

**Alabama Public Charter School Commission
May 9, 2023 10:00 A.M.
In Person and Via Zoom**

MINUTES

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission (APCSC) met on May 9, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. in a in person and 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, Introductions, Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Vice Chairman Ferrer welcomed everyone to the meeting. Roll was taken by Mrs. Logan Searcy. Six members were present, which represented a quorum. Members of the Commission who participated:

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| Louis Ferrer | Paul Morin |
| Marla Green | Anthony Overton (absent) |
| Ryan Kendall | Sydney Raine (absent) |
| Julie Ann McCulley | Lakeshia Wheeler |
| Ty Moody (absent) | Vernet Nettles (Rotating Commissioner) |

← Approved

Vice Chairman Ferrer then asked if there was any discussion regarding the minutes or today's agenda and if not, was there a motion to approve today's agenda and the minutes from the April 11, 2023, meeting. Commissioner Wheeler made a motion to approve today's agenda and the minutes. Commissioner Kendall seconded. The vote was unanimous. The minutes and agenda were approved.

Consideration of Changes to Bylaws

Vice Chairman Ferrer open the floor to the consideration of changes to the bylaws. Vice Chairman Ferrer stated that from the discussion during the work session the decision was to have a vote on changes to section 4-3 of the commissions' bylaws. The changes would be that the commission chairperson or vice chairperson could not sign any contract or document without prior approval of the commission. Vice Chairman Ferrer asked Mrs. Searcy to read aloud the purposed change to the bylaw. Mrs. Searcy Read: The chairperson shall preside over all meetings of the commission. The chairperson shall be authorized to enter into any contract or agreement on behalf of the commission and to execute in the commission's name any instrument or other writing upon approval of the commission. Vice Chairman Ferrer asked for a motion to approve the proposed change as read to section 4-3 of the bylaws. Commissioner Wheeler made the motion to accept the changes as read to section 4-3 of the bylaws. Commissioner Kendall seconded. The vote was unanimous, 6 yes. The changes to section 4-3 of the bylaws were approved.

Charter School Renewal Timeline

Vice Chairman Ferrer moved to the approval of the Charter School Renewal Timeline. There had been discussion on the Renewal Timeline during the work session Vice Chairman Ferrer asked if there were additional questions or comments, if not a motion to accept the Charter School Renewal Timeline. Commissioner Kendall made a motion to accept the Charter School Renewal Timeline. Commissioner Wheeler seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 6 yes. The Charter School Renewal Timeline was approved.

Consideration of Performance Framework and Rubric for Renewal

Vice Chairman Ferrer stated that during the work session prior to this meeting there was discussion that there should be a work session next week to discuss, in depth, the Performance Framework and Rubric for Renewal. So, for now the consideration of the Performance Framework and Rubric for Renewal would be tabled. He asked for further comments/questions, if none then a motion to table the consideration of the Performance Framework and the Rubric for Renewal until after the commission's work session next week. Commissioner Kendall made a motion to table the

consideration of the Performance Framework and the Rubric for Renewal until after the commission's work session next week. Commissioner Wheeler seconded. The vote was unanimous, 6 yes. The motion to table the consideration of the Performance Framework and the Rubric for Renewal was approved.

