

**PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
Public Education Commission  
Meeting  
October 31, 2008  
Minutes**

1. **Call to Order**  
Chairperson Smith called the meeting to order at 11:00am at the Central New Mexico Workforce Center, 5600 Eagle Rock Avenue NE, Albuquerque NM.
2. **Roll Call**  
Secretary Millie Pogna conducted the roll as follows:  
  
M. Andrew Garrison, Member, District 1, Albuquerque (*Absent*)  
Mrs. Millie Pogna, Member, District 2, Albuquerque  
Ms. Kathryn (Kitty) Krivitzky, Member, District 3, Albuquerque  
Ms. Aileen R. Garcia, Member, District 4, Santa Fe  
Ms. Mavis Price, Member, District 5, Gallup-  
Ms. Catherine M. Smith, Vice-Chair, District 6, Los Lunas  
Mr. Eugene Gant, Member, District 7, Las Cruces  
Mr. Dennis James Roch, Chair, District 9, Texico (*Absent*)  
Ms. Midge Graham, Member, District 10, Des Moines  
Ms. Nancy Bowles, Member, District 8, Roswell
3. **Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to New Mexico Flag**  
Commissioner Krivitzky led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **Approval of Agenda**  
Chairperson Smith presented the Agenda. Commissioner Graham moved to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.
5. **Approval of Minutes (September 12, 2008)**  
Chairperson Smith presented the minutes. Commissioner Price moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
6. **Open Forum was heard at 11 am.**  
No one addressed the Commission.

Comments from PEC Commissioners

- Commissioner Graham: Would like the Career & Technical Education subcommittee to make a presentation about the shared Carl Perkins activities in the state to be considered for the next meeting.
- Commissioner Garcia: Recommended that at the next meeting we have a status of charter schools, for example: looking at accountability based on state tests, getting a profile of the charter schools in the state and how that compares to public schools. Don Duran suggested that Deputy Secretary Dr. Catherine Cross-Maple respond to that suggestion.
  - Dr. Cross-Maple: PED is currently working on a contract to help look at charter school performance compared to public schools. There is information on the website about charter schools nationally. PED will be able

to provide the PEC information although it probably will not be in the next month or two, but PED will present it when they have more comprehensive information available.

- Commissioner Pogna: Has always had an interest in home schooling education. She has been contacted by home school administrators who are concerned about possible legislation that might conflict with their beliefs. She would like a report from a home school representative to know what is happening with home schooling.
- Commissioner Gant: Las Cruces has refurbished one of their Alternative Schools which has become a success. Dr. Sanchez has volunteered to come and present to the Commission about what they are currently doing at the school. Dr. Cross-Maple said that this presentation would go well with the presentation around the cohort graduation rate which will be presented in January/February 2009.
  - Gave out information about Think New Mexico.
  - He was assigned a job at last meeting to go to the Carl Perkins workshop. Representative Berry is sponsoring a bill to the legislature in which the PEC could be very involved.
  - He would like to know how we are coming along with the process of the oversight process that we will have to put in place for all the charter schools.
- Commissioner Krivitzky: Nothing at this time.
- Commissioner Price: What is the PEC's role as far as looking at the safety of our schools or enforcing the policies of the schools?
- Commissioner Bowles: Is interested in all of the other commissioner's requests.
  - She would like to present what they do about mediation at Roswell High.
  - She is concerned with testing and about changes being made, etc. She would like a presentation on how to prepare students for testing.
- Chairperson Smith: CNM Foundation wrote to Beverly, there is a handout if you would like to view it.
  - Would like to put in the minutes that Secretary Veronica C. Garcia received the prestigious "Primeras Award" on Saturday, October 25 from the Albuquerque Hispanic Women's Council at their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala.

## 7. **Vote on Charter Schools' Board of Finance**

Sam Obenshain, Program Manger, Charter Schools Bureau stated that all of the schools have submitted their Board of Finance application.

Dr. Don Duran, Assistant Secretary, Charter Schools Division went through each of the Charter Schools that were up for approval:

**Cien Aguas**: Dr. Don Duran recommended approving BOF  
Commissioner Graham made a motion to approve.  
Commissioner Price seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Mesa Del Sol**: Dr. Don Duran recommended approving BOF  
Commissioner Garcia made a motion to approve.  
Commissioner Pogna seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**New America School**: Dr. Don Duran recommended approving BOF  
Commissioner Graham made a motion to approve.  
Commissioner Bowles seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**New Mexico School for the Arts:** Dr. Don Duran recommended approving BOF  
Commissioner Price made a motion to approve.  
Commissioner Garcia seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**School of Dreams Academy:** Dr. Don Duran recommended approving BOF  
Commissioner Bowles made a motion to approve.  
Commissioner Price seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Taos Academy:** Dr. Don Duran recommended approving BOF  
Commissioner Price made a motion to approve.  
Commissioner Krivitzky seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**8. Vote on Charter Schools Contracts and Signing of Contracts**

Don Duran stated that a contract does not mean that the schools are open. It means that they are officially a school.

