

ILLINOIS STATE CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

**Monday, January 26, 2015
3:30 to 5:30 p.m.**

**James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph Street, Room 2-027
Chicago, Illinois 60601**

Minutes

The Committee assembled at approximately 3:30 p.m. in Room 2-027 of the James R. Thompson Center, 100 West Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois 60601, pursuant to public notice of the same. Chair of the Committee Jaime Guzman was present in person, as were Commissioners Robbins and Farmer. Chairman Richmond was present in person, ex officio. Commissioner Valdez was present by telephone. Interim Executive Director Hosanna Mahaley Jones, Deputy Director Karen Washington and Senior Advisor were present in person for the entire meeting. General Counsel Lisa Scruggs was present in person for the meeting.

Chair Guzman took a phone call, so Chairman Richmond called the meeting to order at approximately 3:49 p.m. He asked if any members of the public had asked to attend the meeting, and was advised that none had done so. No members of the public did attend the meeting.

I. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Richmond asked for questions or comments regarding the draft minutes of the October Committee meeting. Hearing none, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Robbins moved that the minutes be adopted as presented, and Commissioner Farmer seconded the motion, which was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

II. Southland Renewal

a. Draft Recommendations and Findings.

Interim Executive Director Jones thanked the Commissioners for participating in the meeting and took a moment to thank the Deputy and Senior Advisor for their help in preparing for the Committee meeting.

- i. Motion for Closed Session. Chairman Richmond asked if the Committee was prepared to review the staff's draft recommendations and findings. Commissioner Robbins moved that the Committee convene in a closed session on the basis of the provision of the Open Meetings Act allowing such sessions for quasi-adjudicative bodies. Commissioner Valdez, by telephone, seconded the motion. Chairman Richmond called for a voice

vote, and the motion passed unanimously. At approximately 4:00 p.m. the Committee adjourned to Closed Session.

- ii. Motion to Return to Open Session. At 5:35 p.m. Chairman Richmond moved that the Committee return to open session. Commissioner Farmer seconded the motion, and the committee members voted orally unanimously to return to open session.
- iii. Next Steps in Renewal Process. IED Jones reviewed next steps in the Renewal Process as follows.
 1. On Feb. 6, Commission staff will meet with Southland to convey draft staff recommendations. Southland will be given to Feb. 13, if needed, for any response. Staff will report on the outcome and/or status of negotiations to the Committee by Feb. 14. On Feb. 20, staff will post the Agenda for the Commission's Meeting, including the recommendation for action on the Southland Renewal.
 2. On Feb. 24, the Commission is scheduled to vote on the renewal recommendation. If a vote occurs, next steps are to issue a written decision within one week, negotiate a new contract with Southland by May, and obtain the State Board's certification of the agreed contract of the parties by June, 2015.

III. Annual Reviews

Chair Guzman asked staff to review the status of annual reviews of certain Commission schools: Concept – Belmont and Concept – McKinley Park. IED Jones stated that the schedule had provided that the Annual Reviews would be concluded by December 2014. The State's academic data for the 2013-14 school year was received in early November, and staff worked with independent consultants to assemble the Annual Review. On December 4, 2014, the Chair of the Committee authorized staff to investigate the cost and time involved in obtaining additional metrics to those at first agreed upon as necessary for the Annual Reviews. Staff consulted with the independent experts, and the cost and time being reasonable, the Chair of the Committee approved obtaining the additional data. The processing of this data occurred in January after the holidays, and was sent as a draft to Commission staff the morning of the Committee meeting. IED Jones indicated to the Committee, accordingly, that staff intended to review the updated Annual Reviews, to meet with the schools on or about Feb. 4, and to present recommendations to the Committee after that date in time for the Feb. 18, 2015 Committee meeting.

IV. Concept Schools' Request for a Material Modification at Belmont Campus

Staff presented a brief update regarding the nature of Concept Belmont's Request for a Material Modification, which asked both for the expected increase in enrollment to accommodate one more grade of students each year for FY16 and FY17, and also sought approval under the contract for certain building expansion activities. In order to brief the Committee fully, staff has asked for its financial, facilities and legal experts to review and opine regarding this request.

Staff will provide this information, as well as a recommendation, to the Committee in time for the Feb. 18, 2015 Committee Meeting.

V. New Business

At 5:50 p.m. the IED asked if there were any new business. Commissioner Farmer asked if staff had begun planning for how the Commission's Accountability System would address the new State of Illinois assessment data. Staff acknowledged this matter would need to be addressed promptly, and that a proposal would be developed for the Committee review.

The Committee set Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. as its next meeting date, and agreed to cancel the February 5, 2015 meeting which had been previously scheduled.

VI. Adjourn

Commissioner Farmer moved to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Valdez seconded by telephone, and the Commissioners voted orally and unanimously to adjourn at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Draft as of 29 January 2014/JLN.