Presentation by I Dream Big

Vice Chairman Ferrer turned the floor over to the leadership of I Dream Big to make a presentation to the commissioners supporting the overturning their application denial by Montgomery County Public Schools and accepting their charter school application. The I Dream Big leadership team was led by Dr. Angela Lang, and Dr. Lucretia Prince. The leadership team thanked the commission for the time to share why I Dream Big Academy's application should be accepted. Dr. Lang introduced Allen Bowen President of the Board for I Dream Big. He stated that the community that I Dream Big wants to serve can't afford private school and only a small percentage are fortunate enough to be chosen for a magnet school. Mr. Bowen stated that I Dream Big is partnering with Big Picture Learning to bring an education model to Montgomery that has a proven track record of success. This model is in over two hundred schools worldwide and sixty five in U.S. schools. On average their students mirror ours with seventy five percent on free and reduced lunch. Yet it boasts a graduation rate of ninety five percent and a college acceptance rate above ninety five percent. He also shared that the leadership team has a track record of academic success with over sixty five years of combined educational experience. Dr. Lang stated that the educational model focuses on three areas rigorous academics, relevant learning experiences and a relationship driven culture. Dr. Lang introduced Dr. Sonn Regional Director for Big Picture Learning for an overview of the learning program. The heart of the design is student driven real world learning and building eco systems around the students. One thing we focus on is students leveraging their interests and connecting them to authentic work in the real world. In building a real learning portfolio we take pride in supporting the school's building capacity for student centered learning, instructional teaching and learning that is the suite of professional development that we spend time with schools and building capacity on design development. We help with creating a strategic plan and then we build an intentional professional development plan. Dr. Sonn stated in the beginning of the year it's startup in-service and we work intentionally to build capacity of the staff. We have quarterly check ins both virtual and in person. There is also a learning platform. He shared that the entire coaching methodology is centered on building capacity on site so that when our schools are successful with our coaching model, they will not need us anymore. There is a combination of academic rigor, industry rigor, and also to social, emotional rigor that we really push for. We will work side by side and develop the professional development with the teams. Dr. Lang said I Dream Big also has partners to support real world learning exposure. Dr. Lang introduced General Sparrow who is retired from both the U.S. Airforce and the Alabama Air National Guard. He is currently with the Red Tail Scholarship Foundation as well as flying with FedEx. General Sparrow said that the format that I Dream Big proposes for exposing students to aviation, having students around airplanes learning either how to fly them or work on them as an airplane mechanic, that career development is critical. General Sparrow said that the format I Dream Big has is ideal for being exposed to aviation, having formal education during the day but also being able to be around the airplanes and aviation hangers and learning about aviation is very STEM related. Red Tail Scholarship Foundation has started this program as a way to expose underserved communities to the possibility of an aviation career. We have a flight school, and we do our own maintenance also, in Tuskegee. It's the same airfield where the Tuskegee Airmen learned to fly all those years ago. It is a nonprofit and we have placed a half dozen commercial pilots and six or seven into the U.S. Airforce. Dr. Lang then introduced another company partner. Ms. Stokes President of Tidal IT Solutions and Executive Director of Tech MGM. Ms. Stokes said that one of their programs AWS Academy teaches cloud and computer curriculum. She stated that data and cloud computing are some of the most sought after positions by companies. Software developers is the field that will grow the most in Alabama over the next three years with an increase of about thirty percent. The AWS curriculum does give industry level certifications and will help students land good paying jobs. Also, giving hands on experience and learning. This program is in very high demand, and we would be glad to answer any questions. Dr. Lang stated that this was just a few examples of partnerships to help our students in careers. Dr. Lang also shared that I Dream Big has partnered with New Schools in Alabama to provide Back Office support for accounting/ finance, HR, and federal

programs. They also collaborated with New Schools for Alabama on developing a job description for Director of Operations. One of our founders has served as a Director of Transportation and is working on our transportation plan. The collaboration I Dream Big has with New Schools in Alabama is similar to plans of other current charter schools. Dr. Lang shared they have secured a school site. The building was formally the campus of Virginia College with 51,348 sq. ft. I dream Big is working with Ten Square Development to make all repairs and improvements with a 3 to 6 month time frame for completion. Dr. Lang continued stating that stakeholders have been engaged since 2020 – 2023. The leadership team have multiple community outreach events such as surveys, interviews, focus groups, community pop up events, zoom informational and from our public hearing we have received very positive community support. Dr. Lang shared a list of partners that have committed funds to I Dream Big to total 1,544,600. She stated that this total of committed and verifiable funds exceeds any amount submitted to Montgomery County Public Schools from any other applicant.

Dr. Lang turned the floor over to Dr. Prince to share how Montgomery County Public Schools concerns used to deny the application were not supported by the artifacts. I Dream Big contends that the evidence presented does not warrant a denial in regard to not having a quality education design, insufficient community engagement and unverifiable funding to start up operations. MPS erred in its application of the National Association of Charter School Authorizers principals and standards and failed to ensure fair, transparent, quality-focused procedures because it failed to: Standard 3: utilize a multi-stage process in which applicants are provided information at each stage and are permitted to respond to that information during the process. Because MPS failed to provide IDBA with a copy of the external evaluation and denied IDBA an opportunity to respond to the evaluation during the most critical juncture of the process. Standard 1: Support and advance the purposes of charter school law by failing to provide an adequate opportunity for families, students, and community members to share public comments during the Public Hearing. Also from Standard 1: Support and advance the purposes of charter school law because MPS made unreasonable requests not recognized by national authorizing standards. Standard 2: ensures that the authorizer's governing board, leadership, and staff understand and are committed to the three Core Principles of authorizing because members voiced their decision to not approve the charter prior to the application being submitted and prior to it being evaluated. Dr. Prince also shared that I Dream Big Academy believes they lost several points in error on the outside elevation that had they received would have elevated the application above the cut score. Dr. Prince said we know we've shared a lot, but we hope you will consider or application in its totality and evidence like our experienced leadership team and board, evidence of a quality education design, industry partnerships, identified facility, verifiable and committed grant funds exceeding \$1,500,000, significant community need and community interest. Most of all our students. Pastor Rambert a board member and senior pastor of a church in the area to be served by I Dream Big Academy gave a closing statement. Stating that from the beginning Dr. Lang and Dr. Price have been consistently sharing the vision of I Dream Big Academy and the first time I've seen families excited about education. It is a vision that I believe will be a great asset to Montgomery Public School System and I pray you will consider overturning our denial and allowing us to come along side to be a partner to make Montgomery a better place. Thank you. Vice Chairman Ferrer thanked them for their presentation and asked if any one from the commission have any questions for the presenters?

