

State of Hawaii  
Charter School Review Panel Meeting  
Monday October 29, 2007  
Charter School Administrative Office  
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516  
11:00 a.m.

Minutes

Attendance

Alvin Parker – Chair  
Ruth Tschumy – Vice-Chair (excused)  
Pualani Akaka  
Nina Buchanan  
Ku Kahakalau  
Thomas Macdonald  
Denise Matsumoto  
William Paik  
Galen Sasaki

Maunalei Love, Charter School Administrative Office  
Traci Satogata, Charter School Administrative Office  
DeAnn Keo, Charter School Administrative Office

Melissa Chee, Department of the Attorney General

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m. by Chair Mr. Parker.

II. Approval of Minutes

No minutes were available for approval.

III. Announcements

1. Ms. Buchanan distributed a schedule and CD of resources from the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) Conference to all Charter School Review Panel (Panel) members.
2. Ms. Kahakalau stated that a resolution was passed for Native Charter Schools - choices for Native Hawaiian, Alaskan, and other native students.

3. Ms. Matsumoto stated the first attempt by the Board of Education (Board) to fill the vacancies on the Panel was unsuccessful. The Board will continue to try to fill the vacancies and hopes to fill the vacancies by November 13, 2007, to enable the full Board to vote on the recommendations on November 20, 2007. If not, the filling of the vacancies will have to be postponed until the end of December.

#### IV. Public Input

Mary Searcy Bixby of Akamai Secondary Charter School (Akamai) read testimony from Joint Venture Education Forum in support of Akamai and recommending approval of Akamai's application for a charter school.

Ken Furukawa spoke in support of Hauula Public Charter School. He is frustrated because he sees families walking around with no sense of direction because of the drug problem in the community. He has realized that getting involved with the community allows the group to deal with the problem. He named Dovey as a catalyst for going ahead.

Nora Sanford of Kapili Academy read testimony that presents looking at the future of the kids. She says all students at Kapili will have an equal opportunity to learn, to work together. Students are not confined to traditional walls.

Debra Medeiros, President of the Interim Local School Board of Kapili Academy, hopes that everyone had a chance to look at their online petition. She wanted to address the concerns about their website. The website was generated and started in June and was ready to roll by August. She viewed the website and realized there was a mistake. She apologized for the error on behalf of the school. She also wanted to address how much "Connections" makes on the program, about twelve (12) percent.

Tracy Calderwood, Chair of the Interim Local School Board of Hawaii Technology Academy (HTA), stated that over 135 families that are interested in their school. She says there is community support for the school. If HTA is not issued a charter by November 1, 2007, they will lose their federal grant. In addition, a Conference for grant recipients is scheduled for December 4, 2007.

Kimo Perry of Kawaikini New Century Public Charter School stated that they've done everything that the Panel has asked and thanked the Panel for their support.

Dovey Silva of Hauula Public Charter School thanked the Panel for their time.

#### V. Charter School Administrative Office (CSAO) Interim Executive Director's Report

1. Review of the Panel Staff Position

2. NACSA Conference - Recommends that next year, as many Panel members who can should attend.
3. NIEA Conference – She wasn't able to attend, but had representatives attend for her...she hears it was excellent. The Hawaii schools were well represented.
4. The next meeting with SYNERGY, the consultant for the Highly Qualified Teacher Plan for the State, is scheduled for Tuesday, October 30, 2007. A report will be provided at next meeting.
5. The next meeting of the Budget Proviso Workgroup (Funding Formula) is scheduled for Wednesday, October 31, 2007 from 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Ms. Kahakalau asked for an update on the search for the Charter School Administrative Office Executive Director.

Mr. Parker stated that the Search Committee is supposed to submit three (3) names to the Panel by Tuesday, November 6, 2007. The interviews will be conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 6 and 7, 2007.

Ms. Buchanan asked if letters of acknowledgement had been sent to the applicants. She requested that an acknowledgement letter be sent to each applicant.

