

APPROVED

State of Hawaii  
Charter School Review Panel  
Tuesday, December 11, 2007  
9:30 A.M. - 12:10 P.M.  
State Capitol Room #312

MINUTES

Attendance

Pualani Akaka  
Nina Buchanan  
Ku Kahakalau  
Denise Matsumoto  
Clemence McLaren  
Bill Paik  
Alvin Parker - Chairperson  
Galen Sasaki  
Ruth Tschumy – Vice Chairperson

Excused Absence

Katie Klinger  
Wendy Lagareta  
Tom Macdonald

Office of the Attorney General

Melissa Chee  
James Halvorson

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mr. Parker at 9:40 a.m. at State capitol room 312.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Buchanan announced that the Assurances sub-committee had met and would be distributing a draft to the Panel members soon.

Ms. Tschumy re-clarified that the assurances are items that the schools who were just awarded a charter must have in place before they may open.

Ms. Buchanan and Ms. Kahakalau added that the assurances will also define what the Panel's responsibilities are to the charter schools and also become the contract with the existing schools.

### III. PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Mark Christiano director of Kihei Public Charter School made two (2) points. He first asked that the Panel change their board reporting methods as the current agenda does not adequately specify what the Panel will be taking action on which makes it difficult for the outer-island public to determine if they wish to testify. Mark suggested a method used by his own school's LSB. His second point encouraged the Panel to pursue that all charter schools have financial transparency and an elevated level of accountability with State funds.

Ms. Kahakalau discussed the cost to schools for external financial audits.

The Panel encouraged Mr. Christiano to forward the agenda template to the Panel.

The Panel entertained discussion on the charter schools' accounting methods and record keeping, noting the current varieties, and Kihei High's support to the Panel in requiring more accounting formality by the charter schools.

Mr. Gene Zarro of Kihei Public Charter School made two (2) points. First he stated that he is concerned about the role of the CSAO Executive Director (ED) with regards to the Panel. He stated that the relationship between the Panel and CSAO ED should be similar to the relationship between the BOE and the DOE Superintendent. The CSAO ED should be a "full partner", non-voting member, of the Panel and the schools' concerns should flow through the CSAO to the Panel. With his second point he encouraged the Panel to refrain from grouping the charter schools into a homogeneous group being mindful that the schools were all formed individually and independently, and to uphold that spirit, even under the weight of the expectations that the Panel show performance.

Ms. Tracy Calderwood made two (2) points. First she spoke in favor of Hawaii Technology Academy's charter application and pointed out that if asked her school would be able to give the Panel assurances. She informed the Panel that Hawaii Technology

Academy was awarded a three (3) year government grant provided the school opens in the 08-09 school year. Second Ms. Calderwood delivered to the Panel written information on authorizers and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) that she received when attending a conference. She noted that included in the information are grant website addresses and information on web-cast guidelines from the Department of Education, on-line learning, and virtual learning.

Chairman Mr. Parker announced that item V. Discussion on the Possibility of Awarding Provisional Charters may be tabled as the initiator of this item is not in attendance today.

Ms. Buchanan moved that the Panel meet in executive session and Ms. Kahakalau seconded. The motion carried unanimously with nine (9) ayes, no (0) abstentions, and no (0) nays.

The Panel met in Executive Session at 10:10 a.m.

IV. \*\*\*EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

A. Consultation on Personnel and Legal Matters Relating to the Charter School Administrative Office Executive Director Position HRS §92-5(a)(2) & (4)

Executive Session ended, and general meeting continued at 11:27

Chairman Mr. Parker announced that the Panel had ratified Reshela DuPuis' acceptance of the Panel's job offer as CSAO Executive Director provided Ms. DuPuis agrees to work temporarily without a contract.

Ms. DuPuis agreed to work until a contract is available if the terms stated in the offer letter stand.

\*Chairman Mr. Parker left the room at 11:33 and returned at 11:34

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Ms. DuPuis recapped for the Panel the speech she delivered to the charter schools at the conference hosted by CSAO. She stated that she intends to be an advocate of successful relationships of trust between the Panel, BOE, and CSAO. She also stated her support of a regular means of communication with the Panel.

V. DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF AWARDING PROVISIONAL CHARTERS.

Mr. Paik moved to table agenda item V. Discussion on the Possibility of Awarding Provisional Charters and Ms. Tschumy seconded. The motion carried unanimously with nine (9) ayes, no (0) abstentions and no (0) nays.

VI. PANEL CONCERNS

Discussion centered on reminding the Panel that the AG had previously confirmed that specific "reasons" for a charter application's denial need not be stated in the final denial letter. Other Panel members who had done research acknowledged the same.

VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ON ESTABLISHING FUTURE MEETING DATES AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future meeting dates

Panel agreed to try to schedule future general meetings on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) and fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Thursday of each month with a start time of 9:30.

Future agenda items

Ms. Matsumoto asked that the Panel entertain a presentation by the DOE's No Child Left Behind committee at the next meeting, their schedule willing, and that the Panel be able to discuss this topic and possibly take action.

Mr. Sasaki stated that there is a new By-Laws draft for the pending By-Law items.

Ms. Kahakalau asked that the Panel have a discussion on legislative positions.

Several members asked for a discussion on forming committees.

Chairman Mr. Parker added that the tabled item of Provisional charters be added to the next agenda.

Proposed school DIP amendments

A member requested executive session to discuss health and safety issues at the school.

VIII.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Tschumy moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:10, and Mr. Paik seconded. The motion passed unanimously with nine (9) ayes, no (0) nays, and no (0) abstentions.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.