Overview from Rotating Commissioner

Vice Chairman Ferrer turned the floor over to the rotating commissioner from the authorizer Montgomery County Public School Dr. Vernet Nettles. Dr. Nettles shared the charter application process. The charter school application process consists of individual and collective reading and reviewing by the application review panel and an external evaluator. The review panel consists of myself, the superintendent, and the superintendent's senior cabinet. The senior cabinet consists of the associate superintendents of human resources and student resources, our chief financial officer, director of daily operations, and our chief of staff. The review panel consists of someone from every aspect of running a school system. After the application was reviewed the questions the review panel have related to the application were provided to I Dream Big and they were able to respond to those questions. They were provided those questions on January 11, 2023 and I received a response from Dr. Lang on January 17, 2023. As required by statute there was a public

forum held on January 5, 2023. On January 17, 2023 we hosted the capacity interview with I Dream Big and on January 24, 2023 I Dream Big was given opportunity to speak to the school board. The application process that we completed was based on the information that was provided to us during the application process. Dr. Nettles said there are some things mentioned today that were not part of the application that was submitted in November. The review process resulted in the following being areas of concern. The Financial Plan and Capacity was the most concerning at the time the original application was reviewed. The documented funds were not enough to document strong long term fiscal viability, and many of the funds were not guaranteed at the time of the initial review. There were concerns about funding for building renovations and long term building maintenance. Transportation cost were also a concern because the facility is located 3-5 miles farther from other schools that serve the targeted neighborhood. Dr Nettles said you might not think 3-5 miles is a lot but to us when you look at where the neighborhood is and where the building is, which is past Eastdale Mall, to us that was a concern in relation to transportation cost and the ability to actually impact the neighborhood or community. There is also a heavy reliance on state allocated dollars. Dr. Nettles stated that state dollars are based on student attendance and legislative action. It's even difficult for large systems to know how much their going to have based on a number from the previous school year. The I Dream Big Academy's education plan was also a concern. I Dream Big promotes robust programs but their plan consists of multiple programs that each require professional development. There is a challenge to provide the intensive professional development for so many programs that would allow a brand new faculty to implement all of the programs at once to fidelity. I Dream Big Academy includes high school grade levels and there are some scheduling concerns that might negatively impact students who want to participate in high school athletics. I Dream Big questioned our concern about their creative scheduling. But the Alabama High School Athletic Association provides the guidance for athletics and the time on task requirements is governed by the State Department of Education. Another concern was stake holders engagement. The original documentation presented appeared to be the same as presented in a previous application cycle and there seemed to be limited current stake holder engagement documentation. Additionally, there was no documentation that suggests parents of middle and high school students would commit to attend the school. Dr. Nettles noted Cognia's review of the I Dream Big charter application had some of the same concerns that were expressed during the MPS review process, including the acknowledgement of the number of initiatives and the limited amount of time to provide the training to fidelity and funding for additional initiatives, the attendance on emersion days and long term fiscal viability. Dr Nettles said she would like to take some time to respond to some of the issues presented by I Dream Big in their appeal letter and those presented today. I Dream Big stated that MPS did not ensure truly fair ,transparent, quality focused procedures according to NACSA standards. Dr. Nettles said that as the charter liaison she communicated regularly with Dr Lang to provide her the process and ask her for any missing information; to establish meeting dates, times and made sure any questions she had were addressed throughout the process. Most of the communication was done via email and she said there were a couple of phone calls. I Dream Big's appeal letter referenced several comments made or overheard. The commission can rest assured that the superintendent fully participated in of the review the community meetings and has knowledge of the content of the application. Comments did not come to bear with our response to this application process. Board members were provided with the application timeline and questions for I Dream Big and their responses in order to cast their vote. Their vote was based on information provided and not an opinion. I can't speak to anything said during the summer because the application process doesn't begin until September and continues through January. I Dream Big also says that Montgomery Public Schools didn't provide adequate opportunity for stakeholder comments. The statute states there should be a public forum held for local residents to learn and get information on a proposed charter school and provide input. The documents provided within the application are basis for the decision being made. The public forum only allows for additional reflection to be heard from the community and the public forum doesn't dictate the decision by the committee. Dr. Nettle said she would like to add that because it has been stated twice that the community were asked if they had questions, not if they had comments, she listened to the tape again and the last statement she made was "are there an additional questions or comments to be made" and there were none. We can't determine who will or won't speak, but we can provide the opportunity to speak. I Dream Big further addresses

