations which can be passed or rejected. The principals bring forward the recommendations. Mr. Butler stated that as stewards of state resources, there is a concern over the repeated compliance issues and the number of issues that require State attention.

Ms. Gifford asked Assistant Attorney General Kim Anderson what the appeals process would be if a charter is not granted. Ms. Anderson stated that it would be an appealable agency action and would be similar to the application process. If the Board determines not to grant a renewal, the Board needs to establish a basis for the non-renewal. The information is provided to the renewal applicant and there is an opportunity to appeal the decision through a hearing. The hearing would be held. Ms Gifford asked for confirmation that there is no cure period like there would be for revocation, but rather the appeal would be based on whether the reasons for denying the renewal would be held up. Ms. Anderson confirmed the focus would be on reasons stated for denial and whether there was sufficient information to uphold the decision.

Ms. Alvarado-Hernandez asked for confirmation that the school does not have the funds in reserves to pay the installment payments that were not paid to date. The school confirmed there are no reserves.

MOTION

Janna Day made a motion stating, based upon a review of the information provided by the applicant and the contents of the application which includes the academic performance, the fiscal compliance, and legal and contractual compliance of the charter holder over the charter term, I move to deny the request for charter renewal and to not grant a renewal contract for Kachina Country Day School, Inc. Specifically, the charter holder, during the term of the contract, failed to meet the obligations of the contract when it failed to comply with federal or state law when it: 1) Failed to comply with the fingerprinting requirements in accordance with A.R.S. §15-183(C)(4); 2) Failed to timely submit annual financial audits in accordance with A.R.S. §§15-183(E)(6) and 15-914; 3) Failed to comply with State laws regarding Open Meeting Laws; 4) Failed to comply with Federal laws requiring the Charter Holder pay taxes required to be deducted and withheld from the wages of its employees and related taxes into the Treasury of the United States. 26 U.S.C. §3401 et seq. ("Internal Revenue

Code”); 5) Failed to comply with State laws requiring the Charter Holder to submit Arizona income tax required to be deducted and withheld from the wages of its employees to the Arizona Department of Revenue; 6) Failed to provide a Business Plan that identifies organizational structure of the charter holder; 7) Failed to provide a Business Plan that addresses the fiscal viability of the entity for the continuation of the operation of a charter school; and 8) Failed to comply with State laws regarding its issuance of Extracurricular Activities Tax Credits. Jake Logan seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

7. Mingus Springs Charter School, Inc.

Dawn Gonzales, Charter Representative for Mingus Springs Charter School, Inc., and Susan Siegfried addressed the Board and answered questions regarding oversight of financial operations and the decline in math scores. Ms. Gonzales stated that the challenge had been in finding qualified teachers at the middle school math level. She assured the Board that they have hired highly qualified teachers who have been meeting this summer to improve the middle school program. Ms. Gonzales stated that the fourth grade math teachers have undergone additional training and that additional tutoring will be available for students this year.

MOTION

Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez made a motion to approve the renewal application and grant a renewal contract for Mingus Springs Charter School, Inc. Mary Gifford seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

8. Mountain School

Renee Fauset, Charter Representative for Mountain School, addressed the Board and answered questions relating to the population they serve. Ms. Fauset stated since their move to a new facility in 2004 they have had a steady increase in enrollment. She attributes their success to the consistency in teaching staff and a student population that works together. Ms. Fauset stated that the move from downtown Flagstaff to the edge of town changed the demographics of the school.

