



**Department of Education
Charter School Accountability Meeting**

**July 3, 2013
Modification Application
Final Meeting**

Reach Academy For Girls

Ms. McLaughlin called the meeting to order. For the purpose of the record introductions were made:

Attending Committee Members

Mary Kate McLaughlin, Chairperson, Chief of Staff
Deb Hansen, Education Associate, Visual and Performing Arts, Charter Curriculum Review
April McCrae, Education Associate, Education Associate, Science Assessment and STEM
Paul Harrell, Director, Public & Private Partnerships
Karen Field Rogers, Associate Secretary, Financial Reform & Resource Management
Barbara Mazza, Education Associate, Exceptional Children Resources
Donna R. Johnson, Executive Director, State Board of Education (non-voting)

Support to the Committee

Catherine Hickey, Deputy Attorney General, Counsel to the Committee
Michelle Whalen, Education Associate, Exceptional Children Resources
Patricia Bigelow, Education Associate, Charter School Office
Brook Hughes, Education Associate, Finance/Charter School Office
Sheila Kay-Lawrence, Administrative Assistant, Charter School Office

Representatives of Charter School

Lloyd S. Casson, Board President
Tara Allen, School Leader
Maureen Thomas, Business Manager

Ms. McLaughlin stated that the purpose of the meeting was to make a final recommendation on Reach Academy For Girls' application for a charter modification to relocate the school to a different site. She said that the Committee's preliminary recommendation was that the modification application be approved with clarification/follow-up from the Applicant Team and the Committee's report required a specific response.

Ms. McLaughlin stated that the Committee's discussion would focus on Criterion 12, Health and Safety. She said that this was the criterion that required further clarification, specifically, about school transportation and compliance with the Free/Reduced Lunch Program.

Ms. McLaughlin stated that at the conclusion of the Committee's discussion, Patricia Bigelow would provide the next steps.

Criterion 12: Health and Safety.

School Lunch Program. Dr. Bigelow said that the Reviewer noted that Applicant's response reflects a clear understanding of the Provision 2 process, counting and claiming meals and vendor charges.

Dr. Bigelow's recommendation is that this subcriterion is considered met.

School Transportation. Dr. Bigelow said the Reviewer noted the change in location from the Brandywine School District to the Colonial School District could impact transportation operations. For example, students living in the Brandywine School District previously were to be provided the same service that the Brandywine School District provides. Now, the school could set up hub stops in that area, if desired. On the other hand, where hub stop service was provided for students residing in the Colonial School District, the service would need to be modified. He said the school's response was that the levels of service provided to students within Brandywine School District will be maintained for students who reside within the Colonial School District. Routes will be adjusted so that students that reside in the Colonial School District are picked up safely within a half-mile of their address.

Dr. Bigelow's recommendation is that this subcriterion is considered partially met.

Ms. Hickey asked Dr. Bigelow if the understanding was correct. Dr. Bigelow said the reviewer wanted to make sure that the school will provide the same level of transportation that the school district is providing for their students.

Ms. Hickey said what was done in the past was to make sure that it is listed in the report so that the response by the school is provided prior to the Public Hearing for clarification.

Ms. McLaughlin asked if there were any more questions or discussions under this section.

Ms. McLaughlin said for purposes of the Preliminary Report, her recommendation to the Committee is that the charter modification application for Reach Academy for Girls Charter School be Approved provided that the school provides the required clarification on or before the July 11, 2013 public hearing. A vote was taken. Six ayes, none opposed, and none abstentions.

Ms. McLaughlin asked Dr. Bigelow to share next steps. Dr. Bigelow stated the Committee will issue the Final Report. She said the Public Hearing is scheduled Meeting and Public Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, July 11, at 5:00 PM at the Department of Education in the Cabinet Room. She said the State Board meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2013 at 1:00 PM in the Department of Education Cabinet Room.

Meeting adjourned.