stakeholder engagement concerns and we acknowledge the work that has been done. The documentation provided does imply that they've been working in the community since 2020 however the numbers, the data presented do not, in our opinion, collectively, or individually seem to represent the number of students that are projected to enroll for the opening school year. The financial planning capacity section of the application was reviewed and vetted by veteran educators. our superintendent. CSFO, our associate superintendent of human resources, and an external evaluator. Each member individually and collectively was concerned about the long term viability of the school without secured funds. I Dream also references state funding. As was stated earlier state funding is based on counts of students actually in the building. Therefore, cannot be assumed to be an initial reliable fund source as it was presented during our application process. Today it was presented on the back end. That's a difference in what was presented to us. Dr. Nettles stated that Montgomery County Public Schools is charged as an authorizer to approve a public school application based on a multistage process and adheres to Alabama educational law and practices, an application that has the ability to thrive independently over multiple years. There have been some questions about a multistage process. I'm not aware of anything else that should have been done. Dr. Nettles repeated the application process timeline followed for the I Dream Big application. She stated that on January 24th I Dream Big presented to the board and it was on that date the application was denied. There was a conversation about a month after the January 24th date that they received information. When comments were provided to, I Dream Big on January 11th for their responses they had all of the information at that point that we had to give them. Nothing I've seen or been given to me says I have to tell an applicant before the board vote what the outcome is going to be. There's nothing to give them that would say this is going to be the outcome. The board sees the application and attachments, they receive the questions and responses in order for them to ask questions themselves and make a sound decision. After reviewing the application and attachments, working with the outside evaluator, and after talking consistently with the superintendent we felt that the I Dream Big application should not be approved. We don't feel we made an error in our decision.

Questions

Vice Chairman open the floor for questions, statements, or concerns from the commissioners. Dr. Lang asked if she could make a statement. She stated she did not ask for or expect to know how the board would vote before a vote. What we didn't see until after the vote is the document that you have in front of you now. The document Dr. Nettles walked you through telling you in this section we received this score, and, in that section, we received that score. We didn't receive that information before or during our board hearing. We didn't have that document to present information or speak to those areas. That document was provided a month after the board meeting. Vice Chairman asked if any commissioner has a question, concern, or statement? Commissioner Morin thanked everyone for what they've said. He said as a commissioner I'm going to be very transparent and honest. Right now, as a commissioner I'm being asked to overturn the local authorizer and overturn our own external evaluator who read, scored, and did all of the steps available with all the available information and materials at the time. Unfortunately, we've been faced with this before. When additional information, and artifacts are submitted afterward it places us in a very precarious situation, and circumstance. It then becomes a road map on what the applicant is supposed to fix. I have a problem with that. Commissioner Kendall said the one comment I would make is that it an extremely high hurdle to decide that the local authorizer error in their decision. Commissioner Morin stated that just because the commission may decide to not overturn the authorizer doesn't mean that the applicant can't take all the information and resubmit.

Consideration of the Appeal from I Dream Big

Vice Chairman Ferrer since there are no further comments or questions could we get a motion to overturn the denial by Montgomery County Public Schools and accept I Dream Big Academy's charter school application. Commissioner Wheeler made the motion to overturn the denial by Montgomery County Public School and accept I Dream Big Academy's charter school application. Commissioner Kendall seconded.

The vote was: 2 – Yes, 5 – No The motion did not pass. The Montgomery County Public Schools denial is upheld. The I Dream Big Academy's charter application is not accepted.

