

**Montana Community Choice Schools Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**

June 11, 2024

Zoom Webinar

**Call to Order – 00:01**

Chair Schreiber called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. The Chair led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Kris Stockton took Roll Call, the Chair read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests:

Commission members present: Trish Schreiber, Chair; Jon Rutt, Treasurer; Cathy Kincheloe; Mark Hufstetler; Dee Brown. BPE staff present: McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist.

Guests online: Ms. Kiera Moog, Office of Public Instruction.

**Item 1                      Approve Consent Agenda – 02:31**

*Member Brown moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Chair Schreiber.*

*No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

**Approve Agenda – 03:09**

*Member Huffstetler moved to approve the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Member Rutt.*

*No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

**Item 2                      Chairperson Welcome Statement – 03:47**

Chair Schreiber thanked Commission members, the National Charter School Institute, State Superintendent Arntzen and OPI, and the Board of Public Education for their work supporting the Commission. The Chair also thanked the Commission subcommittees and the Policy Making Steering Committee for their work.

**Item 3                      Reports – 06:38**

Fundraising Report: Member Kincheloe reported on work completed by the Fundraising Committee, specifically that the committee has been meeting regularly to identify potential private organizations and foundations to secure funding for a Director's position. The Director's position will likely be full time in order to lead the development of the many systems and processes necessary for the commission to be ready to review applications and support systems for schools to succeed. The goal is to raise

\$300K to cover salary, travel expenses, and other related operational necessities for the years 2025 and 2026. If the law overcomes the lawsuit, then it is likely the Commission will seek funding from the legislature in 2027 to help fund this position alongside the eventual Authorizing Fees intended to fund the Choice system.

Member Brown inquired if a search has begun for potential local and national donors to assist in the fundraising. Member Kincheloe responded that this search is in the beginning stages, and there are some leads and introductions that have been made, and conferences have been set up to follow leads.

Policy Making Subcommittee Report: Member Brown reported on work of the Policy Making Committee which has determined that rulemaking is not necessary at this time. Rather, work has been done with the NCSI to focus on building out the Application, Contract, Performance Frameworks and related process policy. Member Brown reported that the Policy Making Committee incorporated advice from the Steering Committee as directed by the Commission. She also discussed the planned four-stages for policy making related to implementing the Choice Schools Act and to be completed by the end of 2024: preparing documentation for Choice School authorization, preparing for authorizing authorizers, developing metrics to rate all documents to guide decision making, and preparing internal policies for implementation

Treasurer's Report: Member Rutt presented the Treasurer's Report updating the Commission on donations received to date, expenditures made, and the current balance of the fund.

Report on Extended Work Session: Chair Schreiber reported on the Advance Work Session held in April and work the Commission completed during the Work Session.

#### **Item 4 Discussion & Business – 19:46**

Chair Schreiber put the Commission at ease, and members reviewed and discussed the policy documents created at the Advance Work Session and reviewed by the Steering Committee. Members first discussed the Application Review and Approval Process Policy and made minor revisions to the document.

*Member Kincheloe moved to accept the Application Review and Approval Process Policy as edited. Motion seconded by Member Brown.*

*No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

Members next reviewed the Choice Schools Commission Draft Application and made minor revisions.

*Member Brown moved to adopt the Choice Schools Commission Draft application as edited to use for eventual applicants. Motion seconded by Chair Schreiber.*

*No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

Members next discussed the Community Choice School Commission Charter Contract and determined that no edits were necessary.

***Member Brown moved to approve the Community Choice School Commission Charter Contract draft for use. Motion seconded by Member Rutt.***

***No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.***

Members next reviewed the Performance Framework and made minor revisions.

***Chair Schrieber moved to approve the Performance Framework drafts and to continue work on refining the specific details in preparation for use. Motion seconded by Member Kincheloe.***

***No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.***

**Item 5      Discussion: Next Steps – 02:03:38**

Planning for upcoming meetings was discussed for the end of September with a final meeting in late November or early December. Chair Schreiber will send a Doodle poll to members to determine meeting dates, and stated the meetings will be held virtually on Zoom.

Members discussed the Chair printing agenda packets and mailing them to members, which several members requested the Chair do on their behalf.

Chair Schreiber discussed topics that will be discussed at the future meetings.

Ms. Flynn stated she will share red line versions of the documents edited during the meeting with Commission members for their review.

**Public Comment – 02:13:04**

No public comment was made.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:15AM.