

School Board Work Session on Charter Schools

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Who Do We Have In The Room?

- Name
- Role with the District
- What role (if any) do you have with Charter Schools?
- Write down the answer to this questions (**DO NOT READ ALOUD**)
 - If I could do anything, I would.....



Overview of Charter Schools



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What is a “Charter”?”

Discuss with your elbow partner



Definition:

a document, issued by a sovereign or state, outlining the Conditions under which a corporation, colony, city, or other corporate body is organized, and defining its rights and privileges.



Says who the school is!



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Charter School Law

Alaska Statutes 14.03.250 to 14.03.290

Links:

[DEED Charter School Information](#)

AASB Charter School Academies



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Charter School Law

Let's take a look:

Sec 14.03.250 Application



(a) A local school board shall **prescribe an application procedure** for the establishment of a charter school in that school district. The application procedure must include provisions for an **academic policy committee** consisting of parents of students attending the school, teachers, and school employees and a proposed form for a contract between a charter school and the local school board, setting out the contract elements required under [AS 14.03.255\(c\)](#).

Charter School Law



Take a look:

Sec 14.03.255 Organization & Operation

- Operate **within a local school district**
- Exempt from district **curriculum & instruction** (this is your autonomy!)
- Operate under a contract with the district
 - **14 requirements within the contract**



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Contract requirements:

(c) A charter school shall operate under a contract between the charter school and the local school board. A contract must contain the following provisions:

(1) a description of the **educational program**;

(2) specific levels of achievement for the education program;

(3) **admission policies** and procedures;

(4) **administrative policies**;

(5) a statement of the charter school's **funding allocation** from the local school board and costs assignable to the charter school program budget;

(6) the method by which the charter school will **account for receipts and expenditures**;

(7) the location and description of the **facility**;



Contract requirements:

- (8) **the name of the teacher, or teachers**, who, by agreement between the charter school and the teacher, will teach in the charter school;
- (9) the **teacher-to-student ratio**;
- (10) the **number of students** served;
- (11) the **term of the contract**, not to exceed a term of 10 years;
- (12) **a termination clause** providing that the contract may be terminated by the local school board for the failure of the charter school to meet educational achievement goals or fiscal management standards, or for other good cause;
- (13) **a statement that the charter school will comply with all state and federal requirements for receipt and use of public money**;
- (14) other requirements or exemptions agreed upon by the charter school and the local school board.

Charter School Law

Let's take a look:



Other important sections:

- 14.03.265 Funding
- 14.03.265 Admission
- 14.03.270 Teacher or employee transfers, evaluations, and negotiated agreements.
- 14.03.275 Contract; Duration
(not more than 10 yrs. durations)

Bylaws

Let's take a look at the elements:

- Who, where, when
- Defines the APC & composition
- **Definition of a “Quorum”**
 - Implications for compliance with OMA (Open Meetings Act)
- Elections & terms



Bylaws

- Powers & duties
- Regular & special meetings
 - Executive sessions (OMA)
- Notice (agenda – OMA)
- **Resignation or removal**
- Rules of order (Roberts Rules or other?)
- Conflicts



Bylaws

- Officers
- Administration
 - Selection
 - Description & expectations
 - Evaluation
- Committees
- Administrative policies



Bylaws

- Bylaw amendment procedure
- Miscellaneous
 - Fiscal year
 - contracts
 - Grants
 - Record keeping & storage
 - Accounting & budgeting



The Contract

- Must include the **14 subjects previously presented**
- When was it last renewed?
 - Fairbanks handles this differently from all other districts in the state
- Has it been reviewed recently?
 - Again, Fairbanks does this different
- Like the school board, there should be an **orientation of new APC members post elections**
- Do the APCs follow their contract? How does the board ensure they are accountable and **transparent?**

Good governance starts with knowing:

What's in your *charter*?

What's in your *bylaws*?

What's in your *contract*?

Questions?



