

Public Education Commission Work Session

June 26, 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/XsOckHpjjw4>

Chair Rebekka Burt called the work session to order at 9:03 am

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Commissioners in attendance in person:

Commissioner Patricia Gipson, Chair, District 7, Las Cruces
Commissioner Steven J. Carrillo, Vice-chair, District 10, Santa Fe
Commissioner Timothy Beck, Secretary, District 3, Albuquerque
Commissioner Sam S. Obenshain, Secretary District 1, Albuquerque
Commissioner Rebekka Burt, District 4, Rio Rancho
Commissioner Sharon Clahchischilliage, District 5, Aztec
Commissioner Michael Taylor, District 8, Roswell
Commissioner K.T. Manis, District 9, Hobbs

Commissioners in attendance by Zoom:

Commissioner Stewart Ingham, District 6, Deming

Commissioners not in attendance:

Also Present:

Julia Barnes, PEC Attorney
Dr. Brigitte Russell, Interim Charter School Division (CSD) Director
Melissa “Missy” Brown, CSD
Nicola Davis, CSD

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

- 2. Discussion of Expedited Renewal process:** Dr. Brigitte Russell reviewed criteria proposed on an Expedited Renewal Draft for 2024 Performance Framework as reviewed by the Charter Performance Subcommittee at two successive meetings. For each of the first four years of a contract, a school will get one of four ratings on their Annual Report. Pathways for expedited renewal during those four years were reviewed. Commissioner Beck raised the question of whether a school with two years of Conditional ratings should qualify for Expedited. Commissioner Obenshain expressed concern for a school with Conditions appearing in year three or four. Commissioner Ingham prefers a school to have an Expedited rating in year four to receive the Expedited rating. Chairwoman

Burt expressed that receiving an Expedited rating is very challenging due to the rigor of Academic ratings. Commissioner Gipson expressed concern over PEC gaining undue influence above the CSD's Annual Report with potential ability to override the report per this proposal. Schools in their first term will only have two years of audit information, so there is consideration of whether at least one renewal cycle should be required. The CSD will edit according to today's consensus. The CSD will send out a survey to schools for feedback.

3. Discussion of Indicators of Success program, including a pilot year: Chair Burt.

The PEC subcommittee has outlined a general plan with operational points that still need to be established; this is a brand new program unrelated to anything else. This program will encourage governing boards to execute more self-evaluation and reflection; they would be required to answer an Indicators of Success survey every year by September 1. Item 3.1 has sample questions which were developed from Wested's research, based upon typical indicators of high performing boards. The CSD, not PEC, will observe the survey to create targeted resources and training to address any weak areas. Boards will be able to request funding and develop a strategic plan to address an area of weakness. The Budget Funds Committee has already allocated funds for this program. The PEC will only require completion and will not be observing specific answers, with a supportive, not accountability approach to encourage a safe space for honest self-reflection with no punitive actions per outcomes, etc. Existing resources should be sought. Director Russell suggests an Administrator page that links to a Google page that can be updated as often as needed, or on Epicenter. A peer support program run by high performing schools can be beneficial. Bellwether is providing a quote for asset mapping. A survey requesting feedback on this program will be emailed to all board members and HA's soon.

a) First reading of policy

b) First reading of Assurance form change to reflect requirement to complete survey

4. Subcommittee updates - PEC Subcommittee

- a) Charter Performance:** Dr. Russell reports the draft 3.C. compliance list and links have been updated.
- b) Budget:** There will be a vote at tomorrow's meeting.
- c) Policy:** Commissioner Obenshain reports that the subcommittee needs to review the procurement officer form for better alignment, consider a revision to the Assurances form to eliminate approved Minutes requirement, and to review the MOU.
- d) Legislative:** Commissioner Gipson reports they are meeting today.

- e) **Board Awards:** Commissioner Carrillo reports the awards were well received by all at the Charter Conference, with both pride and excitement clearly visible, for example for Six Directions Charter School.
- f) **Indicators of Success.** This was previously covered.

1. Reports from PEC Liaisons and members who attended conferences

- a. **Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC): Commissioner Gipson**
- b. **Legislative Finance Committee (LFC):** Chair Burt reported there is focus on the strategic plan with regards to the Martinez-Yazzie lawsuit demands right now for which they are hiring a consultant to deal with elevated cases, coping with a lack of data and working on a new plan per a judge's order. The judge is requesting outcome data which currently appears to be inadequate. The PEC should review the results of the plan when it goes public in October as it will likely affect Charter Schools.
- c. **NM Indian Education Advisory Council:** Commissioner Clahchischillage reported the Committee has been very focused lately on meeting their requirements, which generally doesn't pertain to Charter schools specifically; and hearing about the Martinez-Yazzie plan, she will bring that up at the next meeting and see how they are viewing it.
- d. **NM Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC):** Commissioner Ingham reported that he's asked them if Charter school leaders can present at the next meeting particularly with regards to lease reimbursement requests. The PSCOC is working on multiple projects and struggling with some documentation issues.
- e. **NM Public School Insurance Authority (NMPSIA):** Commissioner Maniss reports there's been negotiations for benefits and premiums with a potential of increases of around 10-20% which is not unexpected as insurance in general has seen a 5% increase across the board recently. School districts will be able to decide what level of increase will extend to employees. NMPSIA had requested funding to offset potential increases but not sure what the outcome was, also wondering if offsetting an increase is something the PEC could support. The cost of lawsuits have decreased in the past five years, but there have been losses due to natural disasters.
- f. **NM Public School Boards Association (NMSBA):** Commissioner Ingham reports he will call their Director Joe Guillen to get ahead of the legislative session and continue to push partnering up on the transportation issue.
- g. **NM State Library Commission:** Commissioner Taylor states nothing to report until next month.
- h. **Charter School conference reports regarding nationally recognized and standards for quality charter authorizing (NMSA 22-8B-5.3.H):**

Chair Burt adjourned the meeting at 11:19 am. No votes were taken by Commissioners on items during this work session.

Submitted by Nicola Davis, CSD