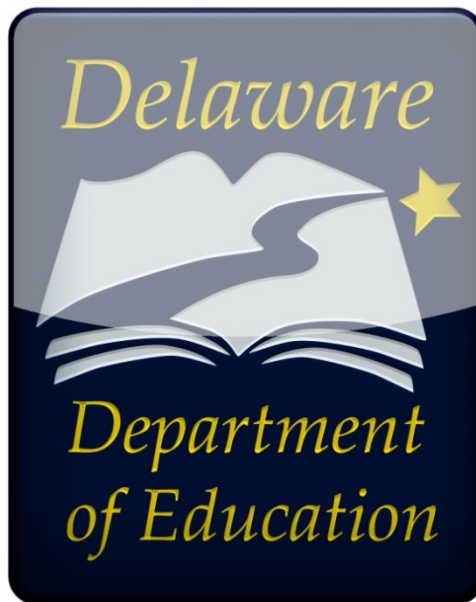


# CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



DELAWARE ACADEMY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

FINAL REPORT

APPLICATION TO MODIFY AN EXISTING CHARTER

Opening Date: August 2011

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Location: New Castle County

September 30, 2012 Unit Count: 192

Date of Report: 5 July 2013

## Background

**Name** Delaware Academy of Public Safety and Security

**Current Enrollment** 192

<b>Projected Enrollment</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Grade Levels</b>
	Year 1	117	9
	Year 2	240	9, 10
	Year 3	360	9, 10, 11
	Year 4	480	9, 10, 11, 12

**Mission** The mission of the Delaware Academy of Public Safety and Security is to provide an optimum setting for both typical and at-risk students that equally supports academics and personal growth and will result in increased graduation rates. The school will prepare 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade young men and women to qualify for positions within Delaware’s public safety and security industry upon graduation and to pursue education opportunities that lead to higher level public safety and security positions.

**Vision** The vision of the Delaware Academy of Public Safety and Security (DAPSS) is to provide an integrated and active learning approach to education that helps students to develop a long-term, outcomes-based view of education. Given the awareness of the availability of well-paying positions in the public safety and security industry upon high school graduation, traditionally low performing, at-risk students who begin high school immersed in DAPSS’s career activities will be more likely to embrace the importance of a high school diploma and work towards that goal. Knowing that there will be many bends in the road that challenge these students, each student will receive intense mentoring in academic, professional, and social areas to help ensure that the student receives important decision-making support. All of these components combined create the core philosophy of DAPSS: follow when ordered; lead when asked; trust as a brother; protect above all.

Members of the Charter School Accountability Committee (Committee) convened on 3 July 2013 for the Final Meeting.

At the Initial Meeting, the Committee engaged the Applicant in discussion about the proposed change in the location of the school. During the Preliminary Meeting, the Committee considered the modification application relative to the following approval criteria listed in 14 Del. Code § 512:

- Criterion Eight: Economic Viability
- Criterion Nine: Administrative and Financial Operations
- Criterion Ten: Insurance
- Criterion Twelve: Health and Safety.

## Initial and Preliminary Meetings

- The Delaware Academy of Public Safety and Security (DAPSS) sought a modification to its charter because all classrooms available to DAPSS at the current Faith City location are in use. The school began to pursue the possibility of adding modular classrooms to accommodate the expansion to the eleventh and twelfth grades.
- In January 2013, the Our Lady of Fatima School became available. The proposed modular classrooms on the current DAPSS site and associated costs were substantial. The school leadership decided that the Our Lady of Fatima School would provide a long-term solution and could accommodate DAPSS at its projected final enrollment of 480 students.
- The new, proposed site is within approximately fifteen minutes of Wilmington and is in a more central and accessible location than the current site.
- The school had conducted parent meetings and based on these meetings and discussions with parents, the school leadership believes that most families will choose to keep their students at DAPSS. Overall, the parents appear to be supportive of the move.
- The parents understand the need for the move and are satisfied with the school.
- Criteria 8 and 10 (Economic Viability and Insurance) were deemed “not met” at the Preliminary Meeting and Criteria (9) and (12) were “partially met.” These four criteria required a written response from the Applicant.

