

CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



ACADEMIA ANTONIA ALONSO RENEWAL APPLICATION FINAL REPORT

CSAC Final Meeting: November 29, 2022

By September 30, 2022, Academia Antonia Alonso (La Academia) submitted an application to renew its charter. Consideration of this application is in accordance with the applicable provisions of 14 Del. C. § 514A and 14 DE Admin. Code § 275. Written renewal application guidance is provided by the Delaware Department of Education (DOE) on its website. The renewal application template developed by DOE is aligned to measures and targets within the Performance Framework, which outlines the academic, organizational and fiscal standards by which all Delaware charter schools are evaluated. The evaluation of the school's performance as measured by the Framework is a major component of the decision on the renewal application.

This report serves as a summary of the strengths, areas of follow-up and/or concerns identified by members of the Charter School Accountability Committee (CSAC) during their review of the charter applicant's renewal application, performance review reports, annual reports and performance agreements and during CSAC meetings.

The following individuals attended the Final Meeting of CSAC on November 29, 2022:

Voting Committee Members of the Charter School Accountability Committee

- Kim Klein, Associate Secretary of Operations Support and CSAC Chairperson
- Aimee Beam, Education Associate, School Support
- Tierra Fair, Community Member
- Gregory Fulkerson, Education Associate, Academic Support
- Tiffany Green, Education Associate, Educator Support
- Joyce Leatherbury, Education Associate, Academic Support
- Brook Hughes, Education Associate, Operations Support
- April McCrae, Education Associate, Academic Support
- Ted Molin, Community Member

Ex-Officio Members (Non-voting)

- Vincent Lofink, Delaware State Board of Education
- Kendall Massett, Executive Director, Delaware Charter School Network

Staff to the Committee (Non-voting)

- Leroy Travers, Director, Charter School Office
- Faye Schilling Education Specialist, Charter School Office
- Carla Jarosz, Deputy Attorney General

Representatives of La Academia

- Maria Alonso, Board President
- Mercedes Alonso, Executive Director
- Deborah Rodenhouser, Project Manager

Discussion

Ms. Klein stated that CSAC held its initial meeting on October 24, 2022 and issued its initial report on November 1, 2022. The school was provided an opportunity to submit a response to the initial report by November 15, 2022 and the school submitted a timely response. Ms. Klein also stated that the Department of Education and State Board of Education public hearing on November 14, 2022. Ms. Klein stated that DOE and State Board of Education held a public hearing on November 14, 2022. Ms. Klein stated that the purpose of the final was for the CSAC to continue its review of the renewal application, pursue any areas of ongoing concern through a discussion with the applicant, and issue recommendations on the application.

Mr. Travers asked if any individual voting and non-voting members of CSAC had any questions or concerns regarding the application that require further discussion. There were no comments or questions from the committee.

Ms. Mercedes Alonso thanked the committee for its help and work in supporting La Academia. She stated that this process enabled leaders, educators, and other members of the La Academia

community to reflect on things they are doing well and improve and grow so that they are “1% better every day!”

Conclusion

Ms. Klein asked if there was a motion to recommend that La Academia has met the standard for charter operations under the charter school law and, therefore, its charter should be renewed for a five-year term beginning on July 1, 2023 with or without conditions. The motion was made and seconded to recommend approval without conditions and was carried unanimously.

Next Steps:

- The public comment period will close on December 8th.
- The Secretary of Education will announce his decision at the December 15th State Board of Education meeting and ask for the assent of the State Board.