Mr. Parker reconfirmed that the Search Committee will be submitting three (3) names to the Panel for consideration. The interviews will be conducted on November 6, 2007. Mr. Parker stated that this will be discussed further in Executive Session. Mr. Parker will receive the names directly from the Search Committee.

Ms. Love confirmed that Mr. Parker has been contacted directly in the past.

VI. **\*\* Executive Session with the Attorney General\*\***

Motion to go into Executive Session made by Ms. Akaka, seconded by Mr. Sasaki.

**The Panel went into Executive Session at 11:35 a.m.**

**The Panel ends the Executive Session and resumes the public meeting at 12:38 p.m.**

Mr. Parker reviewed what happened in Executive Session.

VII. **Discussion on the Amended Start-Up Charter School Applications**

Mr. Parker stated the schools will be scored in alphabetical order. Each Panel member, in alphabetical order, will announce their score publicly. Mr. Sasaki will compile the scores and provide a total and average score to the second decimal for each school.

The scores are summarized in the following table:

	<b>Akamai</b>	<b>Hau'ula</b>	<b>Hawaii Technology Academy</b>	<b>Kapili Academy</b>	<b>Ka'u</b>	<b>Kawaikini</b>	<b>Kona Pacific</b>
Pualani Akaka	14	24	23	17	13	35	9
Nina Buchanan	25	30	32	20	23	33	34
Ku Kahakalau	18	22	22.5	22.5	22	30	24
Thomas Macdonald	24	23	28	28.5	18.5	33.5	36
Denise Matsumoto	24	19	30	25	23	31	21
William Paik	25	27	26	26	20	32	36
Alvin Parker	24	21	22	20	20	28	28
Galen Sasaki	21	26	25	24	26	31	33
Ruth Tschumy	18	27	27.5	27.5	21.5	29	33.5
<b>Total</b>	193	219	236	210.5	187	283	255
<b>Average</b>	21.4	24.3	26.22	23.39	20.8	31.4	28.3

Ms. Buchanan pointed out that twenty-seven (27) was the cutoff number for awarding a charter. Twenty-seven (27) is 75% of thirty-six (36), the highest possible score.

Mr. Parker announced that in addition to the charter, every authorizer wants assurances before the school opens. The Panel will gather again to issue a formal letter that will ask each school to abide by assurances. If the school does not meet the assurances, there will be actions taken. Mr. Parker asked Ms. Kahakalau about assurances. The Panel as the new authorizer has not had a chance to sit down and peruse the old assurances. Mr. Parker stated that they want to discuss the assurances as soon as possible.

Ms. Buchanan stated there still needs to be discussion on meeting the twenty-seven (27) cutoff or higher?

Motion to award a charter to the two (2) top schools and discuss what happens next made by Ms. Buchanan, seconded by Ms. Matsumoto.

Ms. Kahakalau states that there are discrepancies in her stated scores. Her score for HTA should be 22.5.

There is a motion on the floor to award Kawaikini and Kona Pacific a charter. There was discussion regarding the motion. Motion passed unanimously with the understanding that assurances will follow.

Ms. Buchanan stated that HTA scored an average of 26.22, over twenty-six (26) but not over twenty-seven (27). She asked should we also award a charter to HTA based on that.

Ms. Buchanan stated there is always error in scores such as these.

Mr. Macdonald further noted that it was at least two (2) points above the next highest. Mr. Macdonald stated that his perception was that twenty-seven (27) was a guideline, not a hard, fast number.

Ms. Matsumoto stated that she would think that those who scored the lowest, do they feel comfortable? Some of her concerns were over assurances, credit structure, differing scoring views by Panel members. These items must be put in the assurances.

Mr. Sasaki says he doesn't understand why they needed a facility to meet because it's a virtual school. He doesn't think the goals were high enough as far as a national program - student achievement test scores. As a virtual school, how are they going to get feedback, it would get watered down from the rest of the country. In terms of teaching, you wouldn't get a lot of local feedback.

Mr. Parker stated that he struggles with virtual schools. To be a successful, you must be a self starter, historically, kids who apply struggle.

Ms. Matsumoto stated that charter schools struggle on the mainland because higher achieving students bump out lower achieving students.

