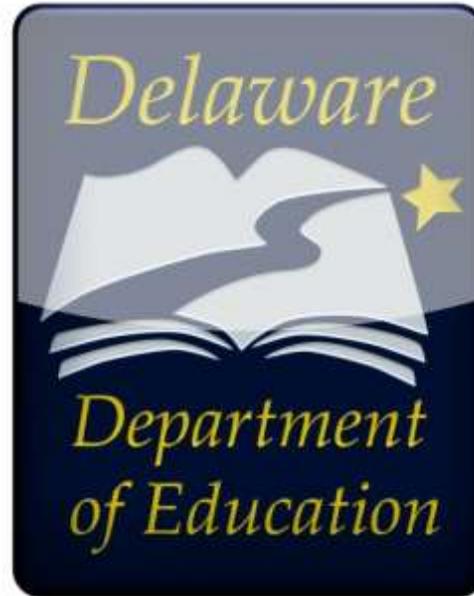


# CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**New Maurice J. Moyer Academy**

**MAJOR MODIFICATION APPLICATION**

**INITIAL REPORT**

CSAC Meeting: January 29, 2014  
CSAC Initial Report Published: February 24, 2014

In July 2013, Governor Jack Markell signed H.B. 165 into law, bringing sweeping changes to Delaware’s existing charter school laws. This legislation included a number of provisions to strengthen the rigor of the application process for new charter schools, including additional requirements for the charter school application, an additional round of review, and heightened approval criteria.

Per the charter school law, a charter school application must meet all of the criteria outlined in 14 Del. C. §512 to be approved. Per 14 Del. C. §511(e), the first Charter School Accountability Committee meeting provided each applicant whose application was deemed sufficient to receive a full review an opportunity in for an interview in support of the application, and provided the members of the Charter School Accountability Committee and the Delaware Department of Education with an opportunity to assess applicant capacity, allow the applicant to clarify information provided in the application, and gather additional information.

This Initial Report is intended to provide each applicant receiving a full review with a summary of the areas of follow-up, and/or concerns identified by members of the CSAC during their individual reviews of the charter application against the approval criteria outlined in 14 Del. C. §512. Areas that are marked “No concerns noted at this time” mean that evidence provided in the application was sufficient and no follow-up questions were asked of the applicant around that particular question of the application.

Each applicant shall have the opportunity to review and comment on the committee’s report. Comments are due to the Delaware Department of Education’s Charter School Office **no later than 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11**. All materials must be combined into a single PDF document, and emailed to [Jennifer.Nagourney@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:Jennifer.Nagourney@doe.k12.de.us).

The following were in attendance at the Initial Meeting of the CSAC on January 29, 2014:

**Voting Committee Members of the Charter School Accountability 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 (Chair to the Committee)
- Barbara Mazza, Education Associate, Exceptional Children Resources, DDOE
- April McCrae, Education Associate, Education Associate, Science Assessment and STEM, DDOE

**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

- Brook Hughes, Education Associate, Financial Reform Resources, DDOE
- Chantel Janiszewski, Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Sheila Kay-Lawrence, Administrative Assistance, Charter School Office, 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 the Charter School**

(none present)

### **Section A: Core Questions**

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The following concerns were noted:

- The charter school is requesting a retroactive enrollment modification, to be applied to the 2012-13 school year through the 2015-16 school year (pages 3-4). However, under 14 Del. Admin C.275.9.8.1.3, enrollment modifications can only be applied to the school years following the approval of the application. The applicant does not discuss the Academic Performance Report, as required by the application (page 4).
- The applicant does not discuss the Organizational Performance Report, as required by the application (page 4).
- The Financial Performance Report issued by the DDOE for the 2012-13 school year is not eligible for revision (page 4).
- The applicant is requested to provide additional information about how the change in enrollment will affect the unit allocations and the student-to-staff ratio (page 5)

### **Section B: Enrollment Plan**

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The following questions were noted:

- The applicant is requested to provide additional information about their plan to achieve their stated goal “to minimize staff and student turnover and build on the current strengths of our current instructional culture” (page 8).

## Appendix A: Funding Summaries & Annual Budgets

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The following concerns were noted:

- The applicant did not submit Revenue Estimate worksheets, as required by the application.
- The applicant did not submit the budget narrative, as required by the application.
- The applicant did not submit the “Other Funds” worksheet, as required by the application.
- The budget worksheets provided include FY13 data but not do not include FY18 data.
- The applicant is requested to provide additional information about the following funding and budget issues:
  - Outstanding management fees owed K12, if any (page 6).
  - Absence of budgeted management fees to be paid to K12 in FY15 noted in budget worksheets.
  - Projected Federal funding surpluses noted in budget worksheets.

### **Conclusion:**

Ms. Field-Rogers gave the reviewers the opportunity to restate any concerns about the application information and to clarify the additional information requested.

Ms. Field-Rogers articulated the next steps in the new application process as follows:

- The initial report of the CSAC will be released after the conclusion of the public hearing on February 13, 2014. **(The date was changed to February 24 because of weather delays.)**

- The initial report will be based on information the CSAC has received through its meeting on January 29, 2014. The applicant's response to the initial report is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on February 28, 2014. **(The date was changed to March 11 because of weather delays.)**
- The first public hearing is scheduled for February 13, 2014 beginning at 5:30 in the Carvel Building in Wilmington, 2nd floor auditorium.
- Final meetings of the CSAC will be held on March 6 and 7, 2014 at which time a final report with a recommendation will be issued pursuant to Title 14 Chapter 5 Section 512. **(The dates were changed to March 19 and 24 because of weather delays.)**
- Additional public hearings will be held on April 1 and April 2, 2014
- The process will conclude with the State Board of Education meeting on Thursday, April 17, 2014 where Secretary Murphy will present his decision on each application.