

GRESHAM-BARLOW SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10 JT.

Minutes of Public Hearing
Charter School Renewals - ORS 338.065

March 9, 2017

The Gresham-Barlow School District Board of Education held a public hearing regarding proposed charter school renewals on Thursday, March 9, 2017, in the council chambers of the Public Safety and Schools building, 1331 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham, Oregon.

The hearing was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by the chair, Carla Piluso. Other board members in attendance were Sharon Garner, Kris Howatt, Kathy Ruthruff, Kent Zook, and John Hartsock. Matt O'Connell arrived at 5:15 p.m.

The following members of the superintendent's cabinet were present:

Jim Schlachter	.....	Superintendent
James Hiu	.....	Deputy Superintendent of Secondary Education and Operations
Teresa Ketelsen	.....	Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning
Mike Schofield	.....	Chief Financial Officer
Randy Bryant	.....	Executive Director of Human Resources
Sara Huston	.....	Executive Director of School Performance

Cabinet members absent were Athena Vadnais, director of communications and community engagement, Julie Evans, executive director of elementary education, and John Koch, executive director of student support services.

James Hiu explained that the hearing was called to order as required by ORS 338.065 in response to contract renewal requests received from three district-sponsored public charter schools: Metro East Web Academy, Gresham Arthur Academy, and Lewis & Clark Montessori. The administration will bring forward a recommendation for board consideration of the renewal requests at the April 6, 2017, business meeting.

Representatives from each charter school were given an opportunity to present their requests, allow for public testimony, and respond to questions of the board.

METRO EAST WEB ACADEMY (5:03 p.m.)

David Gray, executive director, and Johnnie Driessner, board member, of the Metro East Web Academy (MEWA) presented information regarding the charter renewal request and responded to questions of the board.

The renewal request included five major changes to the current charter school agreement:

1. Expand the terms of renewal from five years to ten years;
2. Widen the grade span from the current 6-12th to kindergarten-12th;
3. Increase the enrollment cap from 500 ADMw to 1,000 ADMw;
4. Raise the ADMw charter rate to 95% funding formula; and
5. Allow more independence in the school year calendar (days and hours of operation).

Public Testimony: There was no public testimony; however, there were representatives of the MEWA staff, students, and board members in the audience.

GRESHAM ARTHUR ACADEMY (5:21 p.m.)

Kandice Burton, principal, Stephanie Walker, executive director, and Jill Domine, business operations/human resources director of the Gresham Arthur Academy (GAA) presented information regarding the charter renewal request and responded to questions of the board.

Proposed changes to the charter agreement were summarized as follows:

1. Allow more flexibility with K-2 standardized assessments;
2. Expand the terms of renewal from five years to ten years;
3. Increase funding from 80% to 90%; and
4. Dissolve the local board requirement, thereby allowing the Mastery Learning Institute board to provide oversight for the Gresham Arthur Academy as it does all other Arthur Academy charter schools.

Public Testimony: The following individuals provided testimony in favor of renewing the public charter school agreement with Gresham Arthur Academy: Isaac Eivers, Shannon Chisom, and Karen Standley. There were also other students, family members, and staff members in the audience to show support of the renewal.

LEWIS & CLARK MONTESSORI (5:44 p.m.)

Melissa Harbert, executive director, and Matt Lee, board member, of the Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School (LCMCS) presented information regarding the charter renewal request and responded to questions of the board. (A copy of their slide presentation, and a handout titled, "2017 Charter Renewal Proposal," will be uploaded to the web with these minutes.)

Proposed changes to the charter agreement were summarized as follows:

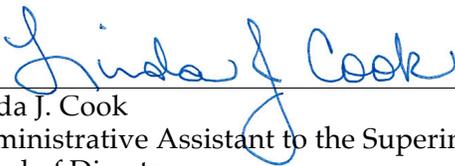
1. Maintain the current five-year renewal term;
2. Increase ADM gradually over five years for middle school students, up to 90%;
3. Increase enrollment cap of 353 to a maximum of 375 students; and
4. Review student services needs based on increased percentage of students who are on special programs.

Public Testimony: The following individuals expressed support for renewing the charter school agreement: Alex Earl, Mishawn Nelson, Miller Nelson, Grace Goldstein, Justice Evans, Peter Jensen, and Sierra Borschel.

ADJOURNMENT

The hearing was adjourned at 6:06 p.m. A board work session followed in the council chambers conference room at 6:10 p.m.

These minutes were approved by the Board of Directors on April 6, 2017.

Submitted by:  _____
Linda J. Cook
Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and
Board of Directors