

**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**

November 12, 2013

The Statewide Virtual Charter School Board met in regular session at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12, 2013, in the Board Room of the Oliver Hodge Education Building at 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The final agenda was posted at 2:45 p.m. on Thursday, November 7, 2013.

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 1:00 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.

**October 8, 2013 Statewide Virtual Charter School
Board Regular Meeting Minutes Approved**

Pamela Vreeland made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 8, 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 I believe Oklahoma is at a critical juncture in its history. In many ways our future is brighter than ever with existing businesses expanding and new businesses being born every day. There is great potential to improve the quality of life for all of our state's citizens and indeed to enhance Oklahoma's positive impact on our nation and the world. But will we as a state rise to the level our potential? I believe the answer lies with education. The education our students are receiving today will in large measure determine what our state looks like in 20 or 30 years. To take full advantage of the opportunities that lie before us is vitally important that our young people are properly educated and prepared. In order for Oklahoma to succeed it needs a vibrant, healthy education ecosystem a dedicated online virtual school will be a significant part of that ecosystem. At the October 8 board meeting I raised the topic of "measuring success" and how will we as a board assess the performance of virtual schools and ultimately assess our own performance. Today we will discuss this topic.

Last evening I attended an event sponsored by Building Excellent Schools that included a panel of charter leaders who spoke about the educational revolution taking place in many charter schools. Also discussed were the challenges facing charter schools many of which are brick and mortar challenges. As I listened to their presentations I was struck by this fact, proponents of charter schools often tout that their schools help provide accountability to the mainline public school system. The thought that if the traditional school system is not cutting it then the charter schools provide competitive pressure by allowing parents to vote with their feet. There are strengths and weaknesses to this argument and my desire is not to debate the pro and cons of the charter school movement because there are many.

The point I would like to share about the idea that struck me was the fact that virtual schools offer many of the same benefits of a traditional charter school, accountability, options, etcetera, with fewer brick and mortar start issues. In other words, many of the classic impediments for starting a charter school such as locating a building to use are reduced under virtual school model. To that extent, charter schools impact our overall education ecosystem which we can debate that charter schools do play that role. In the years ahead virtual schools will likely play an increasingly significant role in shaping the education ecosystem as a whole. If you believe that charter schools impact education many of the challenges associated with charter schools are reduced with virtual schools. This further encourages me that the work we are doing for virtual schools is very important. Not only is it important to the individual schools that will enroll in these virtual schools but also at a higher level to a certain degree for the state of education in Oklahoma as a whole.

ADMINISTRATION

A-F Calculation

Michael Tamborski, Executive Director of Accountability, Office of Accountability and Assessments overviewed the 2012-2013 A-F Report Card components, formula, calculation, legislation/changes, testing disruption/delays, scores, and accountability trends.

Stephanie Moser Goins, Assistant General Counsel advised the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board would work with the State Department of Education on the administrative aspects of school designations for statewide virtual charter schools. One other change in the law was the separation of fulltime virtual charter schools from the sponsorship district. After the New Year schools will no longer be able to sponsor fulltime programs for students outside of the school district.

This was a report only no and action was taken.

Performance Metrics recommended by the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL)

Sam Duell, Executive Director of School Choice, presented an overview of performance metrics and objectives recommended by the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) nonprofit research/policy organization.

This was a report only and no action was required.

Report on Virtual Charter School Applications received

Mr. Duell presented virtual charter school applications received from ABLE Charter School differentiated instruction for all learners' grades 6-12. Insight School of Oklahoma, Inc. for grades 7-12 is a nonprofit organization, and Oklahoma Connections Academy for grades K-12 is a nonprofit organization. Mr. Duell overviewed the objectives, mission and vision statements of the three applicants.

This was a report only and no action was required.

**Parameters for Presentations from
Virtual Charter School applications**

Mr. Duell presented handouts of objectives and overviewed parameters for considering charter school applications and presentations.

Board Members discussed/agreed applicants meet the approved checklist criteria, prepare short presentation regarding school achievements and outcomes; school purpose, and school member backgrounds.

This was a report only and no action was required.

**Lessons from other states on the number
of students in virtual education**

Derrel Fincher, Director of Learning Technologies, presented growth lessons and virtual schools from other states in the Keeping Pace Report published by Evergreen Education Group. The Keeping Pace report provides the latest policies and practices that affect online learning programs with the cooperation of states or public record information. Mr. Fincher reviewed student counts, online blended learning environments, supplemental online course legislation, K-12 state populations, enrollment percentages, and fulltime virtual education per Senate Bill 267.

This was a report only and no action was required.

Proposed Virtual Charter School Rules

Stephanie Moser Goins, Assistant General Counsel, presented a drafted set of rules to review before the November 21 Notice of Regulatory Intent (NRI) due date. Public comment is scheduled three weeks after the NRI notice. Ms. Goins reviewed 2014 proposed rules requirement, due process provisions, various records requests, charter school application and renewal process/procedures, Administrative Code chapter titles, definitions/terms, time computation, declaratory ruling petition, adopt yearly guidance document, and develop contract criteria.


This was a report only and no action was required.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Debbie Long made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:43 p.m. Pamela Vreeland 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.

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The next meeting of the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 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