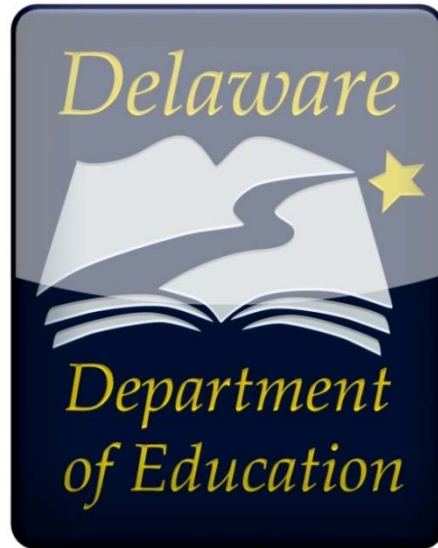


CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Providence Creek Academy

**RENEWAL APPLICATION
FINAL REPORT**

CSAC Final Meeting: November 10, 2015
CSAC Final Report Published: November 13, 2015

By September 30, 2014, Providence Creek Academy submitted an application to renew its charter. Consideration of this application is in accordance with the applicable provisions of 14 *Del. C.* § 514A and 14 DE Admin. Code § 275. Written renewal application guidance is provided by the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) on its website. The renewal application template developed by DDOE is aligned to measures and targets within the Performance Framework, which outlines the academic, organizational and fiscal standards by which all Delaware charter schools are evaluated. The evaluation of the school's performance as measured by the Framework is a major component of the decision on the renewal application. The decision on the renewal application is based on a comprehensive review, guided, in part, by the following three questions:

1. Is the academic program a success?
2. Is the school financially viable?
3. Is the school organizationally sound?

This report serves as a summary of the strengths, areas of follow-up, and/or concerns identified by members of the Charter School Accountability Committee (CSAC) during their individual reviews of the charter applicant's renewal application, Performance Review Reports, Annual Reports and Performance Agreements and during the CSAC meetings.

The following were in attendance at the Final Meeting of the CSAC on November 10, 2015:

Voting Committee Members of the Charter School Accountability Committee

- David Blowman, Chairperson of the Charter School Accountability Committee and Deputy Secretary, DDOE
- Karen Field Rogers, Associate Secretary for Adult Education and School Supports, DDOE
- Barbara Mazza, Education Associate, Exceptional Children Resources, DDOE
- April McCrae, Education Associate, Science Assessment and STEM, DDOE
- Atnre Alleyne, Director, Talent Management & Educator Effectiveness, Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Unit (TLEU), DDOE
- Deborah Wilson, Community Member

Staff to the Committee (Non-voting)

- Catherine Hickey, Deputy Attorney General, Counsel to the Committee
- Jennifer Nagourney, Executive Director, Charter School Office, DDOE
- John Carwell, Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Michelle Whalen, Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Brook Hughes, Education Associate, Financial Reform and Resource Management, DDOE

Ex-Officio Members (Non-voting)

- Kendall Massett, Executive Director, Delaware Charter School Network
- Donna Johnson, Executive Director, Delaware State Board of Education

Representatives of Charter School

- Amy Santos, Board President
- Christian Craig, Board Vice President
- Lisa Moore, Board Treasurer
- Melissa Rhoads, Board Member
- Chuck Taylor, Head of School
- Audrey Erschen, Principal
- Danielle Moore, Director of Curriculum

Additional Attendees Noted

- Kevin Ohlandt

Discussion

Mr. Blowman noted for the record that, at the Initial CSAC Meeting on October 13, 2015, the Charter School Accountability Committee (CSAC) indicated that there were no sections of the renewal application that did not meet standard.

Mr. Blowman noted that the CSAC had requested the following information in order to inform its decision-making:

- An academic plan based on the school's Smarter Balanced results;
- A professional development plan specifically for mathematics, including the October 12th professional development; and
- A copy of the school's special education Corrective Action Plan once approved by the Department of Education.

Mr. Blowman noted that the school submitted its response to the initial report on November 4, 2015.

Mr. Blowman noted that the school's 2014-15 Organizational Framework Report and 2014-15 Financial Framework Report had been added to the record. The Financial Framework Report received an overall rating of "Meets Standard" and the Organizational Framework Report received an overall rating of "Does Not Meet Standard."

Mr. Blowman asked the CSAC members to indicate whether there were any questions, comments or feedback related to the supplemental information that the school submitted.

Ms. McCrae acknowledged that the professional development plan that was submitted does cover the entire school year. She recommended additional focus on pedagogy. She also noted that the school has been in touch with the Delaware Department of Education's Office of Assessment regarding science participation.

Ms. Mazza noted that the Corrective Action Plan that had been requested was submitted and approved.

Mr. Blowman asked whether there were any questions about the academic plan that had been submitted. There were none.

Mr. Blowman noted that, while the Organizational Framework Report received an overall rating of "Does Not Meet Standard," it should be understood in its full context. He stated that, while there is no denying that certain events occurred at the school under conditions that allowed them to happen at the time, the school has been proactive in addressing those concerns. He commended the school on its proactive and transparent approach.

Conclusion

Mr. Blowman asked the CSAC whether there were any areas of the application that warranted a “Does Not Meet Standard” rating based upon a review of the application, supplemental materials, and discussions at the CSAC meetings. Each member of the CSAC responded that there were no sections of the application that warranted a “Does Not Meet Standard” rating.

Mr. Blowman requested a motion to recommend renewal of the charter of Providence Creek Academy. The motion was made to approve the recommendation and was carried unanimously.

Mr. Blowman reminded the applicant that the CSAC’s recommendation was just that; a recommendation to the Secretary of Education on the renewal application.

Next Steps:

- A second public hearing will be held on December 8, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor Cabinet Room of the Townsend Building at 401 Federal Street, Dover DE.
- The public comment period ends on December 11, 2015.
- The State Board of Education will hold a meeting on December 17, 2015, in the 2nd floor Cabinet Room of the Townsend Building at 401 Federal Street, Dover DE, at which time the Secretary will announce his decision on the renewal application and, if required, the State Board will act on that decision.