

MINUTES

WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMISSION MEETING January 5, 2015

Teleconference

The January 5, 2015 Commission teleconference was called to order by Commission Chair Larry Atwell at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioners present: Commission Chair Larry Atwell, Commissioners Charlene Bodine, Bruce Brown, Katherine Dooley, Sherri Lovercheck, Sandra Meyer and Wendy Sweeny.

Commission staff present: Executive Director Jim Rose, Deputy Director and Chief Financial Officer Matt Petry, Programs Team Leader Joe McCann, Fiscal Team Manager Larry Buchholtz, and Administrative Services Manager Claire Smith.

A roll call was taken. A quorum was present. Due notice had been published.

Motion: Commissioner Meyer moved and Commissioner Sweeny seconded a motion to approve the agenda. **Motion passed unanimously.**

DISCUSSION ON WCCC AS AUTHORIZING AGENCY FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

Representative Sue Wilson discussed potential legislation that would make the Wyoming Community College Commission (WCCC) the authorizing agent for charter schools in Wyoming. Current statute gives each school district authority for approving charter schools within their district. The intent behind this legislation is to transfer authorizer responsibility from the school districts to one authorizer agency, providing for more efficient processing of requests. This would also allow for more innovation within charter schools by having one source of best practices.

Questions, concerns and comments from the commissioners included:


- Who the legislation has been discussed with, concern that all affected parties have provided input;
- What the role of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education should be in relation to charter schools;
- Who holds responsibility for the appeals process;
- Would it be more logical for the State Board of Education to be the authorizing agency, assuming they receive appropriate staffing and funding;
- Commissioners were appointed by the Governor based on their history and interest in community colleges but this would require them to learn an entirely new system, much different from the community college system;
- Could this be treated as an interim study;
- Concern that funding for oversight will be transferred from the Department of Education yet this has not been discussed in detail with Superintendent Balow; and

- The number of charter school applications that have been submitted.

Representative Wilson responded to all questions, comments and concerns and recognized this program is very different from the current responsibilities of the WCCC. The WCCC deals with the “product” of the K-12 system and it is an advantage to have an authorizer who is not part of that system. Her knowledge of other non-college WCCC programs and the size, staffing, stability and organization of the agency leads her to believe the WCCC would be a good fit for the charter school program. She will meet with other interested parties as suggested.

ADJOURNMENT

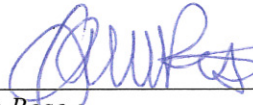
There being no other business to discuss, Commissioner Atwell adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.



Larry Atwell
Commission Chair

1/30/15

Date



Jim Rose
Commission Executive Director

2 Feb '15

Date