

Board gives charter good review

▼ **EDUCATION:** Nampa School Board member says proposal is complete and program seems strong

By Jon Meyer

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NAMPA — Nampa School Board Trustee Dale Wheeler said Tuesday that the proposed Nampa Classical Academy has all the necessary elements in its proposal to gain approval, but a decision on the charter will not come until the board's meeting in June.

The board heard from three community members and an academy representative in front of an audience of about 12 at Nampa High School. The board accepted comments but did not answer questions, offering only

Want to comment?

The Nampa School Board will accept written comments through Randy McKnight until 5 p.m. Tuesday. Written comments can be mailed to the district office at 619 S. Canyon St., Nampa, ID 83686.

Wheeler's short presentation at the conclusion.

Isaac Moffett of Nampa, the vice chair of the academy's board, said the school could establish itself as the first classical academy in Nampa with 360 students between grades one and nine, focusing on the Trivium teaching method.

"We learn in three ways and there are three ways in which they are taught: grammar, logic and rhetoric," Moffett said. "The children in the area don't

have a classical option now."

Speaker Trudy Hammond applauded the charter's board members on their work so far, saying she supports the school.

Laurie Boeckel, a critic of some charter schools, said she is happy with the amount of choice in the school district, but she questioned the fiscal responsibility of adding another institution that will require oversight and additional infrastructure.

"Do these parents deserve what they want? Of course they do. But it comes down to responsibility. The district can't provide everything we want," she said. "I'm not here to oppose the academy, but we don't have the resources."

She proposed sending the proposal to the state charter commission for review.

Bill Lofholm, who also has criticized some charters, questioned the need for the public forum and asked why the decision wasn't left to the state. Board members said Tuesday's hearing was required by law.

The meeting ended with comments from Wheeler.

"I've read it over ... as far as I can tell they've met all the (requirements) in the statute and put together a good program," Wheeler said. "With that I wish them the best of luck."

The school board said a decision or extension would be made by its June meeting.