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**JOINT SCHOOL BOARD-GOVERNANCE COUNCIL
CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
March 7, 2023 – 3:45 p.m.
Waupaca High School Community Room and [Live Stream](#)**

Welcome and Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairperson Dale Feldt at 3:45 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present in the WHS Community Room: All members of the Committee were present (Chairperson Dale Feldt, Steve Klismet, Betty Manion, Megan Sanders, Sandy Robinson Autumn Beese, and Becky Lange). Additionally, Board members Patrick Phair and Ron Brooks were present.

Also Present:

Present in the WHS Community Room: Ron Saari, Sandy Lucas, Mark Flaten, and Carrie Naparalla.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Betty Manion and seconded by Steve Klismet to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Review of Committee Meeting Norms and Commitments:

The Committee reviewed their collective norms and commitments.

Chairperson Dale Feldt asked that when emails are sent relating to the Charter School Contract they should be sent to everyone on the Committee as well as the whole SDW School Board so everyone is aware and has all of the documentation. He also advised that one of the reasons for these meetings is to improve the relationship between the SDW Board of Education (BOE) and the Chain Exploration Center Governance Council (GC), so he asked Director of Teaching and Learning Mark Flaten to lead them in an introductory exercise that is in line with the norms.

Mr. Flaten advised that we will take apart one of the norms/commitments at each meeting to briefly talk about it further. He asked that one BOE member partner up with one GC member to discuss what Norm/Commitment #1 would NOT look like. Each group then reported out and shared their collective responses.

Review the Proposed:

One Year Contract and Changes / One Year Contract Benchmarks:

Chairperson Feldt reminded the Committee that we are doing this to get the one-year contract submitted to DPI. GC President Megan Sanders went through the redlined proposed one-year contract and explained the reason for each change, adding that the location of the benchmarks is indicated on the proposed contract. Committee member Sandy Robinson advised that the yellow highlighted wording means it is for further discussion and/or updated information is needed. More detailed discussion was had regarding the following sections of the one-year contract.

Section 5.1 Advisors:

Several questions were raised regarding the second paragraph relating to who should be on the hiring committee. Since CEC Lead Advisor was stricken, Mr. Flaten suggested adding “one or more advisors” in its place. In addition, Mr. Feldt questioned why GC members were on the interview committee, because following the interviews, a candidate is brought before the GC for recommendation for hire (similar to the BOE – they are not on an interview team).

Section 5.2 Administrator:

Again, the addition of “one or more advisors” should be added, and Mr. Feldt suggested that the hiring committee should also include a member of the SDW administrative team.

Mrs. Robinson asked if these concerns could be addressed in the multi-year contract as the GC just highlighted the changes needed now for the one-year contract. However, the Committee asked that those changes be included now in the one-year contract.

Section 8.3 Budget Development:

Chairperson Feldt advised that it will be difficult for the BOE to provide a five year projected budget, so two years is as far out as he is comfortable going. Ms. Sanders suggested perhaps we just don’t include a specific number of years and have it read “projected budget”.

Sections 8.7 and 10.3 Liability Insurance:

Mrs. Robinson advised that the GC needs a current District insurance summary of the complete list of insurance coverages and limits.

Section 8.17 School Calendar:

Ms. Sanders advised that the minutes of instruction for charter schools is different, so they can set their own calendars. However, the CEC wants to keep the same calendar as the SDW, in particular for the bus schedules.

Section 11.3 Requests for SDW Board Policy Waivers:

Ms. Sanders advised that these were revised to reflect the current Neola policies, and the number of waivers requested went down by about half from the original contract. It was asked why there was a waiver regarding fundraising (11.3(j)) because it should be consistent with the SDW’s process, especially regarding the community portion of it. Ms. Sanders advised that the next contract does not ask for a waiver.

In addition, Board member Ron Brooks had some concerns regarding paragraphs 11.3(g) and (h) relating to instructional materials and textbooks and whether the GC has complete control or if the BOE has oversight. Mr. Flaten advised that the GC has autonomy regarding the selection of textbooks (a/k/a resources); however, the standards and learning expectations are the same for the CEC and SDW.

Section 12.4 Contract Renewal:

There was some concern regarding the term of the contract. It was suggested that perhaps it could read “up to 5 years” or “not to exceed five years” in the next contract. However, Mr. Flaten and the Committee agreed to leave it as it is indicated (two (2) year term), as that is what was already voted on and approved by the BOE.

Mr. Brooks inquired as to why the GC is eliminating the agriculture program at the CEC. Ms. Sanders advised it is doing so because the CEC has a strong commitment to the community garden and the environment, and that it has never met and it is difficult to follow the agriculture standards – it has been more of a community project than an agriculture program. Mr. Brooks

asked if the CEC could keep agriculture as part of the environment. Committee member Becky Lange advised that the students are encouraged to do those things and incorporate them as a community service project.

There being no further discussion, Chairperson Feldt advised that the Committee will submit this for the one-year contract. Mrs. Robinson added that she will finalize it and send it to everyone for their review and final approval.

A motion was made by Betty Manion and seconded by Steve Klismet to make a recommendation to the full Board to approve the updated one-year Charter School Contract and submit the final version as agreed upon today to the DPI. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Create a Plan/Timeline to Review Proposed Multi-Year Contract:

Draft Multi-Year Contract / Benchmarks:

The Committee began working on the new multi-year contract using the redlined draft. The red numbers correlate to the DPI required benchmarks, and the language in blue indicates that it was moved from a different location in the contract. Ms. Sanders then began going through the proposed multi-year contract and explained the reason for each change, adding that the location of the benchmarks is indicated on the draft.

Ms. Sanders advised that Article 1 Definitions was not in the previous contract, but added in this new one; and Article 2 General Information was cleaned up to provide better clarity. More detailed discussion was had regarding the following sections of the multi-year contract.

Administrative Services:

It was mentioned that Section 2.2 Administrative Services of the original contract didn't appear to be in the new contract; however, Ms. Sanders advised that it was moved to Section 9.5.

Section 3.1 Educational Program:

Much discussion was had regarding the second paragraph. Mr. Flaten requested and the Committee agreed to add "and SDW learning targets" right after Wisconsin State Standards at the end of the second sentence. In addition, Agriculture should be eliminated since it is not being offered any longer; the CEC now has three fields of study: 1) Environmental Education, 2) the Fine Arts, and 3) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

Mr. Saari and Mr. Flaten pointed out that they want language included regarding open enrollment in and to make it clear that it includes district and non-district families. Also, more clarity is needed on how families can enroll in the CEC. Mrs. Robinson advised that she will add reference to see Article 8.

There were questions raised regarding the reference to 21st Century Skills and how it differs from the SDW schools. The Committee was advised that it is integrated within the CEC's projects throughout the project cycle.

Due to time constraints, Chairperson Feldt asked the Committee, as a homework assignment for the next meeting, to wordsmith a sentence regarding 21st Century Skills.

In addition, Mr. Saari commented that there is the perception in the community that students are not taught English and math at the CEC, and suggested that language should be added to make it clear that the students are getting the core classes. Mr. Feldt suggested that perhaps the curriculum paragraph should begin with something to the effect that students will be getting math

and English here (like all other SDW students), but this is what the CEC is offering in addition to the core classes.

Mr. Flaten noticed that under Article I Definitions, “Autonomy” is not listed, and asked that r3 and r4 under Recitals be reviewed at the next meeting as well.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Betty Manion and seconded by Steve Klismet to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.