

Missouri Charter Public School Commission

June 12, 2019

Commission Retreat

Minutes

The retreat was called to order at 9:20 a.m. by Alicia Kotarba, president. In attendance was Peggy Taylor, Susan Cole, John Wright, Delbert Scott, Alicia Kotarba, and staff members, Martha McGeehon and Robbyn Wahby.

A motion to approve the agenda made by Peggy Taylor, seconded by John Wright passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the May 22 minutes made by Delbert Scott, seconded by Susan Cole passed unanimously.

Alicia set the expectations of the retreat, by briefly outlining our goal of a portfolio of exceptional schools, where quality increases, choice is strengthened and we dispel the myth of charter schools as something other than public schools. The commissioners expressed the outcomes they desire to see from the Commission, including increased quality of schools sponsored by the Commission (outperforming all other sponsors), clear progression of growth (in size and quality), Missouri's highest performing schools choose the Commission, cohorts approaching or above state average, graduate in college and careers. There is an interest to see low performing schools and sponsors out of the sector.

Commissioners want to see the innovations and the quality practices captured and disseminated throughout the state. They also wish to find ways to easily communicate the quality of charter schools to parents.

The group discussed the FY20 legislative session. Delbert Scott will assist Robbyn Wahby in developing a scope of work for Governmental Affairs support. The Commission wants to see 100% of its members appointed and confirmed. There is a need to establish a Commission Trust to secure earned sponsorship fees from being swept. They also want to help see more parents involved in advocacy, expansion of pool of donors to charter and improved public awareness of charter school performance. There was consensus that addressing the funding equity issue is THE legislative priority for the sector.

Peggy Taylor has agreed to chair the "Commissioners" committee, to assure there are appointments and confirmation of all Commission positions.

Peggy Taylor and Susan Cole agreed to serve on the Finance Committee. They are to bring back a proposed FY21 budget, anticipating the need for additional staff.

The Commission reviewed our current performance framework and how we insure appropriate oversight. John Wright and Susan Cole agreed to review the Commission's performance framework to insure we meet new revised state standards. The Commission agreed that if the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not include us in their sponsor evaluation efforts, we will bid out for an external evaluator.

Alicia Kotarba will work with Robbyn Wahby on a “value proposition” of the Commission. There was consensus by the Commission that we want to see an increased understanding by boards, leaders and parents of why we ask for the evidence and certifications.

The Commission adjourned at 3 p.m. without a vote.