

Alabama Public Charter School Commission
August 30, 2024 12:00 P.M.
Via Zoom

MINUTES

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission (APCSC) meeting took place August 30, 2024, at 12:00 P.M. via a Zoom meeting to consider matters relevant to duties of the Alabama Public Charter School Commission outlined in the *Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act* for public charter schools in Alabama.

Welcome, Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Presiding: Dr. Shelia Austin, Chairman

The following commission members were present via Zoom:

- Dr. Shelia Austin
- Ms. Deborah Alvis
- Mrs. Marla Green
- Dr. Faron Hollinger
- Dr. Dorothy Houston
- Mr. Ryan Kendall
- Dr. M Javed Khan
- Mr. Charles Knight
- Dr. Cynthia McCarty
- Dr. Sharon Porterfield

Absent

- Mrs. Julie Ann McCulley
- Ms. Terri Reynolds
- Mrs. LaKeisha Wheeler

Also present: Mrs. Logan Searcy, Alabama Charter School Commission Executive Director
Mr. Lane Knight, Esq.

On motion by Commissioner Knight and seconded by Commissioner Alvis, the commission voted unanimously to approve the agenda and the minutes for the August 19, 2024 meeting.

Consideration of Amendment to Legal Services Contract

On motion by Commissioner Green and seconded by Commissioner Hollinger, the commission voted unanimously to approve an increase in the legal services contract amount to \$150,000 for the remainder of the two year contract.

Consideration of Preopening Conditions for Freedom Prep Birmingham Campus

Executive Director Searcy stated that Freedom Prep has not met the preopening conditions for opening on September 3, 2024, the school leadership is asking to extend opening until September 9, 2024. The school representatives shared a timeline to complete all missing documentation. Commissioner Hollinger made a motion to approve a one year delay for opening Freedom Prep. Commissioner Porterfield seconded. The Vote was Yes - 2, No – 8, the motion failed.

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|------------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|---------------------|----|
| Dr. Shelia Austin | No | Dr. Faron Hollinger | Yes | Dr. M Javed Khan | No |
| Ms. Deborah Alvis | No | Dr. Dorothy Houston | No | Mr. Charles Knight | No |
| Mrs. Marla Green | No | Mr. Ryan Kendall | No | Dr. Cynthia McCarty | No |
| Dr. Sharon Porterfield | Yes | | | | |

Chairman Austin asked for discussion. Commissioners asked questions about funding plans to cover the delays. The school leadership gave assurances that they have plans to cover expenses necessary to operate. Commissioner Knight made a motion and seconded by Commissioner Khan to approve an extension to open Freedom Prep by September 9, 2024. Commissioner Austin asked for additional questions or comments. Commissioner Knight asked if he could change the extension date in the motion he made to September 13, 2024. The commission was advised that they would need to vote to allow the change. Commissioner Knight made a motion to change the extension date in original motion to September 13, 2024, Commissioner Khan seconded. The vote was unanimous to approve the extension date change to September 13, 2024. Chairman Austin then called for a vote on the original motion with the amended date. On motion by Commissioner Knight and seconded by Commissioner Khan the commission voted unanimously to approve an extension to open Freedom Prep by September 13, 2024.

Executive Director Update

1. Director Searcy stated that she will notify the commissioners when the approvals are given for Freedom Prep's opening.
2. Plans for the commission's learning seminar – September 19 – 20, 2024, in Birmingham, are almost complete. There will be exciting learning and training opportunities presented. There will also be an opportunity for the commissioners to work on their strategic plan. A virtual commission meeting will be held September 20th, at 11:00 A.M.
3. Director Searcy is looking forward to a great year!

Adjourn

Chairman Austin thanked everyone for their time. On motion by Commissioner Khan and seconded by Commissioner Knight the commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

Submitted by Peggy Haveard Printed Name: Peggy Haveard

Approved by Shelia Austin Printed Name: Shelia Austin