



**MONTANA
COMMUNITY
CHOICE SCHOOLS**

Community Choice Schools Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2026

Zoom Webinar

Call to Order – (Recording Time Stamp) 00:05:02

Chair Schreiber called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. The Chair led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance, Cathy Kincheloe took Roll Call, and the Chair read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed guests.

Commission members present: Trish Schreiber, Chair; Jon Rutt, Vice Chair; Chip Lindenlaub, Treasurer; Dr. Katey Franklin, Taylor Ramos; Barbara Forrester-Frank; Commission Director of Planning, Cathy Kincheloe; Board of Public Education (Board) staff present: McCall Flynn, Executive Director, and Kris Stockton, Administrative Specialist.

Guests: Becca Brown, Lea Ann Munkres, Cheryl Tusken, Rain Turcotte, Todd Hanson, Senator Dave Fern, and Senator Becky Beard.

*Please note the Commission used the Zoom Handraising function for all votes which is visible on the live Zoom stream but not on the recording. In the future, Members will physically raise their hands when voting to be visible to the public on the posted recording.

Public Comment – 00:06:49

None offered.

Item 1 **Approve Consent Agenda** – 00:07:46

Member Forrester-Frank moved to approve the Consent Agenda containing the December 9, 2025 Minutes. Motion seconded by Member Rutt.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Agenda – 00:08:47

Member Franklin moved to adopt the agenda for February 18, 2026. Motion seconded by Member Lindenlaub.

No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 2 **Chairperson Welcome Statement** - 00:09:29

Chair Schreiber welcomed attendees and acknowledged the work of the Director of Planning, subcommittees, and the National Charter Schools Institute in preparing draft policies for consideration.

Item 3 Discussion and Business: – 00:11:27

1) Approval for Working with Lawyer in 2026

Chair Schreiber moved to apply remaining funds from the 2025 Bradley Grant toward a legal retainer to complete legal review of Commission policies to ensure compliance with state and federal law. Motion seconded by Member Lindenlaub.

Chair Schreiber called for discussion from public comment. No comments offered.

Motion passed unanimously.

2) Renewal Policy

Chair Schreiber called for a motion to open discussion.

Member Lindenlaub made a motion to adopt the Renewal Policy. Motion seconded by Member Rutt.

Chair Schreiber opened public comment. No comment offered.

Motion passed unanimously.

3) Corrective Action Intervention Policy

Chair Schreiber called for a motion to open discussion.

Member Rutt made a motion to approve the School Corrective Action Intervention Guidebook. Motion seconded by Chair Schreiber.

Chair Schreiber opened public comment. No comment offered.

Motion passed unanimously.

4) Revocation Policy

Chair Schreiber called for a motion to open up discussion.

Member Lindenlaub made a motion to adopt the Revocation Policy. Motion seconded by Member Rutt.

Chair Schreiber opened public comment. No comment offered.

Motion passed unanimously.

5) Closure Policy

Chair Schreiber called for a motion to open up discussion.

Member Rutt made a motion to adopt the Closure Policy . Motion seconded by Member Lindenlaub.

Chair Schreiber opened public comment. No comment offered.

Motion passed unanimously.

Item 4 Presentation – 01:01:22

Dr. William Sullivan and Joe Marr of **The Solomon Group Research Associates** presented recommendations regarding student assessment options for the application and contracting phases of authorizing.

Recommended assessments included:

- Northwest Education Association Measures of Progress (NWEA MAP)
- iReady Diagnostic
- Montana Aligned to Standards Through Year (MAST)
- American College Test (ACT)

Public questions were received.

Break – 02:28:00

Item 5 Reports – 02:44:33

In the **Chairperson Report**, Chair Schreiber thanked the Director of Planning and Subcommittees for taking the lead in accomplishing the majority of work since the last meeting. The Executive Committee has been active in Bi-weekly meetings one with the Director of Planning and the other with Executive Director of the Board of Public Education. The Executive Committee is also participating in board coaching sessions with Jim Goenner the CEO of the National Charter Schools Institute through the contract period which ends June of 2026.

Member Lindenlaub presented the **Treasurer Report** detailing the revenue and expenditures of the Commission since the last report with a remaining budget of approximately \$72,000 currently in the account with an additional \$200,000 to be deposited by the end of the month from the 2026 grant. Major expenditures for the 2026 budget were shared.

The **Policy Making Committee Report** was delivered by Member Rutt calling attention to the work of the Committee in reviewing and providing feedback on all the policies reviewed in this meeting prior to coming to the Commission.

In the **Fundraising Subcommittee Report**, Taylor Ramos reiterated the 2026 grant funds will be received by the end of the week. The website was updated in formatting and content to both be a better resource to potential school founders and donors. The Committee will be working to develop a fundraising campaign.

Member Forrester-Frank reported on the progress of the **Special Education Consideration Subcommittee** in relation to the best path forward to ensure compliant and quality Special Education programs for Community Choice Schools. The RFP posted in November was significantly under budget, leading the Committee to re-group their approach pulling from existing resources, considering consultant training, and legal review. Chair Schreiber noted how valuable Member Forrester-Frank's experience has been to the Subcommittee so far.

In the **Director of Planning Report** Cathy Kincheloe led the Commission through a flow chart detailing the cycle of Community Choice schools from application through renewal or closure as it relates to the policies approved today and work to refine other supporting documents that were developed prior to the policy development. A presentation of the Commission's Annual Report template was made at the January Board of Public Education

meeting, and feedback from BPE Members was shared. The Annual Report template along with updates on the Commission's progress in building out policy will also be shared with the Education Interim Committee and Education Budget Interim Committee at their combined March meeting. The Director of Planning shared highlights from conversations with the Idaho Commission's Director and non-profit charter support network BLUUM as it applies to the Commission's work. The Commission's NACSA membership has opened several communities of practice in which the Director is participating. Finally opportunities for Members to attend upcoming chartering conferences were shared.

Item 6 Board of Public Education Executive Director Report and Discussion – 03:09:42

Executive Director McCall Flynn presented a report on the responsibilities and current work of the Board of Public Education and its coordination with the Office of Public Instruction.

Public Comment – 03:41:18

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at - 03:43:10