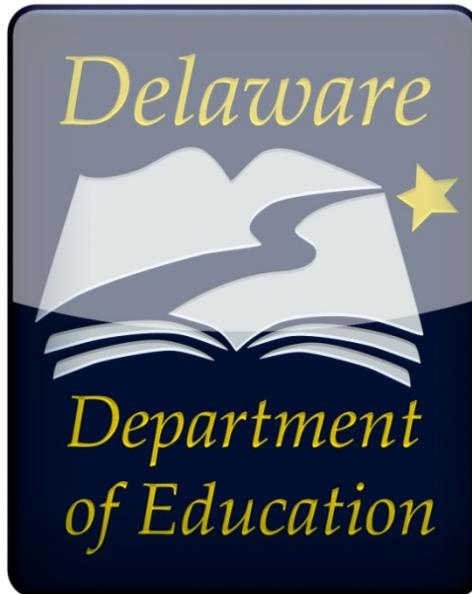


CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



MOT CHARTER SCHOOL

FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

APPLICATION TO MODIFY AN EXISTING CHARTER

Opening Date: September 2002

Grades: K - 8

Location: New Castle County

September 30, 2012 Unit Count: 680

Date of Report: 23 May 2013

Background

Name MOT Charter School

Current Enrollment 680

Projected Enrollment The modification request is to:

- add grades 9 – 12, thereby expanding to a total enrollment of 1427 students over a three-year phase in period;
- add an additional campus in the Middletown area for grades 9 – 12;

From Year 0 (2013-2014) through Year 4 (2017-2018), the enrollment for grades K – 8 will be 75 students in each grade. The total K - 8 enrollment for 2013-2014 is projected at 675.

With the addition of the high school starting in 2014-2015, the projected enrollment will be:

Year 1 675 K – 8th grade students (75 per grade level) and 188 students in 9th grade and 188 in 10th grade. Total: 1051 students.

Year 2 675 K – 8th grade students (75 per grade level) and 188 students in 9th grade, 188 in 10th grade, and 188 in 11th grade. Total: 1239 students.

Year 3 675 K – 8th grade students (75 per grade level) and 188 students in each high school grade (9 – 12). Total: 1427 students.

Year 4 The same as Year 3 projections.

Mission The mission of MOT Charter School is to provide a challenging curriculum in a safe and nurturing environment in which all children learn and flourish. The curriculum will prepare students to solve problems both individually and collaboratively, using critical reasoning skills cultivated through comparative, interdisciplinary study. The goal is to prepare students to be creative, intuitive, and well-reasoned thinkers.

Vision At MOT Charter School, a strong school community enables every child to reach his or her academic potential. Character development and personal responsibility form the basis for learning. Students are empowered and expected to be accountable for their own learning and parents are invited and expected to be actively engaged in their child's education.

Members of the Charter School Accountability Committee (Committee) convened on:

- 14 March 2013 for the Initial/Preliminary Meeting
- 6 May 2013 for the Final Meeting

At the Final Meeting, the Committee reviewed responses to the following approval criteria listed in 14 Del. Code § 512 that were considered as not met at the Preliminary Meeting.

- Criterion Two: Form of Organization
- Criterion Four: Goals for Student Performance
- Criterion Six: Educational Program
- Criterion Nine: Administrative and Financial Operations
- Criterion Eleven: Student Discipline and Attendance

Criterion Two: Form of Organization

The Committee discussed the response to the Form of Organization section of the application and noted the following.

- MOT has submitted a copy of the certificate of incorporation and amended by-laws which appear to be generally in compliance with the legal requirements of the Code and Regulation and support the request for the modification.

The Committee concluded that Criterion Two was met.

Criterion Four: Goals for Student Performance

The Committee discussed the response to the Goals for the Student Performance section of the application and noted the following.

- As requested, MOT provided performance goals disaggregated by grade and ethnicity so that the Committee could review them and determine the rigor and responsiveness of the current Board and administration to existing school performance measures.
- MOT adequately explained the thought process that informed the response to this criterion and provided a sound rationale.

The Committee concluded that Criterion Four was met.

Criterion Six: Educational Program

The Committee discussed the response to the Education Program section of the application and noted the following.

Curriculum

English Language Arts. MOT submitted revised Scope and Sequence documents and has refined the respective units of instruction. The school plans to continue participation in the

Common Core State Standards initiative.

Mathematics. The school has identified the Interactive Mathematics Program (IMP) as the core curriculum resource for mathematics. This is reflected in the Scope and Sequence documentation and units of instruction. The school continues to actively participate in the Mathematics Coalition.

Science. MOT has signed the MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) for the Science Coalition (2012-13). Staff have attended Science Coalition Meetings in the past to keep up with the latest by-laws and policies.

MOT continues to send their teachers to science training provided by the Delaware Science Coalition. The school has a designated person who oversees the science data base to register teachers for kits and professional development. The school follows the Scope and Sequence of the Delaware Science Coalition and follows the Delaware Science Standards.

Social Studies. It is evident from the curricular documents submitted that the school has been receptive to feedback and has made adjustments to the social studies curriculum that include restructuring courses in grades nine to eleven and continues to refine grade twelve courses, including Standard 4 in the economics course revisions, adopting a personal finance curriculum, and expanding the US history scope and sequence.

