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Schedule Attached to this Release

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: July 29, 2010

Public Education Commission Schedules Community Input Hearings in August for Charter School Applicants

Santa Fe – The New Mexico Public Education Commission (PEC) has scheduled community input hearings for 12 charter school applicants August 16-18, 2010 in various locations around the state.

The hearings will be held in Las Cruces, Belen, Gallup, Albuquerque, and Espanola for charter schools who have applied for authorization through the PEC. The PEC became the official state authorizer for charter school in 2006 with the passage of the New Mexico Charter Schools Act.

During the public hearings, members of the PEC will listen to presentations from the charter school applicants. Following this presentation, local school district representatives and members of the public will have an opportunity to speak for or against the proposed school. The PEC will then have an opportunity to question the applicant(s) on their charter application.

Public input about any of the charter school applications may also be submitted in writing to the PEC by sending letters or emails to New Mexico Public Education Commission, c/o Beverly Friedman, NMPED PIO & PEC Liaison, 300 Don Gaspar, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 or Bev.Friedman@state.nm.us Public input for each charter application will be accepted for three calendar days after the applicant's PEC hearing. The deadline for input is 5:00 p.m. of the third day after the hearing.

PEC members will vote to authorize or deny the applications at their next PEC meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, September 9, 2010 at Pugash Hall in the Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum, 9201 Balloon Museum Drive in Albuquerque. If they do not complete their business at the end of the day, the PEC will recess the meeting until the next day on Friday, September 10, 2010.

Each community public input hearing is scheduled for approximately 60 to 90 minutes. On Monday, August 16, the first hearing will be held in Las Cruces, at the Hotel Encanto at 8:00 a.m. for J Paul Taylor Academy. Following this hearing the PEC will travel to Belen for a 1:00 p.m. hearing in the Belen City Hall for Abbie Paiz Charter High School. The PEC will end their day with a hearing at the UNM Gallup Campus at 5:30 p.m. for Uplift: a School of Expeditionary Learning.

On Tuesday, August 17, the PEC will hold five hearings at the CNM Work Force Training Center in Albuquerque. The first hearing is at 8:00 a.m. for New Mexico International School, followed by Kid's College Academy Charter K-8 School, and Aspen Grove Academy. At 1:00 p.m., the hearings will resume with The Edge Academy, Achieve Academy, and Sports and Entertainment Marketing Academy.

On Wednesday, August 18, the PEC hearings will continue at 8:00 a.m. for The Great Academy followed by Sage Academy at the CNM Work Force Training Center. The PEC will then travel to Northern New Mexico College in Espanola for a 2:30 p.m. hearing for Trinity High School.

A complete listing of the community input hearings is available at www.ped.state.nm.us Any questions about the hearings can be directed to the New Mexico Public Education Department’s Charter Schools Division at 505-222-4762.

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New Mexico Public Education Commission Community Input Hearings August 16-18, 2010

District	School	Date	Time	Place	Last Day for Public input
		Monday August 16			
Las Cruces	J Paul Taylor Academy		8:00 am	Hotel Encanto 705 South Telshor San Augustine Room Las Cruces, NM 88011	August 19 at 5 pm
Belen	Abbie Paiz Charter High School		1:00 pm	Belen City Hall 100 South Main City Council Chambers Belen, NM 87002	August 19 at 5 pm
Gallup	Uplift: a School of Expeditionary Learning		5:30 pm	UNM Gallup Campus 200 College Road Auditorium Room CH 248 Gallup, NM 87301	August 19 at 5 pm
		Tuesday August 17			
Albuquerque	New Mexico International School		8:00 am	CNM Work Force Training Center 5600 Eagle Rock Room 101 Albuquerque, NM 87113	August 20 at 5 pm
	Kid’s College Academy Charter K-8 School	Morning Session*			August 20 at 5 pm
	Aspen Grove Academy	Morning Session*			August 20 at 5 pm
	The Edge Academy		1:00 pm		August 20 at 5 pm
	Achieve Academy	Afternoon Session*			August 20 at 5 pm
	Sports and Entertainment Marketing Academy	Afternoon Session*			August 20 at 5 pm
Albuquerque		Wednesday August 18			
	The Great Academy		8:00 am	CNM Workforce Training Center 5600 Eagle Rock Room 101 Albuquerque, NM 87113	August 21 at 5 pm
	Sage Academy	Morning Session*			August 21 at 5 pm
Española	Trinity High School		2:30 pm	Northern New Mexico College 921 Paseo de Onate Joseph Montoya Building Room ADM 101/102 Española, NM 87532	August 21 at 5 pm

*Denotes that the times will depend on the length of the previous hearing and will begin as soon as the previous hearing is completed

THE LAST DAY THAT THE PEC WILL ACCEPT INPUT FROM THE APPLICANT WILL BE 3 CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 5 PM. WRITTEN INPUT OR EMAILS SHOULD BE SENT TO: BEVERLY FRIEDMAN AT 300 DON GASPAR AVE. SANTA FE, NM 87501 OR bev.friedman@state.nm.us