## Final Meeting

### Criterion Eight: Economic Viability

The Committee discussed the response to the Economic Viability criterion and noted the following.

- The Preliminary Report noted that it was unclear how the federal funds allocation was calculated. The Applicant’s response included the detailed information on the calculation of the estimated federal funds. The assumptions used in the calculation were also clearly explained. The information provided for this item is sufficient.
- The Preliminary Report indicated that the applicant combined all funding sources on the budget worksheets. This practice is problematic since federal funds are typically restricted for specific purposes and cannot be co-mingled with other funds. The Applicant’s response included revised budget worksheets with state/local funds separated from federal funds. The revenue and expenditure totals are in line with the previously submitted budgets and reflect year-end surpluses. The new budget worksheets sufficiently address the concerns noted in the Preliminary Report.
- The Preliminary Report noted that the Applicant’s original submission included only a one-year contingency budget which does not provide enough information to review the long-term viability if the school’s enrollment does not meet the projected levels. The Applicant’s response provides a three-year contingency budget, with state and local funds separated from federal funds. The contingency budgets reflect year-end surpluses that increase from

year to year, and appear to capture all expected expenses. The new contingency budget worksheets sufficiently address the concerns noted in the Preliminary Report.

***The Committee concluded that Criterion Eight was met.***

### **Criterion Nine: Administrative and Financial Operations**

The Committee discussed the response to this criterion and noted the following.

- *Plan to Recruit Students.* The Applicant's response to the Preliminary Report is satisfactory.

***The Committee concluded that Criterion Nine was met.***

### **Criterion Ten: Insurance**

The Committee discussed the response to the insurance criterion and noted the following.

- The Applicant submitted an insurance quote. The response is satisfactory.

***The Committee concluded that Criterion Ten was met.***

### **Criterion Twelve: Health and Safety**

The Committee discussed the response to the Health and Safety Criterion and noted the following.

- *School Transportation.* The Applicant stated that all enrolled cadets living in the Colonial School District will be provided transportation services equal to that provided by the Colonial School District.

***The Committee concluded that Criterion Twelve was met.***

## Summary and Recommendations

Criterion	Charter School Accountability Committee' s Recommendations
(8) Economic Viability	Met
(9) Administrative and Financial Operations	Met
(10) Insurance	Met
(12) Health and Safety	Met

The Charter School Accountability Committee recommended that the charter school modification application for the Delaware Academy of Public Safety and Security **be approved**.

## **Appendix A**

### **List of Attendees**

#### **Final Meeting of the Charter School Accountability Committee**

**3 July 2013**

#### **Application to Modify an Existing Charter**

##### **Members of the Committee**

- Mary Kate McLaughlin, Chief of Staff; Committee Chair
- Karen Field Rogers, Manager, Financial Reform and Resource Management
- Debora Hansen, Education Associate, Visual and Performing Arts, Charter Curriculum Review
- Paul Harrell, Director of Public and Private Partnerships
- Barbara Mazza, Education Associate, Exceptional Children Resources
- April McCrae, Education Associate, Education Associate, Science Assessment and STEM
- Kendall Massett, Executive Director, Delaware Charter School Network (Non-voting)

##### **Staff to the Committee**

- Catherine T. Hickey, Deputy Attorney General, Counsel to the Committee
- Patricia Bigelow, Education Associate, Charter School Office
- Brook Hughes, Education Associate, Charter School Finance
- Chantel Janiszewski, Education Associate, Charter School Office
- Sheila Kay-Lawrence, Administrative Secretary

##### **Representatives from Delaware Academy of Public Safety and Security**

- Charles Copeland, Board President
- Charles Hughes, Head of School
- Sandra Hypes, Teacher
- Brent Waninger, Teacher and Board Representative
- Herbert Sheldon, Charter School Operations Manager, Finance; Innovative Schools