**West Virginia Professional Charter School Board Meeting Minutes**

**8:00 a.m., August 3, 2023**

I. **Call to Order** – The virtual meeting was called to order by PCSB Chairman Adam Kissel at 8:00 a.m.

II. **Attendance** – Attending members were Dewayne Duncan, Karen Bailey-Chapman, Brian Helton, and Adam Kissel. Non-voting member Del. Ellington also attended. Duncan arrived at 8:05 a.m and missed the first vote.

III. **Board Action: Approve minutes** – Minutes from the previous meeting of July 6, 2023 were approved (moved by Bailey-Chapman, seconded by Helton, vote 3-0).

IV. **Board Action: Amend charter contract with West Virginia Academy (WVA)** – The proposed amendment would increase the school’s primary recruitment area and update the school’s official mailing address. WVA Board Chairman John Treu joined the meeting and described the new recruitment area. The Board approved the amended charter contract (moved by Helton, seconded by Duncan, vote 4-0).

V. **Board Action: Revisions to PCSB bylaws** –The proposed revisions would conform the bylaws with House Bill 3084 and Senate Bill 47—two bills passed during the 2023 Regular Legislative Session—which amended West Virginia’s charter school law and created the Charter School Stimulus Fund. The Board approved the revised bylaws (moved by Bailey-Chapman, seconded by Duncan, vote 4-0). Current bylaws are available on the PCSB website (wvcharters.org).

VI. **Executive Director Update** – Executive Director James Paul provided updates:

1. Hope Scholarship. The West Virginia Department of Education informed Paul its opinion that charter schools may not enroll Hope Scholarship students for a class and charge tuition. PCSB members discussed whether they agreed with this interpretation of state law. The issue was not decided. Legislation may be filed on this issue this winter.
2. Annual Reports. Section 18-5G-6-h of W. Va. Code requires that charter schools submit annual reports to assist the authorizer in gathering complete information about each school. Reports for the inaugural four charter schools were received by the PCSB, and Paul briefly summarized them. The initial draft from Virtual Prep Academy did not have a sufficient response about the school’s financial position or financial plans for the duration of the charter contract. Paul asked Virtual Prep Academy to revise the report, which they did. Paul informed PCSB members that Accel Schools, which manages Virtual Prep Academy, has irregularly provided detailed financial reports at governing board meetings. Paul has reminded Accel Schools and the Virtual Prep Academy Board members about the requirement to have regular financial updates, and he expects this requirement will be met in future meetings.
3. Sports participation. The West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission (SSAC) incorrectly challenged a charter school student at WIN Academy who sought to participate in athletics at the student’s resident county school. House Bill 3084, passed during the 2023 Regular Legislative Session, clarified that charter students are eligible to play a sport at their local county school provided that the charter school does not offer the sport. Senior officials at the West Virginia Department of Education agree that charter students should have access to athletics, and they have helped clear up confusion with the SSAC.
4. Application deadline. August 31, 2023 is the deadline for new charter school applications to be received by the PCSB in order to open in Fall 2024. Paul anticipates receiving several applications by the end of the month.

VII. **Next Meeting and Adjournment** – The next meeting was scheduled for September 7, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 a.m. (moved by Duncan, seconded by Helton, vote 3-0).