

Charter School Review Commission

February 28, 2024

Meeting Minutes

The Charter School Review Commission held a virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, February 28, 2024.

Chair Jay Boggess called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed members to the inaugural meeting of the Charter School Review Commission. Roll call was conducted, and the following members were present: Sara Clements, Dan Foganholi, Suzanne Legg, Jim Murdaugh, and Frank Mingo. Rudy Rodriguez was absent.

Opening Remarks

Chair Boggess acknowledged the significance of this first meeting, noting that the formation of the Commission marks a historic milestone for school choice and charter schools in Florida. He emphasized the Commission's role in enhancing educational opportunities for communities statewide. Chair Boggess then introduced Commissioner of Education Manny Diaz, Jr., who offered opening remarks. Commissioner Diaz expressed his gratitude to the Commission members, highlighting the decade-long effort that led to the creation of the Commission and underscoring its commitment to high standards in charter school authorization.

Presentation by Florida Charter Institute

Chair Boggess introduced representatives from the Florida Charter Institute at Miami Dade College, who provided an overview of their support structure for the Commission. Susie Miller Carello, Executive Director, outlined the Institute's responsibilities, which include guiding the application review process, supporting charter schools in their first five years, and maintaining quality assurance standards. She was joined by Curtis Fuller and Jenna Hodgens, who detailed their extensive experience and commitment to high-quality charter school authorization.

Application Process Overview

Ms. Carello reviewed the application process, which includes the submission of a letter of intent, the completion of the application, and capacity interviews. She stressed that the Institute's rigorous review process involves a multi-member team with expertise across areas such as finance, operations, and academics. Ms. Hodgens further explained the use of the Florida Charter School Application Instrument as a standardized evaluation tool.

Legal and Compliance Presentation

Chair Boggess welcomed Andrew King, General Counsel for the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), who briefed the Commission on Florida's Sunshine Laws, public records requirements, and ethical guidelines. Mr. King emphasized the importance of transparency, outlining the requirements for maintaining open meetings and proper handling of public records. Members were advised to use their FDOE email accounts for all Commission-related communications to ensure compliance.

Future Meeting Schedule

Adam Emerson, Executive Director of the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice at FDOE, confirmed that future Commission meetings will be scheduled quarterly. The next meeting was set for May 22, 2024, in Orlando, with travel arrangements to be coordinated by the FDOE. Mr. Emerson emphasized the importance of in-person meetings to facilitate thorough discussion and decision-making on charter applications.

Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Boggess called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Jim Murdaugh and seconded by Frank Mingo. The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.