



**Department of Education
Charter School Accountability Meeting**

**November 12, 2014
Renewal Application Process
Final Meeting - Minutes**

Las Américas ASPIRA Academy

Mr. Blowman called the meeting to order. For the purpose of the record, introductions were made:

Voting Committee Members of the Charter School Accountability Committee

- David Blowman, Chairperson of the Charter School Accountability Committee and Deputy Secretary of Education, DDOE
- Karen Field Rogers, Associate Secretary, Financial Reform and Resource Management, DDOE
- April McCrae, Education Associate, Science Assessment and STEM, DDOE
- Barbara Mazza, Education Associate, Exceptional Children Resources, DDOE
- Tasha Cannon, Deputy Officer of Talent Recruitment, Selection and Strategy, Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Unit (TLEU), DDOE
- Charles Taylor, Community Member and Former Charter School Leader

Ex-Officio Members (Non-voting)

- Kendall Massett, Executive Director, Delaware Charter School Network
- 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
- John Carwell, Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Jennifer Carlson, Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Michelle Whalen, Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Brook Hughes, Education Associate, Financial Reform and Resource Management

Representatives of Las Américas ASPIRA Academy

- Margie Lopez-Waite, Head of School
- Greg Panchisin, Director of School Operations
- Beth Anne Gluck, Dean of Instruction

Additional Attendees Noted

- Elizabeth Lewis, Delaware Office of Management and Budget

Meeting purpose: To review the relevant statutory criteria for renewal and issue a final recommendation relative to the school's renewal application.

Meeting between the CSAC and Las Américas ASPIRA Academy:

Mr. Blowman noted for the record that, at the Initial CSAC Meeting on October 13, 2014, the CSAC indicated that the Academic Framework, Financial Framework and Organizational Framework sections of the renewal application met standard.

Mr. Blowman noted that the CSAC had requested the following information in order to inform its decision-making:

- Revenue sheets

Mr. Blowman acknowledged that the school submitted the revenue sheets and the Department determined that the submission was satisfactory. Mr. Blowman asked the CSAC members to indicate whether there were any questions, comments or feedback related to the supplemental information that the school submitted. There were none.

Conclusion of the meeting:

Mr. Blowman noted that the school meets the standard on all sections of the Performance Framework.

Mr. Blowman then requested a motion to recommend renewal of the charter of the Las Américas ASPIRA Academy.

The motion was made to approve the recommendation and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Blowman reminded the applicant that the CSAC's recommendation was just that; a recommendation to the Secretary of Education on the renewal application.

Renewal Application Process Timeline:

Mr. Blowman discussed the renewal application process timeline as follows:

- The CSAC will provide the school with a Final Report no later than November 20, 2014.
- A second public hearing will be held on December 9th in the 2nd floor Auditorium of the Carvel State Office Building, located at 820 North French Street, Wilmington DE.
- The public comment period ends on December 10, 2014.
- The State Board of Education will hold a meeting on December 18, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor Cabinet Room of the Townsend Building, located at 401 Federal Street, Dover DE, at which point the Secretary of Education will announce his decision on the renewal application and, if required, the State Board will act on that decision.

The meeting was adjourned.