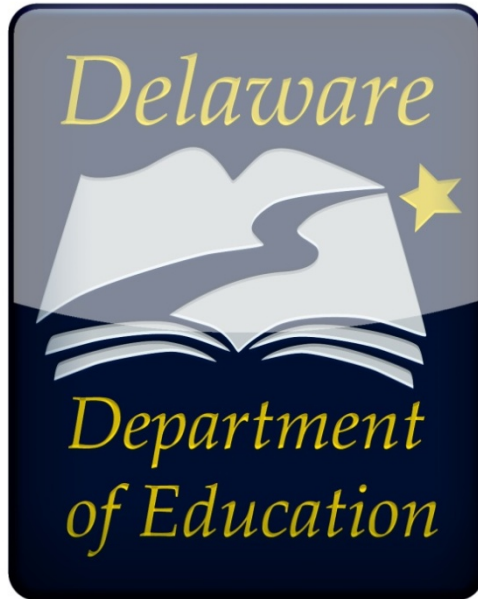


CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Odyssey Charter School

MAJOR MODIFICATION APPLICATION

INITIAL REPORT

CSAC Meeting: March 19, 2014
Initial Report Published: April 1, 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 Charter School Accountability Committee during their individual reviews of the charter applicant's renewal application against the approval criteria outlined in 14 Del. C. §512. Areas that are marked "None stated" 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 Wednesday, April 23**. All materials must be combined into a single PDF document, and emailed to Jennifer.Nagourney@doe.k12.de.us.

The following were in attendance at the Initial Meeting of the CSAC on 1/29/2014:

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

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

- George Chambers, Board President

Section A: Core Questions

No concerns were noted.

Section G: Relevant Questions

No concerns were noted.

Appendices:

No concerns were noted.

Conclusion:

Mr. Blowman made a motion for a recommendation that the application be approved. The motion was seconded, and approved unanimously.

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

- The CSAC Initial Report will be issued to the applicants 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.