Louis Ferrer - No
Marla Green - Yes
Ryan Kendall - No
Julie Ann McCulley - No

Paul Morin - No
Lakeshia Wheeler - Yes
Vernet Nettles – No (rotating commissioner)

Commissioners absent: Ty Moody, Anthony Overton, Sydney Raine

Consideration of the Resolution

Vice Chairman Ferrer asked that the resolution accepting the commission vote to uphold the denial by Montgomery County Public Schools and not accepting the I Dream Big Academy's charter school application be circulated to all commissioners. There was a pause for the commissioners to read the circulated resolution. Vice Chairman Ferrer asked for a motion to approve the resolution to not approve I Dream Big Academy's application and uphold Montgomery County Public Schools' denial. Commissioner Wheeler made the motion to accept the resolution upholding the denial by Montgomery County Public Schools and not accepting I Dream Big Academy's charter school application. Commissioner Kendall seconded. The vote was unanimous 7 – Yes. The resolution to accept the vote upholding the denial by Montgomery County Public School's denial and not accepting I Dream Big Academy's charter school application is approved.

Presentation of Independence Preparatory Academy, a proposed charter school in Fairfield

Vice Chairman turned the floor over to the leadership of Independence Preparatory Academy (iPrep) a proposed charter school in Fairfield. Dr. Calandra Sales greeted everyone and thanked the commission. Dr. Sales introduced herself. A native of Alabama with 22 years of experience as an educator in traditional public schools and charter schools. She shared her experiences working with two of the highest performing charter schools in the nation. Dr. Sales has a proven track record transforming academic outcomes for students in urban public schools. She said with her experience she will be able to impact the future student learners at Independence Preparatory Academy. Dr. Sales shared the proposed board of directors and their diversity and wide range of expertise in areas such as systems management, operations and safety, financial analyst, real estate, education, communication, human resources, and corporate law. The board will oversee the strategic direction of iPrep to ensure we will remain compliant with the charter agreement and Alabama schools choice and student opportunity act, We are most proud that 50 % of our proposed board members are natives of, or reside in, work in, or worship in the City of Fairfield and remain closely connected to the community and its efforts to improve. She stated the school mission serves as their north star. Dr. Sales shared that during its prime Fairfield boasted economic growth but as the steel industry waned the city's population and tax base declined. By providing an excellent school option iPrep can prepare students for college and career success and contribute to a renewed and thriving city. She shared some of Fairfield's 2022 ACAP scores 21% percent are proficient in ELA, 4% are proficient in math, the graduation rate has improved but it is still 40% below the state average. The average score of Fairfield High School students is 14. This disparity leads to the students' limited opportunities for post-graduation opportunities. Black and economically disadvantaged students were limited to CTE credentials. Our mission is to foster a learning environment that prepares students to break the cycle of poverty, improve their lives and strengthen their community. Dr. Sales said we embrace this approach by designing student centered instruction to support unfinished learning and ensure standards mastery while fostering social and emotional learning in a nurturing and predictable environment through our 3 key design elements: Voice and choice, Character and culture building, and College and career exploration. Dr. Sales explained each key design and she noted pages and appendix in their application where the specifics are listed. One of our strengths is our work engaging our community. Our community is essential to our model. Our success depends on our close relationship with our students, teachers, school leadership, staff and the support of parents and family from enrollment to graduation and beyond. We see each student as a part of our family. Under the guidance of BEC and New Schools for Alabama iPrep created a prototype and tested many of the assumptions on which our model is built by actively engaging over 200 citizens in Fairfield and surrounding area. The founding team has conducted 3 community meetings and 2 virtual meetings. During our sessions we received feedback. We also launched social media platforms and we engaged over 50 families with impact surveys. An average of 90% responded in support

of our model and design elements. Dr. Sales shared that they are in a unique position building up a cash reserve in our planning year. We are excited about the potential to raise \$2,445,000 in philanthropy during our planning year and that doesn't include the anticipated board contributions. She said they have confirmed grants from New Schools for Alabama and BES totaling \$330,000. Independence Prep is currently a finalist for grants from Charter School Growth Fund (\$250,000) and New Schools Venture Fund (\$215,000). Additionally strong prospect with EBSCO Industries (\$100,000) Mike and Gillian Goodrich Foundation (\$25,000), The Daniel Foundation of Alabama (\$25,000) and a Charter Schools Program through New Schools for Alabama (\$1,500,000). She shared a list of Key Partnerships and stated that Independence Prep is so proud to have these partners behind them and supporting their efforts. Dr. Sales thanked the commission for the opportunity to share our vision to bring high quality school option to the most deserving kids in Fairfield. We recognize the great responsibility we hold, and we are the stewards in our efforts to change the trajectory of students lives and look forward to a potential partnership with the commission to ensure great success for our future students.