MOTION

Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez made a motion to approve the renewal application and grant a renewal contract for Mountain School. Mary Gifford seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

9. Pine Forest Education Association, Inc.

Michael Heffernan, Executive Director and Principal of Pine Forest Education Association, Inc., addressed the Board and answered questions regarding the school’s academic program, math test scores, budget plan, and status of highly qualified teachers. Mr. Heffernan stated that, with the math curriculum, 3rd and 4th grade students generally meet or perform below average with a goal of the program to meet or exceed in 8th grade and be prepared for high school. Since 2006 the school has worked to align its Waldorf math program with the State Standards. Mr. Heffernan stated that he had concerns about the reading scores and has met with teachers and implemented a new reading program that has improved scores. Mr. Heffernan stated that the budget questions will be reviewed with the school’s financial consultant and that the numbers in the report do not reflect the financial position of the school. Mr. Heffernan stated that he will research the highly qualified status of the teachers and ensure the accuracy of the information reported.

MOTION

Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez made a motion to approve the renewal application and grant a renewal contract for Pine Forest Education Association, Inc. Mary Gifford seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

Agenda Item L. (Taken out of order) Settlement Agreement for Gila Educational Group

Ms. Rowe informed the Board that staff and legal counsel have worked with the school on the terms for the Agreement. Crae Wilson, Charter Representative, and Deanna Rader, attorney for Gila Educational Group, addressed the Board. Ms. Rader thanked the Board for their time in the process and informed the Board that the high school was designated as an alternative school and continues to make progress. Mr. Wilson thanked the Board for all of their time and the continued support for the education of the students at his school.

MOTION

Mary Gifford made a motion to approve the Settlement Agreement for Gila Educational Group as presented and to vacate the hearing. Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously
(Recused: Day)

Agenda Item J. Charter Renewal Application

10. Portable Practical Educational Preparation, Inc. (PPEP TEC)

Randy Kempton, Leticia Lujan, and Debra Deininger addressed the Board on behalf of Portable Practical Educational Preparation, Inc. (PPEP TEC), and answered questions regarding the varying academic performance at the different schools. Mr. Kempton stated that it has a lot to do with the geographic locations. In Yuma they have a high level of ESL students and that in the past the school has been a self pace program, drawing in the kids that wanted to get a diploma. Because the school understands that it is held accountable for test scores, the school has made changes using bench mark tests, moving to direct instruction, and the students that are below grade level will have math labs or reading labs. Decreases in academic scores at two of the campuses were attributed to continuous changes in administration and a change in the math teacher. Mr. Kempton stated that the changes being discussed are planned for implementation in the fall although some campuses began implementing the changes in the Spring. He stated he recognizes the targets are high, but understands that's what is needed and is confident they will be able to reach them.

MOTION

Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez made a motion to approve the renewal application and grant a renewal contract for Portable Practical Educational Preparation, Inc. (PPEP TEC). Jake Logan seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously
(Recused: Gifford)

11. Portable Practical Educational Preparation, Inc. (Arizona Virtual Academy)

Mary Gifford, Charter Representative for Portable Practical Educational Preparation, Inc. (Arizona Virtual Academy), addressed the Board and answered questions regarding the school's math scores and the future of its AOI program. Ms. Gifford stated that as an online program, the population is mobile and the school has done some internal measures to identify student performance because it doesn't always have the students on state testing day. Ms. Gifford stated the school has experiences significant growth in enrollment each year. Ms. Gifford stated that their instructional model is shifting to a content specific, grade specific, pod approach to improve instructional opportunities for the high Title I population. With regard to the future, Ms. Gifford stated that they anticipate a stabilization of enrollment, offering part time enrollment, and developing a hybrid model with a mix of online instruction and locations where students would receive direct instruction.

MOTION

Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez made a motion to approve the renewal application and grant a renewal contract for Portable Practical Educational Preparation, Inc. (Arizona Virtual Academy). Jake Logan seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously
(Recused: Gifford)

