

Early Light Academy
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 7, 2017

Location: Early Light Academy, 11709 S. Vadania Drive, South Jordan, UT 84095

In Attendance: Eric Montague, Kevin Swiss, Stephanie Schmidt (4:11pm)

Not in Attendance: David Bourne, Andrea Johnson

Others in Attendance: Sydney Young (Director), Jacqueline Wight (IT), Marlies Burns, Gabe Clark, Trent Brown, Trish Trammell, Jed Stevenson, Brad Taylor, Kim Dohrer



MINUTES

4:03 PM CALL TO ORDER by Eric Montague

There was no public comment.

PRESENTATION:

Marlies Burns, former Executive Director for the Utah State Charter School Board, presented and described the process of gathering two fiscal years' worth of administrative cost data from all Utah LEAs, including school districts and charters. Fiscal standards have changed for the state, so data was gathered for FY15 and FY16 only in order to ensure consistency and comparability of date from one year to the next. She consulted with other LEA business managers to validate the methodology she employed for compiling the data and has given the data to legislative fiscal analysts and state auditors for review.

She displayed various graphs comparing LEAs' administrative expenses per student ADM (average daily membership). This data shows that charter schools spend less on administrative costs per ADM than traditional districts. The data also indicates that charter schools using an Educational Service Provider (ESP) spend less on administrative costs per ADM than charters not using an ESP. In addition, it shows that the administrative costs per ADM reported by schools working with Academica West are comparable to or less than those costs for schools working with other ESPs and lower than schools with no ESP. As part of the discussion, in reviewing the graphs, Academica West noted that, in an effort to ensure transparency, the entire fee for AW's services is coded as administrative costs (even though some of the services would not otherwise be included in these categories, including facilities maintenance and special education support), which may or may not be the case for other ESPs.

Kim Dohrer, Academica West, presented SAGE data gathered from the Data Gateway. It included three years' worth of student academic comparison data (SY 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016) from Jordan School District and State % Proficient in grades K-9 for Science, Mathematics and Language Arts. The Director, Sydney Young, has a copy of the longitudinal Early Light Academy data. The Board reviewed the longitudinal SAGE data and noted that Early Light Academy generally performed better than Jordan School District and the state.

Eric Montague made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Swiss seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and motion passed.

5:41 PM ADJOURN