Questions

Vice Chairman Ferrer opened the floor for questions, concerns, or comments from the commissioners. Commissioner Morin Thanked Dr. Sales. He stated he does have a few concerns. The number one concern is Fairfield City is struggling and declared bankruptcy. Many city services are being absorbed by either Jefferson County or Birmingham City because of a lack of funding and that will have an impact. He also shared that Fairfield's superintendent at our last hearing said transportation is a huge problem and a very costly issue. I'm going to need substantial proof on how transportation of students is going to be addressed. Even C&P is a problem because statewide we have a deficit of people able to work in the C&P program. Vice Chairman Ferrer said he had a few questions. He said that Independence Prep will have special education students and there could be transportation problems, operations, finance. What is your projected number of special education students and how are you going to handle that? Dr. Sales: We have looked at the percentage of special education students in Fairfield now and the surrounding areas because we might draw students from those areas. Fairfield has about 18% special education students and we are anticipating about 20 – 22%. We know sometimes charter can draw students with greater needs. We are anticipating about 10% of our initial 180 students to have formal IEPs. We are planning opening with a special needs coordinator. Our coordinator is going to be ready to supply any contract service we might need and provide direct services to our students. Vice Chairman Ferrer followed up asking how many educationally delayed students are they anticipating? Dr. Sales said they don't have an exact number, but we will use the same procedures and services as with any other special needs student. Vice Chairman Ferrer then asked what are your plans for English learner population? Dr. Sales said we are anticipating 2-3% of our population to be English learners. Vice Chairman Ferrer asked Dr. Sales to go back to the start-up financial slide. He asked her what percentage of the \$2,000,000 in the strong potential column do you need to be able to operate the school. Dr Sales responded we are in a unique position to be able to operate our model on state dollars and not depend on philanthropy. Philanthropy will enhance our model. We are very excited about this because we will be able to do innovative things for the school. Commissioner Green asked Dr. Sales to hear about the day to day administrators. Dr. Sales we are looking to have an executive director, which is myself, a dean of academics to be groomed to be principal as we grow, a director of operations which will be the first hire. We will have literacy and math specialist, a student culture advisor, special needs coordinator, and counselor. Vice Chairman Ferrer asked what about finance? Dr. Sales yes, Back Office is our provider. We will partner with them. In house our director of operations will be our financial liaison and will work closely with the New Schools for Alabama team. Vice Chairman Ferrer asked who will be making the decisions and what are their qualifications? Dr. Sales asked are you asking about at the school? The financial responsibility lives in the board. Robert Wade, who is here, is a financial analyst with Shipt. He is going to serve on our financial committee as our proposed treasurer. Vice Chairman Ferrer asked will the head of school have the working knowledge and ability to run a school? Dr. Sales responded that would be me. Even though I have never formally been a principal I have worked coaching four first year principals. I supported them in all things in principalship. In the areas I'm still growing and learning I lean heavily on the fellowship programs I've been in. I've also spent a year learning with New Schools in Alabama. That

support will continue. I will have a coach supporting me. Three years of support from BES. Vice Chairman Ferrer asked if there were any other questions, concerns, or comments from the commissioners? There were none.

Consideration of the Application for Independence Preparatory Academy

Vice Chairman Ferrer asked for a motion to accept the charter school application for Independence Preparatory Academy. Commissioner Wheeler made the motion to accept the charter school application for Independence Preparatory Academy. Commissioner Kendall seconded. The vote was unanimous 6 – Yes. The motion passes. The charter school application for Independence Preparatory Academy was accepted.

Consideration of the Resolution

Vice Chairman Ferrer asked for a motion to approve the resolution accepting the vote on Independence Preparatory Academy charter school application. The commission paused for the commissioners to read the resolution. During the pause Dr. Sales thanked the commission for their decision. Vice Chairman Ferrer asked for comments or questions. Then called for a motion. Commissioner Kendall made the motion to accept the resolution accepting the charter school application for Independence Preparatory Academy. Commissioner Wheeler seconded. The vote was unanimous 6 – Yes. The motion passed. The resolution was accepted.

Adjourn

Vice Chairman Ferrer reminded everyone of the work session May 17, 2023. The time will be determined later. He then called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kendall made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wheeler seconded. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned.