

Public Education Commission Work Session

May 16, 2025

Open Public Meeting via Zoom Webinar and in person at
the Jerry Apodaca Education Building, 300 Don Gaspar Ave., Santa Fe, NM 87501

Link to Meeting Recording – <https://youtu.be/6xQACV0qrQc>

Chair Rebekka Burt called the work session to order at 9:01 am

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Commissioners in attendance in person:

Commissioner Rebekka Burt, Chair, District 4, Rio Rancho
Commissioner Patricia Gipson, Vice-chair, District 7, Las Cruces
Commissioner Steven J. Carrillo, Secretary, District 10, Santa Fe
Commissioner Sam S. Obenshain, District 1, Albuquerque
Commissioner Michael Taylor, District 8, Roswell
Commissioner Sharon Clahchischillie, District 5, Aztec
Commissioner Alan Brauer, District 2, Albuquerque
Commissioner Stewart Ingham, District 6, Deming

Commissioners in attendance by Zoom:

Commissioner Timothy Beck, District 3, Albuquerque
Commissioner K.T. Manis, District 9, Hobbs (9:45 am?)

Commissioners not in attendance:

Also Present:

Julia Barnes, PEC Attorney
Melissa “Missy” Brown, CSD
Greg Butz, CSD

Members of the Public in person and on Zoom are listed on the attendance document.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Announcement of PEC annual award recipients

- a. **Board of the Year Award:** THRIVE Community School.
- b. **Outstanding Achievement in Financial Oversight:**
Stan Albrycht from The Montessori Elementary and Middle School.
- c. **Outstanding Achievement in School Turnaround:** Six Directions Indigenous School.

- d. **Outstanding Achievement in Innovation:** Alma d'Arte Charter High School. We will be presenting the awards formally at our June Charter School Conference in Albuquerque and look forward to celebrating them again there!

Six Directions Head of School Rebecca Niiha brought five students including Maya Kallestewa, Lakya Yazzie, and Koban Lastyone. The students were asked to speak to the Commission and one of the students graciously agreed to make a comment. The student spoke to the power of student voice and action. They invited the PEC members to attend their upcoming graduation.

3. Discussion of Memorandum of Understanding with Public Education Department

Julia Barnes: 3.3 and 3.4 represent business, not legal decisions. Chair Burt reports the next step is to review it line by line, and send it to Michelle Segoura who has offered to help. Negotiations will proceed after that for finalization.

a. **Proposed change to MOU, #1 Budget and State Charter Division:**

- This would no longer support the PED getting their allocation of the PEC 2% off the top; All of the 2% funds would go to the PEC and the PED would receive their allocation of the funds towards the end of the fiscal year.
- The PEC Budget subcommittee would submit a budget every year and the PED would follow that budget.
- Impact: This would affect current usage for staffing; they would have to reconfigure that. The legal language would provide clarity. The entire CSD staff would still be supported; the main change would be that PED could no longer use the money outside of the PEC and CSD. The PEC could ask the legislative branch for funds to support PED staffing where needed or requested.
- This draft represents the PEC view.
- If any funds are left over, it would go to a non-reverting general fund, because SEG funding is non-reverting. New Mexico has excellent oversight including yearly visits to every school due to ample staffing, whereas many other states only manage to visit schools every few years.

b. **Proposed change to MOU #2, Staffing and the Division:**

i. (2.a.) **Charter School Director:** PEC oversight of Director position and ability to request removal for cause. Proposal is collaboration; for PEC to provide recommendations as a hiring panel, and PEC conducts annual evaluation to be submitted to the Secretary.

ii. (2.b.) **Commission Liaison:** Per MOU, PEC develops the job description which shall be an Executive Secretary type position. PEC should have direct input to hiring of this individual; position creates direct access for PEC without waiting for or depending on the Director for requests/information. Ex. research information outside of the Director's scope and would burden them. The Director would still oversee the Liaison.

- c. **Proposed change to MOU #8**, State Charter audits as a component unit of PEC: Per MOU, PEC recommends state-chartered schools as a primary government entity for the purposes of a financial audit and this would allow them to choose an auditor. Chair Burt: This would provide some parity between district schools and charter schools with regards to the Audit; it would be a win for PED. The former Deputy Secretary asked for this. This MOU will be delivered to Secretary Chanelle on Monday for review, and negotiations will follow unless in agreement. Any subcommittee meetings will only present Commission views as discussed in the open meeting.

4. Discussion of 2025-26 Annual State Charter School Compliance Requirements,

First Reading. Chair Burt: There are three new requirements that came from the legislature this year to be effective July 1, with assurances due September 1. A vote will be cast at the June meeting to make it effective for July 1. Two items were dropped from the draft: Staff rights and Issues of Concern.

5. Discussion of Performance Framework Business Rules, First Reading on updates.

Chair Burt: There are three items that changed. We are not changing the Performance Framework itself at least through this first contract term (4 years). After running the data, some of the Business Rules weren't clear enough. Newly formed high schools cannot choose option 1 as there is no way to measure growth at initial contract. Changes were made to 4a, 4b and 4c to add greater detail to the descriptions of the following: numerator and denominator, criteria for "demonstrates improvement," and financial reporting with a rating now based on the last four reports.

6. Discussion of PEC Budget for FY26.

7. Subcommittee updates

PEC Subcommittee. Commission Gipson: We've come to a final conclusion on the budget, including staffing, the REC contract and the conference. The REC contract will be available to be viewed next month. We asked for more clarity regarding the REC; a lot of that budget was for the conference. We made it clear that it is a PEC Conference moving forward and in the future there will be a fee to attend. Schools would have the option to pay from their own budget. We've allocated enough money going forward to support the Indicators of Success and for targeted special projects that could be available for the entire school year, providing more impact. We allocated more funding to support staff attending charter conferences; they are gaining in depth lately.

a) Charter Performance: Commissioner Gipson: We looked at the Business Rules. There's ongoing conversations with Epicenter on Charter Performance Report.

b) Budget: Done

c) Policy: Subcommittee looked at an issue of whether the board has to approve Business Manager, this has been referred.

d) Legislative: If a commissioner would like to see something by the next legislative session, please submit it. We need to start looking at sponsors now for specific legislation.

e) Board Awards: (This was already covered).

f) Indicators of Success. Chair Burt: Next month we will propose Indicators of Success to the Commission, and are considering a pilot year that would have a financial incentive. We are hoping it will be a requirement by July of 2026. The PEC won an award from national charter school A-Game, for Innovation, especially in multiple academic arenas. Utah took 90% of our Performance Framework last year, and they won an award as well. We owe gratitude to Rachel Seward for her help with the application and video. Commissioner Carrillo: Let's ask for a press release on the award.

8. Reports from PEC Liaisons and members who attended conferences

Other State Committee Commissioner assigned

a) Legislative Education Study Committee. Vice Chair Gipson: They haven't met yet. However, previously they highlighted the NM VISTAS program and its insufficiencies. Our Performance Framework does a better job demonstrating achievement.

b) Legislative Finance Committee. Chair Burt: We are currently meeting.

c) NM Indian Education Advisory Council. Commissioner Clahchischillage: No meeting until next week.

d) NM Public School Capital Outlay Council. Commissioner Ingham: I'm struggling with how these organizations are not meeting statutory requirements with regards to holding charter schools back with capital funding. We need to advocate for our community in those realms with some potential opportunities to make changes.

e) NM Public School Insurance Authority: Commissioner Manis was not able to attend last week.

f) NM School Boards Association: Secretary Carrillo: Nothing to report.

g) NM State Library Commission: Commissioner Taylor: They have not met.

h) Charter School conference reports regarding nationally recognized principles and standards for quality charter authorizing (NMSA 22-8B-5.3.H.)

NACSA has a conference October 20-23 in Houston and Commissioners are encouraged to attend. Commissioners would attend as a group, and anyone should let Consuelo know if they would like to attend.

Public Comment is open for requests until 11:30 am.

No votes were taken by Commissioners on items during this work session.

Submitted by Nicola Davis, CSD

Edited by Missy Brown, CSD 5.22.25