

Alabama Public Charter School Commission
July 22, 2024 9:00 A.M.
Via Zoom

MINUTES

The Alabama Public Charter School Commission (APCSC) meeting took place July 22, 2024, at 9:00 A.M. in 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

Co-chairman Austin welcomed everyone to the meeting. Roll call was taken by Executive Director Logan Searcy. Eleven Commission members were present which represented a quorum. Members of the Commission who participated:

Shelia Austin	Charles Knight
Deborah Alvis	Cynthia McCarty
Marla Green	Julie Ann McCulley (absent)
Faron Hollinger	Sharon Porterfield
Dorothy Houston	Terri Reynolds
Ryan Kendall	LaKeisha Wheeler
M Javed Khan (absent)	

Co-Chairman Austin asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2024, meeting. Commissioner Knight made a motion to approve the June 12, 2024, minutes and Commissioner McCarty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 11 – Yes. Co-chairman Austin asked for a motion to accept today’s agenda. Commissioner McCarty made a motion to approve today’s agenda and Commissioner Knight seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 11 – Yes. Today’s agenda and minutes were approved.

Consideration of the Rehearing of the Appeal of Shorter Achievement Zone

Lane Knight explained the rehearing process to the commission. He introduced the attorney for Shorter Achievement Zone, Arron Detling. Mr. Detling thanked the commission for having a meeting to hear their appeal for a rehearing. He shared the point in the law that would warrant a rehearing which was the decision was capricious and arbitrary because the school application directly behind Shorter Achievement Zone was given a conditional approval for the same questions.

The Co-Chairman asked for a motion to move into executive session. Commissioner Houston made a motion for the commission to move into executive session and Commissioner Porterfield seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 11 – Yes. The commission moved into executive session. The Co-chairman called for a motion to reconvene the commission meeting. Commissioner Knight made a motion to reconvene the meeting; Commissioner Hollinger seconded. The vote was unanimous 11-Yes. The meeting was reconvened. The Co-Chairman asked for a motion to approve the request of Shorter Achievement Zone for a rehearing of their application appeal. Commissioner Kendall made a motion to approve Shorter Achievement Zone’s request for a rehearing of their application appeal. Commissioner Knight seconded. Co-Chairman Austin asked for questions or comment. Commissioner Green asked why had the authorizer, Macon County, opposed the school. Dr. Melissa Williams, Superintendent, and Dr. Douglas Taylor, Director of Human Resources, shared the areas of weakness in the application submitted for Shorter Achievement Zone. The representative from Shorter Achievement Zone, Mr.

Rubin Morris, shared that most of the documents and clarification requested had been submitted and he would be glad to discuss further if they are allowed a rehearing. Co-Chairman Austin asked for additional questions or comments and then called for a vote of the motion on the table to approve the request of Shorter Achievement Zone for a rehearing of their application appeal. The vote was 1- Yes, 9- No, 1- Abstention. The motion failed.

The rehearing was denied.

Shelia Austin	No	Charles Knight	Yes
Deborah Alvis	No	Cynthia McCarty	No
Marla Green	No	Sharon Porterfield	No
Faron Hollinger	No	Terri Reynolds	No
Dorothy Houston	No	LaKeisha Wheeler	Abstained
Ryan Kendall	No		

Consideration of Relevant Issues

The Co-Chairman recognized Lane Knight who stated the resolution concerning the finalizing the vote of denial for the rehearing of Shorter Achievement Zone application appeal had been shared with the commissioners. He asked that an amendment to the agenda be made to allow a vote on the resolution. Commissioner Knight made a motion to amend today’s agenda to add a vote on the resolution for the vote on Shorter Achievement Zone’s rehearing. Commissioner Alvis seconded. The vote was unanimous 11- Yes. The vote on the resolution was added to the agenda. Then a motion was made by Commissioner Houston to approve the resolution approving the vote denying the rehearing of Shorter Achievement Zone’s application appeal. Commissioner Knight seconded. The vote was unanimous 11- Yes. The resolution approving the vote denying the rehearing of Shorter Achievement Zone’s application appeal was approved.

Charter School Updates

Executive Director Searcy shared the following: Floretta P. Carson is on target to open on time in August. Freedom Prep has notified the commission that they have not reached the 80% enrollment required in their preopening conditions and that that would be on the agenda for the August 6th meeting. Their proposed opening date is the day after Labor Day.

She shared that the contract for the strategic planning group has passed Legislative Contract Review.

On the August 6th agenda will be two requests for proposals and two employee hires will be put forth. Co-Chairman Austin requested that the August 6th meeting be in person as well as via Zoom. Director Searcy said the commissioners would be notified when a location is secured. The Co-Chairman also shared that a seminar is being planned for working on the strategic plan. Details are to follow.

Adjourn

Co-Chairman Austin thanked everyone for their time and efforts. She asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Knight made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kendall seconded. The vote was unanimous; meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: *Peggy Haveard* Printed Name: Peggy Haveard
 Approved by: *Sheila Austin* Printed Name: Sheila Austin