



## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

THE TOWNSEND BUILDING  
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December 18, 2009

Sean Moore  
Board President  
Family Foundations Academy  
712 Dora Moors Lane  
New Castle, DE 19720

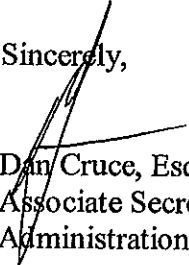
Dear Mr. Moore:

Enclosed is the final report and recommendation of the Charter School Accountability Committee on the Application to renew the charter of Family Foundations Academy. This report is being forwarded to the Secretary of Education and members of the State Board of Education.

As previously announced, a public hearing on this application has been scheduled at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, January 4, 2010 in the Library Conference Room. As we have discussed, it is expected that representatives from the school will be present at the public hearing to speak on behalf of the school and the application.

We anticipate a decision on the Application for Renewal at the January 14, 2010 meeting of the State Board of Education. If you have any questions related to the process, please contact Dr. Julia Webster at 735-4020.

Sincerely,

  
Dan Cruce, Esq.  
Associate Secretary/Chief of Staff  
Administration and Innovation Branch

cc: Dr. Tennell Brewington, Head of School, Family Foundations Academy  
Dr. Julia T. Webster, Education Associate, Charter Schools Office

**1) The individuals and entities submitting the application are experienced and qualified to start and operate a charter school, and to implement the school's proposed educational program. Certified teachers, parents and members of the community in which the school is to be located must be involved in the development of the proposed charter school. At the time at which the school commences its instructional program and at all times thereafter, the board of directors must include a teacher at the school and a parent of a student enrolled at the school as members.**

The School's board of directors has demonstrated they are qualified to operate a school. The board has appropriate representation. The Committee reviewed the composition of the Board of Directors, noting the quality and experience of the Board, and the broad representation. However, Article III, §3.2 of the corporation's by-laws, as amended on 9/15/08, provides in part that "The Board members **may** include, but are not limited to, a parent/guardian representative, interested members of the community, a faculty representative . . . ." (Emphasis added). This provision does not comply with the requirements of 275 DE Admin Code §4.1.3.1 because it is permissive rather than mandatory.

**The committee recommends to the Secretary that this criterion be considered not met.**

**2) The chosen form of organization, identified in the articles of incorporation and by-laws, or the membership agreement, conforms with the Delaware General Corporation Law.**

The corporation's by-laws do not reflect that the Board will comply with the requirements of 275 DE Admin Code §4.1.3.3 regarding compliance with the Freedom of Information Act., 29 Del. C. Ch. 100.

**The committee recommends to the Secretary that this criterion be considered not met.**

**3) The mission statement, goals and educational objectives are consistent with the description of legislative intent set forth in § 501 of this title and the restrictions on charter school operations set forth in § 506 in this title.**

The mission, goals and objectives of the School meet the requirements of the Delaware charter law. The stated mission has not changed during the period the School has been open.

**The committee recommends to the Secretary that this criterion be considered met.**

**4) The school has set goals for student performance and will utilize satisfactory indicators to determine whether its students meet or exceed such goals and the academic standards set by the State. The indicators shall include the assessments required for students in other public schools, although the charter school may adopt additional performance standards or assessment requirements, and shall include timelines for the achievement of student performance goals and the assessment of such performance.**

The Charter School Accountability Committee noted that Family Foundations Academy's DSTP results have not reached the mean state average score in any reading, math, science, or social studies in any grade in any year of operation. FAMILY FOUNDATIONS ACADEMY

small group instruction within the classroom. Parental support is emphasized through at home strategies that will reinforce student needs.

For corrective action, Family Foundations Academy states that it provides intervention needs through RTI (Response to Intervention) and supplemental classroom materials. RTI provides progress monitoring on individual needs and achievement. IIP's are provided at the end of DSTP testing. This information provides details of individual student weaknesses. MAP's provides individualized needs reporting based on weaknesses. The curriculum director works directly with teams and individual teachers to analyze student assessments and to develop better instruction to meet the needs of struggling students. FAMILY FOUNDATIONS ACADEMY partners with a tutoring program that provides services on-site to our families and at a discounted rate. FAMILY FOUNDATIONS ACADEMY provides after school care where homework is completed. FAMILY FOUNDATIONS ACADEMY has teacher and parent volunteers who provide after school tutoring services for special needs students. All programs provide progress monitoring information except for after care.

The School's plan addresses the requirements of 14 DE Admin. C. §101.4 as it relates to Individual Improvement Plans. The Committee notes that Family Foundation's plan for evaluating student performance and procedures for taking corrective action are adequately detailed and does demonstrate linkage to student evaluation and corrective action that will make significant improvements in student achievement.