12. Scottsdale Horizons Charter School

Nancy Winship addressed the Board on behalf of Scottsdale Horizons Charter School. Ms. Winship stated that the charter operates two very diverse sites and that its current challenges are with accounting and attendance records. Ms. Winship stated that under its previous structure, the site administrator was also a teacher who wasn't always qualified for accounting or didn't do attendance appropriately. With the new structure this won't be the case. Additionally, they've identified the challenges in their attendance practices and prepared a document for the Board. In responding to a question regarding past compliance, Ms. Winship stated that she couldn't speak to past operations as she has been volunteering since January. She stated that the CEO (Ms. Lee) is very busy and stressed and that people under her were not qualified to take over and make sure everything was in on time. The CEO has hired 3 principals who will be taking over some of these responsibilities. Ms. Winship stated that the CEO didn't know about the meeting and the other two principals are out of town as well and were not aware of the meeting. Ms. Rowe clarified the meeting notification process for the Board. Ms. Winship answered questions regarding the school's responses to the interview conducted as part of the site visit and specifically about the correlation between the implementation of state standards and the decrease in student achievement. The school has previously used school developed assessments and individualized instruction that did not incorporate the state standards. With regard to accounting procedures, Ms. Winship stated that she does not know about the accounting procedures. There

is a gentleman in Texas who has been responsible and Ms. Lee is working to identify someone here locally. Ms. Winship stated that every employee is now fingerprinted and each teacher is highly skilled and new teachers are certified. With regard to the status of the corrective action plan, Ms. Winship stated she knows Ms. Lee is working on it, but thought it was not due until September. Ms. Rowe stated for the Board that the 10% withholding goes into effect immediately and remains in place until the school demonstrates compliance with the corrective action plan. In explaining the difference between Montage and Peoria, Ms. Winship stated that Peoria did well on the last AIMS test. There is quite a difference in the schools. If speaking in terms of alternative schools, there is a lot more poverty in the Peoria school that meets in a Boys and Girls Club that must be set up and torn down each day. The children receive 3 meals a day and can stay from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Scottsdale campus recently moved from its previous location to a church and anticipates a more diverse population.

Ms. Gifford confirmed with Ms. Anderson that if the Board denies the application for renewal the school will remain in operation for the next school year. Ms. Gifford stated her concerns about not pursuing revocation in addition to non-renewal and believes the Board should pursue revocation at a future meeting as well as non-renewal because the issues are grave and the school has not adhered to the terms of the contract through the Board's normal means of 10% withholding. Mr. Logan stated his agreement with Ms. Gifford.

MOTION

Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez made a motion stating, based upon a review of the information provided by the applicant and the contents of the application which includes the academic performance, the fiscal compliance, and legal and contractual compliance of the charter holder over the charter term, I move to deny the request for charter renewal and to not grant a renewal contract for Scottsdale Horizons Charter School. Specifically, the charter holder, during the term of the contract, failed to meet the obligations of the contract or failed to comply with federal or state law when it: 1) Failed to provide a learning environment that will improve pupil achievement in accordance with A.R.S. §15-181(A) and failed to include a Performance Management Plan that demonstrates a viable plan for improving pupil achievement in accordance with the requirements of the renewal application; 2) Failed to comply with federal or state laws relating to the education of children with disabilities in accordance with A.R.S. §15-183(E)(7); 3) Failed to comply with the fingerprinting requirements in accordance with A.R.S. §15-183(C)(4); and 4) Failed to timely submit the annual financial audit in accordance with A.R.S. §§15-183(E)(6) and 15-914. Additionally, the charter holder is currently not in compliance with its charter contract and state law because it failed to accurately report student attendance data in accordance with A.R.S. §§15-185(B), 15-901 and 15-902. Mary Gifford seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

Break 1:45 p.m. – 1:53 p.m.

13. Skyview School, Inc.

Wayne Regina, Janet Bicknese, Judy Sulltrop, and Scott McCreery, representatives for Skyview School, Inc., addressed the Board and answered questions regarding the highly qualified status of two teachers. Mr. McCreery stated that one teacher has been highly qualified every year and the school is working with ADE on her current status. He further stated that the other teacher was in the process of transferring from another state to Arizona and did not follow through on receiving her HQ status and was released from the school.

