

**Montana Community Choice Schools Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
September 25, 2024  
Zoom Webinar

**Call to Order – 00:18**

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; Katy Wright, Vice Chair; Jon Rutt, Treasurer; Cathy Kincheloe; Dee Brown. Board of Public Education (Board) staff present: McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist.

Guests online: Ms. Cheryl Tusken, Education Outreach Coordinator for the Frontier Institute; Mr. Matt Holloway, Education Consultant.

Ms. Cheryl Tusken introduced herself to the Commission and announced the public service of a new online resource, EdNavigateMT.com, that provides information about school choice in Montana, including information about publiccharter schools, homeschooling, the Special Needs ESA, and educational choices in general in Montana for parents and educators.

Mr. Matt Holloway introduced himself to the Commission stating he is interested in the Commission’s work and in starting some Community Choice Schools across the state.

**Item 1            Approve Consent Agenda – 04:51**

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

*No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

**Approve Agenda – 05:49**

*Member Brown moved to approve the agenda as presented.  
Motion seconded by Member Kincheloe.*

*No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.*

**Item 2            Chairperson Welcome Statement – 06:39**

Chair Schreiber welcomed members to the meeting, giving specific thanks to the National Charter School institute and to the work members have done on Commission Committees, specifically members of the Commission Steering Committee, Commission Policymaking Committee, and Commission Fundraising Committee. The Chair also thanked the Board staff for their support of the Commission’s work.

### **Item 3            Reports – 09:10**

Member Kincheloe discussed work the Commission Fundraising Committee has completed to raise funds for an executive director position for the Commission. The Committee has spoken with local and national foundations, and two foundations have been identified as possible sources of funding for the position and grant applications have been completed.

Member Brown discussed work by the Commission Policymaking Committee who worked with the National Charter School Institute to develop an application and a contract for authorizers which are contained in the agenda packet. The Committee met jointly with the Steering Committee on September 9, 2024 to discuss the responsibilities of other authorizers, and pieces of that discussion have been incorporated into the draft contract for authorizers.

Member Rutt presented the Treasurer’s Report to the Commission, reviewing the total amount of money donated, expenses incurred, and the current balance.

### **Item 4            Discussion & Business – 18:12**

Chair Schreiber put the Commission at ease for each of the discussion and business items.

#### Discussion: Authorizer Application Review Process Policy – 18:13

The Commission discussed the Authorizer Application Review Policy and potential work with Legislators during the 2025 Legislative Session. Member Brown offered her perspective and experience in the Legislature for how to best work with legislators. Chair Schreiber noted the timeline for approving authorizerstook into consideration Legislative schedules. . Members reviewed the timeline considering the timeline in place for Public Charter Schools for districts and discussed not having an overlapping timeline with that program since it may be inconvenient for the local school boards. The Chair noted that the timeframes can be adjusted again in the future if necessary. Minor edits were made to the application regarding Legislative Committee names.

***Member Brown moved to approve the Authorizer Application Review Process Policy for Authorizers as edited.  
Motion seconded by Member Kincheloe.***

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

#### Discussion: Authorizer Application – 33:53

Members reviewed the Authorizer Application discussing the application’s strengths and noted the parameters of the application are defined in statute. Chair Schreiber discussed potential revisions to the law pending the outcome of the lawsuit, and members discussed other potential revisions to the application and whether to revise it. No revisions were made to the application.

***Member Rutt moved to approve the Authorizer Contract as presented. Motion seconded by Member Brown.***

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

Discussion; Authorizer Contract – 44:32

Members reviewed the contract and mainly discussed terminology used in the contract to confirm everything matched up and had been fully considered.

***Member Brown moved to approve the Authorizer Contract as presented.  
Motion seconded by Member Kincheloe.***

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

Discussion: General Business –51:56

Member Wright brought up a quick general question about Open Enrollment laws and how they may vary between the PCS law and the CCS Act.

Commission members reviewed the Implementation Phases and Approximate Time Frames, and Chair Schreiber noted that Phase I and II are now complete. The Chair reviewed each of the next Phases and what will occur pending the outcome of the lawsuit.

Chair Schreiber reviewed a discussion held at the April Work Session regarding the possibility of the Commission building Model Policies for Choice Schools, and asked members whether this is something the Commission wants to take on. Members discussed the pros and cons, if there is a necessity for such model policies, and the topics for which model policies could be created including: assessment, discipline, attendance, Indian Education for All, special education students, crisis protocols, recruitment/lottery, and more. Chair Schreiber suggested the Steering Committee review creating potential model policies before determining if creating a subcommittee for the creation of model policies is necessary.

Members asked for a Doodle Poll to determine the date for the next meeting.

**Public Comment – 01:54:02**

No public comment.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 AM.