**The committee recommends to the Secretary that this criterion be considered met.**

**6) The school's educational program, including curriculum and instructional strategies, has the potential to improve student performance; and must be aligned to meet the Delaware Content Standards and state program requirements, and in the case of a charter high school, state graduation requirements. High school programs must provide driver education. The educational program at all charter schools must include the provision by the school of extra instructional time for at-risk students, summer school and other services required to be provided by school districts pursuant to the provisions of § 153 of this title. A previously approved charter school may continue to operate in compliance with the terms of its current approval, but its charter shall not be renewed unless the school shall submit an application for renewal in full compliance with the requirements of this subsection.**

The school's education program has demonstrated that it has the potential to improve student performance. The committee recommends that further development and alignment of the school's educational program be conducted in the content areas of mathematics, health education, and visual and performing arts.

**The committee recommends to the Secretary that this condition be considered met.**

**7) The school's educational program sets forth appropriate strategies to be employed to accommodate the needs of at-risk students and those needing special education services.**

Enrollment at Family Foundations is open to all students. No student is denied admission on the basis of disability. The School has IEP's for students who qualify under IDEA, and accommodations plans for students who qualify under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Family Foundations sufficiently describes their education program for students who need special education services. While the October Special Education Audit did not uncover systemic problems, the auditors did find that an IEP had been altered. The School was cited with a finding and given corrective action.

**11) The procedures the school plans to follow to discipline students and ensure its students' adherence to school attendance requirements comply with state and federal law.**

The school's procedures are satisfactory. The provisions for both discipline and attendance are contained in the Student Handbook. All School Safety policies and procedures are in place. The School's plans meet the requirements of the Delaware charter law.

**The committee recommends to the Secretary that this criterion be considered met.**

**12) The procedures the school plans to follow to assure the health and safety of students, employees and guests of the school while they are on school property are adequate and that the charter school will comply with applicable provisions of local, state and federal law, including the provisions of Chapter 85 of Title 11.**

Family Foundations Academy has an Registered Nurse who will be required to attend all of DOE's School Nurse training sessions. They have an emergency preparedness plan in place which is practiced during regular drills. Access to the building is controlled. Routine maintenance is conducted by the School's maintenance staff. Cleaning materials are securely stored.

Family Foundations Charter School does not have a transportation supervisor. However, according to DOE Regulation 1105, they must have one. Also, FAMILY FOUNDATIONS ACADEMY is using incorrect eligibility criteria for transportation. The application stated that all students are eligible for transportation when regulation 1105 clearly states: Transportation benefits shall be provided for pupils in grades K to 6 whose legal residences are one (1) mile or more from the public schools. Further, the school may not be able to provide transportation to all students outside the district where the school resides in the same district. The application also mentions mileage reimbursements to parents even though there is no such program.

**The committee recommends to the Secretary that this criterion be considered partially met.**

**13) The school shall have a satisfactory plan for timely transferring student data and records to the Department of Education.**

The School sends data and records immediately upon receipt of a signed request for records. Using the state's data systems the School maintains compliance with DOE requests and requirements. The School's plan meets the requirements of the Delaware charter law.

**The committee recommends to the Secretary that this criterion be considered met.**

**14) The school's board of directors shall annually certify to the Department, on a form to be provided by the Department, that prior to the payment of any fees or other sums to any management company employed by the board, the board will insure that sufficient revenues of the school are devoted to adequately support the school's proposed educational program. Such form of certification may require documentation of all actual or proposed expenditures by the school. Failure to provide sufficient funds to adequately support the school's proposed education program shall be grounds for revocation of the school's charter.**

This criterion is not applicable to this application. The application indicates the school will not work with a management company.

assessment report will contain a detailed data analysis including a narrative that addresses how students are performing in relation to the student achievement goals expressed in the School's current Performance Agreement. This plan shall be submitted to the Charter School office and forwarded to the Education Associate for Accountability.

- 19) By March 1, 2010, the Board of Directors shall submit to the Department for review and approval to a detailed plan to address student achievement needs at their school. The plan needs to be research based to show their student population would benefit from such plan. Upon the Department's approval, the Board of Directors will submit to the Department a timeline of implementation including indicators of success.
- 20) June 30, 2010, the Board of Directors shall submit to the Department for review and approval a plan to increase the percentage of HQT classes to 100%.
- 21) By June 30, 2010, the Board of Directors shall submit to the Department a verification that all Board members and administrators have completed training in DPAS II.
- 22) By February 1, 2010, the Board of Directors shall submit a plan to DOE with the procedures the Board will put in place to track and confirm that all charter conditions are being met in a timely and complete way.
- 23) Documents related to these conditions must be submitted through the Charter Schools Office at the Department of Education, which will be responsible for distribution within the Department.