

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2025
Zoom

Tuesday, January 28, 2025
11:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER – 00:00:01

Chair Tharp called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM. The Chair led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Kris Stockton took Roll Call. The Chair read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests. Guests online introduced themselves to the Board.

Board members: Dr. Tim Tharp, Chair; Dr. Ron Slinger, Vice Chair; Ms. Renee Rasmussen; Ms. Madalyn Quinlan; Ms. Jane Hamman; Ms. Lisa Schmidt; Ms. Julia Maxwell. Ex Officio members: Superintendent Susie Hedalen, Office of Public Instruction, (OPI); Mr. Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Office. Staff: Ms. McCall Flynn, Executive Director; Ms. Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist; Ms. Julie Balsam, Accounting Technician. Guests: Laverne Barn; Mr. Todd Hanson, 4 Poles Consulting; Mr. Tim Hofer; Superintendent Dan McGee, Liberty School District; Ms. Jenine Synness, Business Clerk, Liberty School District; Ms. Aislinn Brown, Board Legal Counsel; Tyler Capece, Deputy Chief of Staff, OPI.

ADOPT AGENDA – 00:03:19

Board member Quinlan moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Board member Rasmussen.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ CHARTER COMMITTEE – Jane Hamman (Item 1)

Item 1 ACTION ON REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL ACT AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS – 00:03:50 Jane Hamman

Chair Tharp reviewed the options before the Board which were to request an Attorney General's Opinion or request legislation be passed to revise the Public Charter School Act. Charter Committee Chair Hamman asked Board members for possible ideas for discussion. Charter Committee Chair Hamman recommended requesting amendments be added to HB 250 regarding English Language Learners (ELL) and English as a Second Language (ESL) Students. Committee Chair Hamman reviewed the proposed amendment to HB 250 that she drafted pertaining to ELL and ESL students. Chair Tharp noted that the Board should determine what direction they want to take whether that is asking for legislation or asking for an Attorney General's Opinion regarding remote instruction, which is his recommendation. Vice Chair Slinger noted that a legislative fix would be his preference. Board member Quinlan stated her agreement with Vice Chair Slinger to provide a clear statement of the problem for the Legislature to consider. Committee Chair Hamman stated both routes should be addressed. Board member Schmidt shared her concerns of creating unintended consequences. Board member Maxwell stated that requesting an Attorney General's Opinion might allow the Board to have a clearer vision of what might need to be revised in the statute. Board member Rasmussen stated her concern with legislative action and that seeking a legal opinion is her preference, and she suggested writing a memo to the Chairs of House Education and Senate Education stating the situation the Board is in due to the current statute. Chair Hamman stated that under the current statute applications will continue to come in that will be caught in the same situation, and that an Attorney General's Opinion will not fix that issue, only legislation can correct the problem. Chair Tharp noted that both a letter from the Board to the Legislative Committees outlining the problem and a request for an Attorney General's Opinion can both be done at this meeting.

Board member Rasmussen moved under the direction of the Executive Committee to send a letter to the Legislative Education Committee's outlining the current situation regarding remote instruction and cultural issues, and to further move to direct the Executive

Committee, Executive Director, and Board Legal Counsel to draft a letter to request an Attorney General's opinion if there is no legislative correction. Motion seconded by Board member Quinlan.

Vice Chair Slinger noted his approval of the motion on the floor.

Board members discussed procedural questions.

Chair Tharp noted that legislators are aware of the issue and that it is important the Board stay in their lane regarding this issue.

Board member Quinlan noted it is important to clearly state the issue for the legislature.

Ms. Jenine Synness gave public comment supporting the Liberty Charter Application.

Mr. Todd Hanson gave public comment supporting the Liberty Charter Application.

Chair Tharp clarified the motion.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT – 00:48:13

No additional public comment.

Chair Tharp thanked Board member Hamman for her service.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:49 AM.

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Agenda items are handled in the order listed on the approved agenda. Items may be rearranged unless listed "time certain". Public comment is welcome on all items listed as "Action" and as noted at the beginning and end of each meeting.

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