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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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### CHARTER SCHOOLS

LC Conference Room  
One East Main Street, Suite 401, Madison

June 25, 2007  
10:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

[The following is a summary of the June 25, 2007 meeting of the Special Committee on Charter Schools. The file copy of this summary has appended to it a copy of each document prepared for or submitted to the committee during the meeting. A digital recording of the meeting is available on our Web site at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc>. ]

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#### Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Vukmir called the meeting to order and asked that the roll be called. The roll was called and it was noted that a quorum was not present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Leah Vukmir, Chair; Sens. Alberta Darling and Ted Kanavas; and Public Members Bill Baumgart, Rachel Schultz, and Cindy Zautcke.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Reps. Scott Newcomer and Christine Sinicki; and Public Members Diane Barkmeier, Philip Ertl, Howard Fuller, Barbara Horton, Craig Jefson, Sandra Mills, Noelle Mudrak, and Ben Vogel.

COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT: Joyce L. Kiel and Russ Whitesel, Senior Staff Attorneys.

#### Approval of the Minutes of the Special Committee's December 19, 2006 Meeting

Due to the lack of a quorum, it was not possible to vote on approval of the minutes of the committee's December 19, 2006 meeting.

<p><b>*ATTENTION:</b> This was the final meeting of the Special Committee on Charter Schools. Committee members are requested to send any corrections regarding these Minutes or the Minutes of the December 19, 2006 meeting to the Legislative Council staff. After the incorporation of any corrections, these Minutes and the December 19, 2006 Minutes will be considered approved by the committee.</p>
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## **Description of Materials Distributed**

Legislative Council staff noted that WLC: 0087/1, the preliminary draft prepared for the committee, had been distributed prior to the meeting. A letter from Ms. Mudrak to Chair Vukmir dated June 22, 2007, was distributed at the meeting.

## **Consideration of WLC: 0087/1**

Chair Vukmir explained that due to the lack of a quorum it would not be possible for the committee to take action at the meeting on WLC: 0087/1 in either its present form or a modified form.

Chair Vukmir remarked that the study process had brought out numerous ideas related to charter schools and involved extensive efforts by members of the committee. She indicated that the Joint Legislative Council had set a July 15 deadline for the committee to report on its final recommendations. If that deadline is not met, she explained that any proposal could be introduced as a separate bill by an individual legislator for consideration by the Legislature. However, without a finalized recommendation by the committee before July 15, it would not be possible to have the Joint Legislative Council introduce any proposal as a Joint Legislative Council bill.

Chair Vukmir noted that the committee had focused on two issues: expanding the number of entities that could authorize independent charter schools and creating an appeals process to appeal a decision not to establish a charter school or not to renew a charter. She indicated that the appeals process appeared to be generally acceptable, while the expansion of authorizing entities was the more contentious of the two issues.

Senator Darling indicated that she would be willing to support, as a compromise, allowing up to three additional University of Wisconsin System campuses, three additional technical college campuses, and three private colleges or universities to establish independent charter schools on a first come, first served basis. She indicated that, in her opinion, this would constitute a reasonable pilot expansion and allow the most motivated entities to pursue creation of new charter schools.

## **Plans for Future Meetings**

After some brief discussion by the committee, it was determined that a quorum was not going to be present for the meeting. Chair Vukmir explained that with the upcoming Assembly floorperiod and holiday schedules, it appeared that June 29 was the only possible date for a committee meeting to be held in time to meet the July 15 deadline. She asked Legislative Council staff to poll committee members about their availability for a meeting in the Milwaukee area on Friday, June 29, beginning at 10:00 a.m. It was decided that the committee would be notified by Wednesday, June 27 as to whether a meeting would be held. She indicated that if no quorum could be obtained for that meeting, then the committee would not meet again.

Chair Vukmir explained that if the committee was unable to meet, a report would be prepared and delivered to the Joint Legislative Council indicating that no recommendation for legislation would be forthcoming from the committee.

Chair Vukmir thanked the public members for their hard work and diligence regarding the study. Public Members Schultz and Baumgart both remarked on the unique aspect of a legislative and citizen member committee looking for solutions to public policy questions.

[Subsequent to this meeting, it was determined that a quorum could not be obtained for a meeting on Friday, June 29. Therefore, this meeting was the final meeting of the committee.]

### **Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

RW:ksm