Once a motion is made and approved for each school, there will be a formal signing of the contracts. Chairperson Smith will sign the contract and then a member from the governing body of the school will sign.

**Cien Aguas:** Dr. Don Duran recommended approving Contract  
Commissioner Graham made a motion to approve.  
Commissioner Price seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.

- *Commissioner Gant stated that one of the conditions of having a contract is that the schools have measurable goals but he hasn't heard anything about it? Chairperson Smith stated that the PEC left it up to the Charter Schools Division to make the final approval. A Disc was mailed to commissioners with information on it to review before the meeting took place.*

**Mesa Del Sol:** Dr. Don Duran recommended approving Contract  
Commissioner Price made a motion to approve.  
Commissioner Pogna seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**New America:** Dr. Don Duran recommended approving Contract  
Commissioner Graham made a motion to approve.  
Commissioner Price seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**New Mexico School for the Arts:** Dr. Don Duran recommended approving Contract  
Commissioner Garcia made a motion to approve.  
Commissioner Price seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**School of Dreams Academy:** Dr. Don Duran recommended approving Contract  
Commissioner Price made a motion to approve.  
Commissioner Bowles seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Taos Academy:** Dr. Don Duran recommended approving Contract  
Commissioner Krivitzky made a motion to approve.  
Commissioner Graham seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**9. Report from National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA)**

Chairperson Smith stated that this conference was well worth the time and effort that to attend and the dollars that the PED expended. Mike CdeBaca, Charter Schools Division and Sam Obenshain were both presenters at the conference.

**10. PED Budget Discussion**

- Commissioners Graham, Krivitzky, Pogna, and Smith are on the PEC Budget Committee
- There was a meeting in the morning with Beverly Friedman, NMPED Liaison to PEC and Cindy Marietta, Director, Administrative Services Division about the budget.
- Cindy Marietta reviewed FY09 general budget.
- Commissioner Krivitzky asked if there is money left over at the end of the fiscal year does it revert back to the general fund? Cindy Marietta said that all remaining funds revert back to the state.
- If there are any items that the Commissioner want to request to purchase, who do they request it through? It would go through the PEC Budget Committee.
- Chairperson Smith suggested there be a luncheon to honor the Commissioners that will be leaving at the end of the year.

**11. Secretary of Education Comments**

Dr. Cross-Maple: Wanted to thank Charter School Division for all of their work.

Dr. Cross-Maple: Would like to talk about what is going on in Public Education throughout the State.

- There are new performance measures that PED has created. With the performance measures, they are tied into the strategic plan.
- Over the last 6 weeks, PED has been working with Lt. Governor on a program called Centennial Graduates; which will be honoring the graduates of the year of the state's anniversary.
- First Navajo textbook announced last week in Gallup and Farmington with Governor Richardson
- The PED is currently working through a 5% budget reduction. PED is a personnel driven budget. There is now a reduction in the people we can hire; there is also a hiring freeze as of November 15.

**12. PEC Comments; Future Meetings**

- Dr. Don Duran: If the December meeting begins at 8:00am with renewal process; there are only 5 renewal schools, so there is no need to meet on the 11<sup>th</sup>. He suggested that the PEC meet on December 12<sup>th</sup> for the renewal process.
- Chairperson Smith: Asked everyone to please keep December 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> available on their calendar, and as we work on the agenda, we will finalize the dates.
  - There are people leaving the Commission. Chairperson Smith would like to honor the people leaving. She proposed a luncheon on the 11<sup>th</sup>, which would take 2-2 ½ hours to be able to honor the people who are leaving, and still accommodate the meeting agenda. There is the possibility of accommodating a luncheon around noon, and still have a 1-day meeting.
  - Chairperson Smith would like a motion for the Executive Committee to establish the agenda and schedule date(s) and location for the December Meeting
    - Commissioner Pogna made a motion
    - Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion
    - Motion carried unanimously

**13. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 11:42 am.

Chairperson Smith stayed and signed the contracts of the new charter schools.