MOTION

Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez made a motion to approve the renewal application and grant a renewal contract for Skyview School, Inc. Janna Day seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

14. Yuma Private Industry Council, Inc.

Patricia Romant and Brian Grossenburg, representatives for Yuma Private Industry Council, Inc., addressed the Board and answered questions regarding the decline in AIMS math scores and the students served by the school. Mr. Grossenburg addressed the AIMS math scores stating that the school has a high mobility rate and that many students come to the school 1) having previously passed the AIMS and therefore the scores are not reflected because they didn't take the test with the school or 2) students come in with a very low baseline score. With regard to a plan for those students who haven't passed, Mr. Grossenburg stated that he is concerned about the targets, but also about the student's ability to be successful in math. The school requires every teacher to be able to teach math. The school day has been extended to include more math, including more elective classes. Dr. Bezanson asked for clarification about the model, as it was described in the

Performance Management Plan.

MOTION

Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez made a motion to approve the renewal application and grant a renewal contract for Yuma Private Industry Council, Inc. Jake Logan seconded the motion.

Motion passed 7-1
(No: Bezanson)

Agenda Item K. Charter Renewal and Transfer Application

1. Edu-Prize, Inc.

There was no representative for Edu-Prize, Inc. in attendance.

MOTION

Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez made a motion to approve the renewal application and transfer of the sponsorship from the State Board of Education to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools, and grant a renewal contract for Edu-Prize, Inc. Mary Gifford seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

2. Foothills Academy

Donald Senneville, Charter Representative for Foothills Academy, and Joan Puddy addressed the Board; no questions were asked.

MOTION

Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez made a motion to approve the renewal application and transfer of the sponsorship from the State Board of Education to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools, and grant a renewal contract for Foothills Academy. Mary Gifford seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

3. Maricopa County Community College District on behalf of Gateway Early College High School

Lisa Smith and Michelle Paul addressed the Board and answered questions as representatives for Maricopa County Community College District on behalf of Gateway Early College High School. Ms. Smith described the school as a highly performing school that is 88% minority, 90% free lunch and 85% first generation college students with a 1.2% drop out rate and 92% graduation rate. The school attributes its success to the early college model which has each student assigned to an adult mentor and common assessments throughout the school. With regard to the submission of a late audit, Ms. Smith explained that as part of the Maricopa Community College, the late audit was due to work with the Auditor General's office and the differences in the timeframes for submission. The timeframes have since been worked out.

MOTION

Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez made a motion to approve the renewal application and transfer of the sponsorship from the State Board of Education to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools, and grant a renewal contract for Maricopa County Community College District on behalf of Gateway Early College High School. Jake Logan seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

4. Twenty First Century Charter Schools, Inc. (Bennett Academy)

Fred and Nancy Bennett, representatives for Twenty First Century Charter Schools, Inc. (Bennett Academy), addressed the Board and answered questions from the Board. Dr. Bennett described the growth of the charter and the transition of the charter from its first location to its current location, which had a different socio-economic background than the original location. The school can now support a full time principal and is pleased with the progress the school is making. Dr. Bennett stated that the growth in math can be attributed to changes in math teachers. With regard to fiscal and legal compliance, Mr. Bennett stated that there was a miscommunication with the auditor as to who was turning in the audit. Dr. Bennett stated that they are currently in litigation with ADE regarding Title funding and cannot speak to the matter except to say that they have provided the program each year.

MOTION

Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez made a motion to approve the renewal application and transfer of the sponsorship from the State

Board of Education to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools, and grant a renewal contract for Twenty First Century Charter Schools, Inc. (Bennett Academy). Mary Gifford seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

Agenda Item M. Board Comments

Mr. Ducey stated he agreed with Ms. Gifford's statement that Scottsdale Horizons Charter School should be brought back to the Board for consideration of revocation and not wait for the current charter contract to expire.

Agenda Item N: Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:31 p.m.

Signature

Date