**Meeting recessed at 1:14 p.m. for five (5) minutes.**

**Meeting reconvened at 1:22 p.m.**

Mr. Parker stated that the Attorney General's office said that the law states "may" so the Panel may authorize only two (2) schools.

Motion to take (5) minutes to rescore HTA's Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) made by Ms. Matsumoto, seconded by Ms. Buchanan.

Ms. Akaka respectfully spoke against the motion.

Ms. Kahakalau also spoke against the motion because of her doubt that she can rescore the DIP in five (5) minutes.

Mr. Paik said he's mixed. He stated because he's a new member, he's only had a chance to look at the situation partially, even though he spent hours trying to score the DIPs. Mr. Paik says he came to today's meeting to award charters to three (3) schools. He says everyone got a second chance and he wants to leave today awarding three (3) schools charters.

Mr. Sasaki says he agrees with Ms. Akaka that there's some concern about the scores. Mr. Sasaki says he thinks HTA would just help people who home school and wouldn't help a huge number of students.

Mr. Macdonald says he gave HTA a score of twenty-eight (28) because he thought they met the test. He says if HTA was given supervision, it would be worth awarding them the charter.

Mr. Parker states the dilemma of issuing a charter to two (2) schools and not HTA who has the third highest score.

Motion to amend the motion to individually rescore schools to make sure there is as little error as can be from five (5) minutes to this week and meet and discuss the scores on Nov. 6, 2007 made by Ms. Buchanan, seconded by Ms. Matsumoto.

Ms. Akaka says the cutoff was clear. Unless we're going to do the process all over again, I do not feel comfortable making an exception.

Mr. Paik says he has a big problem. He asks why didn't the Panel award charters to the first two (2) schools the first time? Why did the Panel do the process again and now we're going to do it again?"

Ms. Matsumoto stated the applicants were given ten (10) days to amend their DIPs.

Ms. Buchanan stated that we have no procedures about criteria. She asked do we now let the charter spot go free or do we go through the whole process again?

Ms. Kahakalau stated that many people felt that the some schools weren't ready the first time charters were issued and these schools are still struggling today. Right now, there are more letters of intent.

Ms. Satogata says she's gotten at least three (3) phone calls from additional interested parties.

Ms. Kahakalau says now what's happened is a question of open/closed reapplication period.

Mr. Sasaki stated to make a decision on accepting certain schools. If not, open it up to more schools.

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the situation with the Attorney General made by Ms. Akaka, seconded by Ms. Kahakalau. Motion passed unanimously with eight (8) members voting aye.

**The Panel went into Executive Session at 1:40 p.m.**

**The Panel ends Executive Session and resumes the public meeting at 1:58 p.m.**

There is a motion on the floor to rescore HTA's DIP.

Ms. Kahakalau spoke against motion, stating the twenty-seven (27) is the minimum score. Ms. Kahakalau quoted mainland statistics that it's common that not all applications meet the minimum requirements.

Mr. Parker asked Ms. Chee if there's a requirement that all slots be filled.

Ms. Chee says no, they do not all have to be filled.

Ms. Matsumoto withdrew the motion to assess the situation and Ms. Buchanan withdrew her second

Ms. Matsumoto withdrew the motion to rescore the HTA application in five (5) minutes and Ms. Buchanan withdrew her second.

Mr. Parker says two (2) charters have been awarded, Kawaikini and Kona Pacific. A formal letter will be given to the authorized schools. The issue has come to a close.

Ms. Buchanan states she has not been reimbursed for a single Panel expense for incidentals and transportation. Ms. Akaka and Ms. Kahakalau concurred.

#### VIII. Discussion/Action on Future Agenda Items

The CSAO Executive Director Contract review.

Ms. Kahakalau suggested:

1. Being able to review missing minutes;
2. Panel Concerns should be a standard item;
3. Assurances.

Ms. Akaka suggested Bylaws.

Ms. Matsumoto suggested the Authorizer's Role under No Child Left Behind.

Ms. Buchanan suggested Strategic Planning.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Ms. Kahakalau, seconded by Mr. Sasaki.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.