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Any Questions



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Roles and Responsibilities



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BOARD & SUPERINTENDENT

Roles & Responsibilities



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Charter Schools

ROLES
and
RESPONSIBILITIES



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School Board and APC Very Similar Roles

School Board

- Liaison between district and community
- Policy making body of the district
- Recruits, hires, and gives direction to the Superintendent
- Approves, adopts, & monitors district annual budget

Charter School APC

- Liaison between school and community
- Establishes policies to govern the school
- Selects, oversees, and evaluates the Head Teacher/Principal
- Approves, adopts, & monitors school annual budget

School Board and APC Very Similar Roles

School Board

- Establishes educational philosophy and goals for the district
- Adopts policies for personnel management
- Adopts policies for provision of student services including admission, attendance, rights & responsibilities, safety, harassment, discipline & welfare

Charter School APC

- Establishes educational philosophy and goals for the school
- Follows district personnel policies
- Adopts policies for provision of student services including admission, attendance, rights & responsibilities, safety, harassment, discipline & welfare

School Board and APC Very Similar Roles

School Board

- Establishes policies for the appropriate operation and maintenance of district buildings and ground, as well as use of facilities
- Hold meetings in compliance with OMA

Charter School APC

- Establishes policies for the appropriate operation and maintenance of school building and ground, as well as use of facilities
- Hold meetings in compliance with OMA

Superintendent and Principal (Head Teacher) Similar as well

Superintendent

- CEO of the Board, and responsible for implementing policies
- Provide Board with materials as requested from the board as a whole
- Advises board on policy, drafts policy, implements policy
- Serves as the districts budget officer

Principal/Head Teacher

- CEO of the APC, and responsible for implementing policies
- Provide APC with materials as requested from the APC as a whole
- Advises APC on policy, drafts policy, implements policy
- Serves as the schools budget officer

Superintendent and Principal (Head Teacher) Similar as well

Superintendent

- Advises board on educational needs of students, and DEED requirements/directives
- Recommends to the Board the employment, promotion, transfer, retirement, or dismissal of all certified & classified staff
- Implements student policies adopted by the board

Principal/Head Teacher

- Advises board on educational needs of students, and DEED requirements/directives
- Manages the employment, promotion, transfer, retirement or dismissal of all certified & classified staff.
- Implements student policies adopted by the APC

Superintendent and Principal (Head Teacher) Similar as well

Superintendent

- Provides for the proper upkeep of district facilities and maintenance of equipment
- Serves as ex-officio member to the board
- Informs the community about the districts schools

Principal/Head Teacher

- Provides for the proper upkeep of school facilities and maintenance of equipment
- Serves as ex-officio member to the APC
- Informs the community about the Charter School

Any Questions



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Approval of Charter, and Yearly Contracts



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It's Worth Noting...

- This is one area where the Fairbanks North Star Borough District operates different from most other districts in the State.
- Most district:
 - Require an annual report
 - Approve contracts for 10 years (sometimes 5)
- Fairbanks
 - Required an annual report
 - Approves contracts annually



Things to Consider:

- Inability for Schools to plan long term
- Time taken away from instruction in order to go through contract negotiations every year
- Possible impacts on stability of the school
- Possible impacts on students of charter school
- Possible impacts on the district at large if agreement is not reached
- Timing of contract negotiations
- DEED must approve any major changes as well



Any Questions



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Questions Submitted Early

- Do the charters have a diverse demographic of students?
- If not, how are they moving forward in creating a diverse demographic of students?
- How are they advertising for both?
- Your Administration should be able to answer this.
- A charter school shall enroll all eligible students who submit a timely application unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of the charter school. In the event of an excess, the charter school and the school board shall attempt to accommodate the students by considering additional classroom space and/or additional teachers. If it is not possible to accommodate all eligible students, students shall be selected by a random drawing.

Questions Submitted Early

- how are they moving forward in creating a diverse demographic of teachers?
- Charter school must follow the district's personnel policies, EXCEPT by mutual agreement between the Charter School and School Board. Any exemptions MUST be specified in the contract.
- How are they advertising for both?

Questions Submitted Early

- What laws have changed that may require us to update our current policies in regards to charter schools?
- When a charter school is not aligned with the district's mission (example, lack of diversity), when is it appropriate for the school board to intervene?
- This is a question you should refer to your legal council.
- If there is evidence of a breach of contract, the School Board has a right to investigate and meet with the charter school to discuss possible remedies.

Any Questions



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Charter School Services from AASB

- APC Workshops
 - Policy Workshops
 - APC Roles & Responsibilities
 - Principal evaluation
 - Budget Trainings
 - Meeting audits
 - More!
- Charter School Academies
- <https://aasb.org/charter-school-resources/>