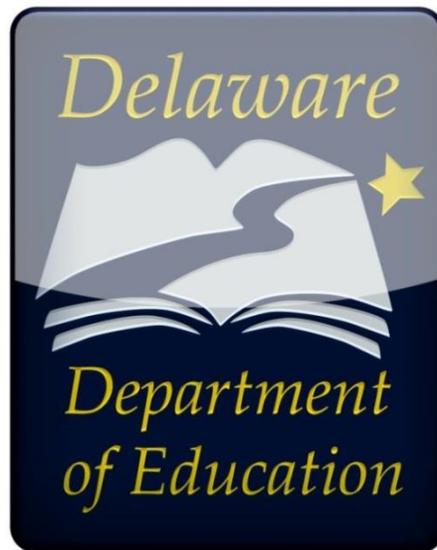


CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School

**RENEWAL APPLICATION
FINAL REPORT**

CSAC Final Meeting: November 27, 2017
CSAC Final Report Published: December 1, 2017

By September 30, 2017, Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School submitted an application to renew its charter. Consideration of this application is in accordance with the applicable provisions of 14 *Del. C. Ch. 5*, including § 514A, and 14 DE Admin. Code § 275. Written renewal application guidance is provided by the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) on its website. The renewal application template developed by DDOE is aligned to the 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. The decision on the renewal application is based on a comprehensive review, guided, in part, by the following three questions:

1. Is the academic program a success?
2. Is the school financially viable?
3. Is the school organizationally sound?

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 individual reviews of the charter applicant's renewal application, Performance Review Reports, Annual Reports, Performance Agreements, and discussion during the CSAC meetings.

The following were in attendance at the Final Meeting of the CSAC on November 27, 2017:

Voting Committee Members of the Charter School Accountability Committee

- David Blowman, Chairperson of the Charter School Accountability Committee and Associate Secretary, Operations Support, DDOE
- Karen Field Rogers, Deputy Secretary, DDOE
- Amy Baker-Sheridan, Education Associate, Academic Supports, DDOE
- Tracey Neugebauer, Education Associate, Exceptional Children Resources, DDOE
- Charles Taylor, Head of School, Providence Creek Academy
- Seher Ahmad, Data Fellow, Performance Supports

Staff to the Committee (Non-voting)

- Catherine Hickey, Deputy Attorney General, Delaware Department of Justice, Counsel to the Committee
- Denise Stouffer, Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE
- John Carwell, Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Brook Hughes, Education Associate, Finance Office, DDOE
- Sheila Kay-Lawrence, Administrative Secretary, Charter School Office, DDOE

Ex-Officio Members (Non-voting)

- Donna Johnson, Executive Director, Delaware State Board of Education

Representatives of Charter School

- Sylvia Simmons, Educational Diagnostician, Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School
- Jill Lenihan, Instructional Coach, Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School
- Mercedes Alonso, Educational Consultant, Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School
- Jose Aviles, Head of School, Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School
- Karen Thorpe, Financial Consultant, Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School
- Shawn Stevens, Board Vice-Chair, Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School

Discussion

Mr. Blowman stated that an initial public hearing was held on October 17, 2017 and the CSAC Initial Meeting was held on October 23, 2017. He added that the CSAC Initial Report was issued on October 30, 2016. The school submitted a response to the CSAC Initial Report on November 14, 2017.

Mr. Blowman stated that the purpose of the CSAC Final Meeting was for the CSAC to continue its review of the Renewal Application, probe any areas of concern through a discussion with the applicant, and to issue a recommendation on the renewal application to the Secretary of Education.

Mr. Blowman stated that the CSAC identified the following areas of concern at the CSAC Initial Meeting and requested a response from the school:

1. Curriculum (English Language Arts)
 - a. Align ELA curricula to common core standards for history and social studies;
 - b. Provide gateways and information about supports for integrated reading;
2. Curriculum (Math)
 - a. Review and resend the scope and sequence for Math aligned to Common Core standards;
3. Curriculum (Social Studies)
 - a. Provide an updated Social Studies curriculum to include Common Core history and social studies, or current Social Studies Coalition MOU as well as the school's method for tracking and reporting the school's participation in the Coalition meetings;
4. Curriculum (Science)
 - a. Provide an updated Science curriculum or current Science Coalition MOU as well as the schools method for tracking and reporting the school's participation in the Coalition meetings.

Mr. Blowman asked each member if they had any concerns or if there were any additional information that the members had for the school.

Ms. Baker-Sheridan thanked the school for providing all the supplemental materials requested. She mentioned that in the school's response, the first bullet was to align ELA curricula to Common Core standards for history and social studies even though the school continued to use the same language arts curriculum submitted and approved as part of their original charter application. Ms. Baker-Sheridan stated that this request resulted from the change in the teaching tools used by the school, specifically the change from Expeditionary Learning to Wonders. She then stated that the school has the tools to evaluate the curriculum they use against the alignment with common core. She said the school provided great supplemental information about the Wonders alignment to Common Core curriculum produced by the

textbook company. She shared that the Wonders reference provided by the school meets standard, but encouraged the school to continue to use the suggested resources to ensure their curricula tools thoroughly cover all standards.

Ms. Baker-Sheridan suggested that the math professional development plan needed to meet the Common Core focus by working with their teachers towards the end of the school year to invest in looking at their resources and support their educators' understanding of their curricular tools alignment to the Common Core standards. She suggested that the school identify where they will need to supplement their teaching tools based on students' needs. She mentioned that the school should take a look at some of the reports that were in the links provided by the outside agencies that are reviewing these tools.

Ms. Baker-Sheridan thanked the school for providing the MOUs from the Science and Social Studies coalitions.

Conclusion

Mr. Blowman requested a motion to recommend renewal of the charter of Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School for another 5 year term beginning on July 1, 2018. The motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation and 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.

Next Steps:

- The CSAC will provide the school with a Final Report no later than December 5, 2017.
- A second public hearing will be held on December 5, 2017 at the J.W. Collette Education Resource Center, Conference Rooms A&B, 35 Commerce Way, Dover.
- The public comment period ends on December 8, 2017.
- The Secretary of Education will announce her decision at the next State Board of Education meeting on December 14, 2017.