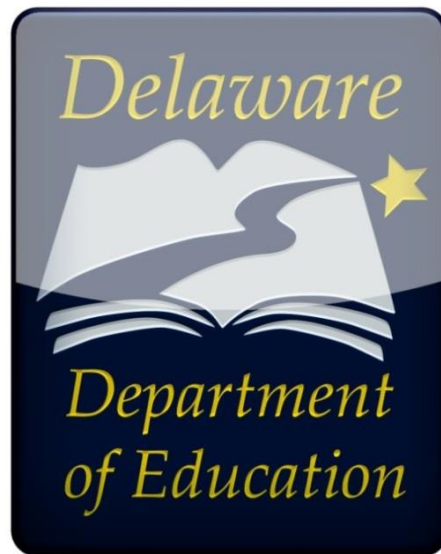


# CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**Freire Charter School  
Wilmington**

**RENEWAL APPLICATION  
FINAL REPORT**

CSAC Final Meeting: November 27, 2018  
CSAC Final Report Published: December 5, 2018

By September 30, 2018, Freire 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 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 and Performance Agreements and discussions during the CSAC meetings.

The following were in attendance at the Final Meeting of the CSAC on November 27, 2018:

**Voting Committee Members of the Charter School Accountability Committee**

- Chuck Longfellow, Chairperson of the Charter School Accountability Committee, Associate Secretary, Operations Support, DDOE
- Christine Alois, Deputy Secretary, Performance Support, DDOE
- Debora Hansen, Education Associate, Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development
- Nermin Zubaca, Data Analyst, Data Management and Analytics, DDOE
- Chandra Pitts, CEO, One Village Alliance, Community Member
- Chuck Taylor, Retired Head of School, Community Member
- Tracy Neugebauer, Education Associate, Exceptional Children Resources
- Brian Moore, Education Associate, School Climate and Discipline

**Staff to the Committee (Non-voting)**

- Catherine Hickey, Deputy Attorney General, Delaware Department of Justice, Counsel to the Committee
- Leroy Travers, Lead 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
- Jennifer Roussell, Administrative Secretary, Operations Support, DDOE

**Ex-Officio Members (Non-voting)**

- Audrey Noble, Vice President, Delaware State Board of Education
- Kendall Massett, Executive Director, Delaware Charter Networks

**Representatives of Charter School**

- Clinton Walker, Board Chair, Freire Charter School
- Paul Ramirez, Co-Head of School, Freire Charter School
- Felicia Harrington, Co-Head of School, Freire Charter School
- William Ray, Financial Controller, Freire Charter School
- Max Matthews, Director of Operations, Freire Charter School

## Discussion

Mr. Longfellow stated that an initial public hearing was held on October 16, 2018 and the CSAC Initial Meeting was held on October 23, 2018. He added that the CSAC Initial Report was issued on November 1, 2018. The school submitted a timely response to the CSAC Initial Report.

Mr. Longfellow 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. Longfellow added that a final report will be issued no later than December 5, 2018.

Mr. Longfellow stated at the initial meeting on October 23, 2018, the CSAC identified areas that required a response and/or additional information from the school. This information included:

- A compliance plan for all staff to complete non-academic mandatory trainings.
- A plan for describing the school's process for reviewing and revising curriculum to assure alignment to state standards for the next five years.
- Evidence that the science curriculum is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards and/or a signed Delaware Science Coalition Memorandum of Agreement.

Mr. Longfellow asked each member if they had any concerns or questions regarding the application that required further discussion.

Mr. Moore stated that the school did an excellent job in creating a plan for non-academic mandatory training. Dr. Noble asked if those trainings were being implemented this year. Ms. Harrington stated that they were being implemented this year and that the process had already begun, including the training of any mid-year hires.

Ms. Hansen thanked the school for submitting a five-year curriculum alignment plan. She added that the report submitted by the school in regards to evidence of alignment to the Next Generation Science Standard matched the findings of Tonyea Mead, Education Associate, Science.

Mr. Longfellow stated that a decision on the school's minor modification request to decrease enrollment by 10.7% will be issued by the Secretary of Education at another time, separate from this meeting.

## Conclusion

Mr. Longfellow then asked if there were a motion to recommend a renewal of the charter of Freire Charter School for a five-year term beginning on July 1, 2019 with or without conditions. The motion was made and seconded to recommend approval without any conditions and was carried unanimously.

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

**Next Steps:**

- On or before December 5, 2018, the CSAC will issue a Final Report which will include its recommendation on the renewal application.
- A second public hearing will be held on December 10, 2018 at the Townsend Building, 401 Federal Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Cabinet Room in Dover.
- The public comment period ends on December 14, 2018.
- The Secretary of Education will announce her decision at the next State Board of Education meeting to be held on December 20, 2018 and seek the assent of the State Board as necessary.