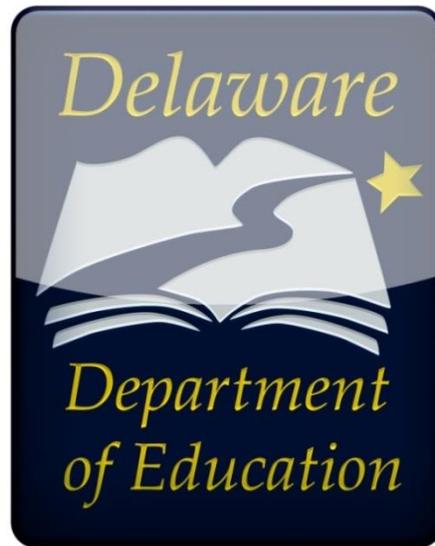


CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Family Foundations Academy

MAJOR MODIFICATION APPLICATION FINAL REPORT

CSAC Final Meeting: August 4, 2015
CSAC Final Report Published: August 7, 2015

On June 29, 2015, Family Foundations Academy (“FFA”) submitted an application for a major modification of its charter.

The following were in attendance at the Final Meeting of the CSAC on August 4, 2015:

Voting Committee Members of the Charter School Accountability Committee

- April McCrae, Education Associate, Science Assessment and STEM, DDOE
- Barbara Mazza, Education Associate, Exceptional Children Resources, DDOE
- Deborah Wilson, President and CEO, Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League, Community Member
- Tasha Cannon, Deputy Officer Talent Recruitment, Selection and Strategy, Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Unit (TLEU), DDOE

Ex-Officio Members (Non-voting)

- Donna Johnson, Executive Director, Delaware State Board of Education

Staff to the Committee (Non-voting)

- Catherine Hickey, Deputy Attorney General, Counsel to the Committee
- Jennifer Nagourney, Executive Director, Charter School Office, DDOE (serving by designation as Chair of the Committee)
- Michelle Whalen, Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Brook Hughes, Education Associate, Financial Reform and Resource Management, DDOE

Representatives of Family Foundations Academy

- Charles S. McDowell, Board President (attending and participating by telephone)

Discussion

The following was discussed:

- Due to the unavailability of Mr. Blowman and Ms. Field Rogers, the Secretary of Education had provided written authorization for Ms. Nagourney to act as the Chair of the CSAC for this meeting.
- At the CSAC Initial Meeting, FFA was requested to submit a copy of the fully-executed lease agreement. The document was submitted the same day and added to the public record.
- The CSAC Initial Report was issued on July 15, 2015 and did not identify any areas of concern with the application.
- Ms. Johnson asked about how FFA had communicated with parents and families about the move. Mr. McDowell said that the school officially communicated its plans to parents approximately two weeks before the CSAC Initial meeting with a letter sent to each student. The school also sent an email blast. He said there was also unofficial communication with parents when they called the school. Mr. McDowell noted that FFA's enrolment was now above the budgeted number of 810 students, which is an indication that parents and families perceived the change in location to be positive.
- Ms. Nagourney asked why the revised budget included in the Response to the CSAC Initial Report included a higher cost for moving expenses. Mr. McDowell noted that the removal of furniture for transfer to other schools had resulted in some damage that would need to be repaired. He also explained that now that FFA had full access to the property, it had noted additional needed repairs and expenses that were not in the original budget.

Conclusion

Ms. Nagourney asked if there were any additional questions about any section of the application. None were noted.

Ms. Nagourney asked whether there were any components of the application that any members felt did not meet the standard for a positive final recommendation. None were noted.

A motion was made and seconded that the Major Modification Application be recommended for approval. The motion was made and seconded. All four voting CSAC members voted "yes" in favor of a recommendation for approval.

Next Steps:

- A second and final public hearing will take place on August 10, 2015, beginning at 5:00 p.m., in the 2nd Floor Auditorium of the Carvel State Office Building, which is located at 820 N. French St., Wilmington, Delaware.
- The public comment period will close on August 14, 2015.
- The Secretary of Education will announce his decision at the regular meeting of the State Board of Education on August 20, 2015.