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

**8:00 a.m., November 15**

I. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order by PCSB Chairman Adam Kissel at 8:03 a.m.

II. **Attendance** – Attending members were Karen Bailey-Chapman, Dewayne Duncan, Brian Helton (arrived at 8:09), and Adam Kissel.

III. **Minutes** – Minutes from the meeting of October 18, 2022 were approved with one technical amendment (moved by Kissel, seconded by Bailey-Chapman, vote 3-0).

IV. **Executive Director Update** – Citing West Virginia code, Executive Director James Paul explained the purpose of charter schools is to “empower new, innovative, and more flexible ways of educating children.” According to state code, charter school authorizers are to approve proposals that possess competence in all elements of the application requirements. Paul described some of these elements, and he provided an overview of the PCSB process for evaluating applicants.

V. **Board Action on M.E.C.C.A. Business Learning Institute application** – Paul summarized the M.E.C.C.A. Business Learning Institute (MBLI) proposal. He explained that no deficiencies were identified in the application. Paul recommended the application be approved by the Board.

Duncan praised the applicants’ performance in the interview with the Board. Bailey-Chapman noted that the applicants are passionate about education and providing opportunities that help students flourish in business or other later-life pursuits.

Chairman Adam Kissel read the following action:

“The West Virginia Professional Charter School Board authorizes the M.E.C.C.A. Business Learning Institute (MBLI) as a public charter school on the basis of meeting the established objective criteria and merits in the law and on the basis of evidence documented in its application.

If the applicant, the board of MBLI, desires to contract with any public or private nonprofit or for-profit education management organization, school design provider, or any other partner entity for educational design, implementation, or comprehensive management, it must receive authorization from the Board.

The vision of The M.E.C.C.A. Business Learning Institute “is to educate middle through high school students on the fundamental theories and practices of business with a focus on leadership, entrepreneurship, and finance in an innovative, high-quality, academically challenging, but fulfilling, environment. The idea is to see students graduate MBLI, prepared to lead and or conduct business competently in a global society; function as responsible citizens; and realize their potential as productive contributors in the 21st century.”

The action passed 4-0. Kissel remarked that he would notify the state Superintendent of schools about the authorized application, and the PCSB would begin working with MBLI on a charter contract.

VI. **Board Action on Workforce Initiative for Nurses Academy application** – Paul discussed the Workforce Initiative for Nurses (WIN) Academy proposal. He explained that no deficiencies were identified in the application. Paul recommended the application be approved by the Board.

Duncan praised the application for being innovative and helping to address a shortage of registered nurses in West Virginia. Bailey-Chapman remarked that she would prefer to see the proposed charter school be available to students in grades 9 through 11, in addition to grade 12. Duncan agreed that engaging students from a younger age would be optimal.

Chairman Adam Kissel offered the following proposed action:

The West Virginia Professional Charter School Board authorizes the Workforce Initiative for Nurses (WIN) Academy as a public charter school on the basis of meeting the established objective criteria and merits in the law and on the basis of evidence documented in its application.

The Board appreciates the desire of the applicant, BridgeValley Community & Technical College (“BVCTC”), to add an 11th grade. To do so, BVCTC must receive authorization from the Board.

The vision of the Workforce Initiative for Nurses Academy is primarily “to be a forward-looking charter school that serves the nursing workforce needs of West Virginians by increasing the RN workforce and meeting the occupational aspirations of high school seniors who want to enter the nursing field.

The mission of the school is primarily “to provide a dynamic, accelerated educational experience in a traditional community college setting that empowers 30 twelfth grade academy students from BVCTC’s service district to achieve the following:

Master the K-12 curriculum for the State of West Virginia high schools. Attain academic success as a high school senior/graduate and as a first-year RN student. Complete the high school graduation requirements for the State of West Virginia. Finish the first year of an accredited registered nurse program at BVCTC as a high school student enrolled in the WIN Academy. And enroll as a community college student at BVCTC as a second-year nursing student upon high school graduation.”

The action did not pass (Kissel and Duncan voted yes, Bailey-Chapman and Helton abstained). PCSB by-laws require at least three positive votes for the board to agree to an action. Kissel remarked that Board members and the Executive Director should work with the applicant to amend the application—perhaps by expanding to serve students in at least 10th and 11th grade. Citing state code, Kissel remarked that if no action is taken on application within 90 days of submission, the proposed charter school would be authorized. The WIN Academy application was submitted on August 29, 2022, which places the 90-day deadline on November 27, 2022.

VII. **Next Meeting and Adjournment** – The next meeting will be November 23, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 a.m. (motion by Duncan, second by Bailey-Chapman, 4-0 vote).