



**Department of Education
Charter School Accountability Committee Meeting**

**March 19, 2014
Modification Application Process
Initial Meeting - Minutes**

Odyssey Charter School

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m. For the purpose of the record, introductions were made:

Voting Committee Members of the Charter School Accountability Committee

- David Blowman, Deputy Secretary, DDOE (Chair to the Committee)
- Tasha Cannon, Deputy Officer Talent Recruitment, Selection and Strategy, Teacher & Leader Effectiveness Unit (TLEU), DDOE
- Karen Field-Rogers, Associate Secretary, Financial Reform & Resource Management, DDOE
- Barbara Mazza, Education Associate, Exceptional Children Resources, DDOE
- April McCrae, Education Associate, Education Associate, Science Assessment and STEM, DDOE

Ex-officio Members (Non-voting)

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

Staff to the Committee (Non-voting)

- Paula Fontello, Deputy Attorney General, Counsel to the Committee (standing in for Catherine Hickey)
- Jennifer Nagourney, Executive Director, Charter School Office, DDOE
- John Carwell, Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE

Representatives of the Charter School

- George Chambers, Board President

Meeting purpose: To review and discuss Odyssey Charter School's application for a major charter modification, to take such further action thereon as the CSAC deems appropriate including, without limitation, the drafting of a report on the application, to provide the applicant an opportunity for an interview in support of the application, and to give the applicant the opportunity to present additional evidence beyond the data contained in the application, supporting its demonstration of alignment to the approval criteria set forth in Title 14 Del. Code §512.

Meeting between the CSAC and Odyssey Charter School: Mr. Blowman introduced each major section of the application, identified below, and invited CSAC voting members to raise concerns and ask clarifying questions directly of the applicant for each of those sections. Various issues were explored, including those listed under applicable section headings. All comments and questions discussed in the meeting are documented in the Initial Report.

Conclusion of the meeting: Mr. Blowman gave the reviewers the opportunity to restate any questions or concerns about any sections of the application that did not meet the criteria for a “Meets Standard” rating and to clarify the additional information requested. The concerns and questions will be detailed in the initial report of the CSAC.

Section A: Core Questions

No concerns were noted.

Section G: Relevant Questions

No concerns were noted.

Mr. Blowman articulated the next steps in the new application process as follows:

- The CSAC initial report will be based on information the CSAC has received through its meeting on March 19, 2014 and be issued on April 1, 2014.
- The first public hearing will be held on April 1, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., in the 2nd Floor Cabinet Room in the Townsend Building.
- The applicant’s response to the initial report is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on April 17, 2014.
- The Final meeting of the CSAC will be held on April 25, 2014.
- The CSAC final report will be issued on May 2, 2014 with a recommendation pursuant to Title 14 Chapter 5 Section 512.
- The applicant’s final public hearing will be held on May 7, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at the Carvel Building, 2nd Floor Auditorium, 820 French Street, Wilmington.
- The process will conclude with the State Board of Education meeting on Thursday, May 15, 2014 where Secretary Murphy will present the Department of Education’s decision on the application.

The meeting concluded at 11:45 a.m.