Health Education. The submission met the Delaware Standards for Health Education.

Physical Education. The school has aligned its physical education curriculum to AAPHERD (American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance) with the focus on "fitness for life."

World Languages. The review shows that there is an understanding of how the content standards should be presented in each unit. Furthermore, earlier units which would have demanded proficiency beyond that of the students have been removed and the unit submitted matches the learning targets of the curriculum. An area for improvement is that the curriculum provided still focuses on grammar rather than on how these functions are to be used in a communicative setting. However, the learning targets focus more on how the language is to be used in the classroom.

Visual and Performing Arts. The school is commended for submitting a very detailed plan for its Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum. The Scope and Sequence documents were realigned to include Delaware Standards in Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Art. New National Media arts standards are under development.

Units of instruction included resources from many sources including the Kennedy Center Arts Edge, the Getty Museum, and the Council of Ontario Drama and Dance Educators. These resources will enable arts educators in the school to refine and fine tune the curriculum to meet the needs of students and to fully utilize the resources of the school.

Unique Features of the School

The response addressed the concern about the timeline and planning process for dual enrollment.

School Calendar and Master Instructional Schedule

The response clarified the scheduling between blocks two and three during the regular instructional day.

The Committee concluded that Criterion Six was met.

Criterion Nine: Administrative and Financial Operations

The Committee discussed the response to the Administrative and Financial Operations section of the application and noted the following.

Internal Form of Management at the School

The response adequately addressed the concerns cited in the Preliminary Report.

Criteria and Timeline for Hiring Staff and Recruitment of Delaware Certified Teachers

- MOT has a clearly defined recruitment and selection process with an aggressive timeline attached (twelve days from application to offer stage). The reviewer suggested allowing more than 24 hours for a candidate to make a decision. It will be important to know each candidate's motivations/barriers to ensure that they accept but feel that a twenty-four hour turnaround is tight and unrealistic in some cases.
- MOT has clearly defined hiring goals month-to-month. The reviewer suggested that MOT work to increase the March hiring goal by 5-10%; earlier hiring gets in front of competition and research shows that early hires as compared to late hires (June to August) are usually more effective.
- MOT offers a clearly defined selection model that is competency-based and has various touch points to assess a teacher prospect's skills set in regards to each competency. Overtime, the reviewer would hope to see that this gets fleshed out more and is aligned with a rubric.
- MOT has signed on for Phase 1 implementation of SearchSoft (online recruitment portal) and this signals a commitment to putting talent at the front of the work that MOT is doing.

Plan to Recruit Students

The response adequately addressed the concerns cited in the Preliminary Report.

Admissions Preferences and Selection Process

- The Applicant has provided information which clarifies the current preferences for children of full-time teachers and students residing in the Appoquinimink School District and has amended its Student Admissions Policy accordingly.

- The Applicant has provided an explanation that the "specific interest" preference is new and would only be used for grades 9-12. Therefore, it appears that the applicant is also requesting a major modification to its charter to alter enrollment preferences and that needs to be clarified and confirmed by the applicant.
- The Applicant has clarified when enrollment preferences will be applied.
- The Applicant has clarified how, beginning with the 2013-14 eighth grade graduating class, the current MOT charter school eighth grade students will advance to the ninth grade and that the current 8th graders will have the right to admission to the tenth grade without going through the lottery process when the high school opens in 2014.

Administrative Tasks between Approval and School Opening

The response adequately addressed the concerns cited in the Preliminary Report.

The Committee concluded that Criterion Nine was met with a condition relative to the specific interest preference.

Criterion Eleven: Student Discipline and Attendance

The Committee discussed the response to the Student Discipline and Attendance section of the application and noted the following.

- The response adequately addressed the concerns cited in the Preliminary Report. Relative to the Student Rights and Responsibilities Manual, the handling of discipline for students with disabilities, the reporting of school crimes, and attendance policies

The Committee concluded that Criterion Eleven was met.

Summary and Recommendations

Criterion	Charter School Accountability Committee' s Recommendations
(2) Form of Organization	Met
(4) Goals for Student Performance	Met
(6) Educational Program	Met
(9) Administrative and Financial Operations	Met with a Condition
(11) School Discipline and Attendance	Met

The Charter School Accountability Committee recommended that the charter school modification application for MOT Charter School ***be approved with a condition*** for Criterion Nine.

Appendix A

List of Attendees

Final Meeting of the Charter School Accountability Committee

6 May 2013

Application to Modify an Existing Charter

Members of the Committee

- David Blowman, Deputy Secretary of Education and Interim Chair
- Karen Field Rogers, Manager, Financial Reform and Resource Management
- Debora Hansen, Education Associate, Visual and Performing Arts, Charter Curriculum Review
- Paul Harrell, Director, Public and Private Partnerships
- Barbara Mazza, Education Associate, Exceptional Children Resources
- April McCrae, Education Associate, Science Assessment and STEM
- Kendall Massett, Executive Director, Delaware Charter Schools Network (Non-voting)
- Donna R. Johnson, Executive Director, State Board of Education (Non-voting)

Staff to the Committee

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

Representatives from MOT Charter School

- Brian Glancy, Esq., Chair of the Board of Directors
- Linda Jennings, Esq., Head of School