

Minutes: PREP Executive Officers
November 16, 2010

Individuals Present: Denise Hamlin, Ivan Manev , Jim Boothby, Anne Pooler,
Emil Genest, Jerry White, Owen Maurais

The meeting began at 10:10 with introductions.

Owen Maurais reviewed the information that had been distributed by email prior to the meeting. There was an extended discussion on the potential impact of Charter Schools upon public school and ways to help influence the upcoming political discussion regarding Charter Schools.

Upon reviewing the Charter School Study Committee Report from 2003 and the Act To Permit Charter Schools in Maine (Which did not pass by the 124th Legislature, the following recommendations were made:

First: That PREP as an organization not directly takes part in the upcoming discussion. Since both the State's Superintendent and School Board Associations are on record as opposing Charter Schools, it would be best that we refrain from directly taking part at this time.

Second: Information discussed today can be useful for superintendents and school boards to use to help inform legislators as the discussion continues during the upcoming legislative session.

Some key points to focus upon:

That the opportunity for school units to develop regional charter schools be provided

That existing schools be allowed to seek conversion to charter school Status without these requirement found in last years proposed legislation:

A petition signed by at least 60%of the teachers in the existing Public school

A petition signed by a majority of parents and guardians or students in the existing public school

Other evidence or information provided at a public hearing conveyed by the authorizer

The recommendation made by those in attendance focused upon having a formal vote of the community as the means of approving a conversion of an existing public school to a public charter school.

Last years legislation allowed that a public charter school not enroll more than 10% of school units public school students per grade level. It was suggested by the group that this number be held at 5%.

That the following groups continue to be eligible authorizers as Identified in previous legislation:

A local school board within the boundaries of a school administrative unit

A collaborative among local boards and other eligible authorizing entities that form to set up a public charter School for their region

A college or university in the state that offers a baccalaureate degree in education

Other Discussion Points

The potential exists for the United Technology Center to house programs that could serve additional populations currently served within our schools

That a Center of Excellence format be used in establishing additional program developments

That PREP school study the use of technology to support the provision of specialized classes, which currently enroll a small number in our schools. It was noted that some AP courses currently enroll 3 to 5 students within some high schools. Utilizing technology, such as polycom, one instructor could provide a class enrolling students among numerous schools.

Also, online classes could be developed by a PREP teacher that would be available to students in other schools as well.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Owen P. Maurais
Executive Director

