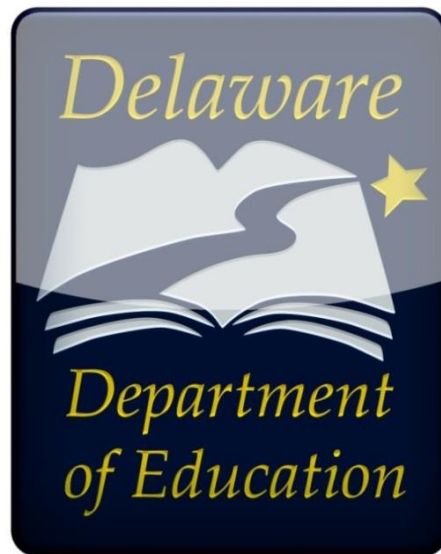


# CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**Kuumba Academy  
Charter School**

**RENEWAL APPLICATION  
FINAL REPORT**

CSAC Final Meeting: November 26, 2018  
CSAC Final Report Published: December 5, 2018

By September 30, 2018, Kuumba Academy 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 attended the Final Meeting of the CSAC on November 26, 2018:

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

- Chuck Longfellow, Chairperson of the Charter School Accountability Committee and Associate Secretary, Operations Support, DDOE
- Christine Alois, Deputy Secretary/Performance Support, DDOE
- Chandra Pitts, CEO, One Village Alliance, Community Member
- Brian Moore, Education Associate, School Climate and Discipline, DDOE
- Robert Grey, Education Associate, Educator Effectiveness, DDOE
- Chuck Taylor, Retired Head of School, Community Member
- Amy Baker-Sheridan, Education Associate, Academic Supports, DDOE
- Mary Ann Mieczkowski, Director, Exceptional Children Resources, DDOE
- Seher Ahmad, Educator Effectiveness, DDOE

**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, Financial Reform and Resource Management, DDOE
- Sheila Lawrence, Administrative Secretary, Charter School Office, DDOE

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

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

**Representatives of Charter School**

- Sally Maldonado, Principal
- Samantha Connell, Director of Instruction
- Michelle Lambert, Financial Consultant (via phone)
- Ayanna Johnson, Principal

## Discussion

Mr. Longfellow stated that an initial public hearing was held on October 16, 2018 and the CSAC Initial Meeting was held on October 24, 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 by November 16, 2018.

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. A final report would be issued by CSAC no later than December 5, 2018.

Mr. Longfellow stated that the CSAC identified the following areas of concern at the CSAC Initial Meeting and requested a response from the school on several areas of concern. These were addressed in a timely manner by the school.

### Organizational Performance

1. Document the school's progress on selecting and approving the "Body Safety" Curriculum.
2. A response to notes from DOE's Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development workgroup in Appendix 1 to CSAC's initial report.

### Financial Performance

3. Resubmit the revised 100% budget with any changes or additions.
4. Submit 80% budget projections.

### Curriculum:

5. Reword setting "B" for students with disabilities to make the curriculum rigorous and have appropriate accommodations.

Mr. Longfellow asked the CSAC if they had comments or questions regarding the school's response and/or the renewal application. Mr. Longfellow strongly recommended using the 80% budget as a planning tool to prepare in the event of an unexpected decrease in enrollment and potential changes in school structure. He suggested that the school prepare an 80% budget each year.

Mr. Longfellow asked the CSAC if they had any other comments or questions regarding the school's response and/or the renewal application. There were none.

## Conclusion

Mr. Longfellow asked if there were a motion to recommend renewal of the charter of Kuumba Academy Charter School for a 5-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; 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Cabinet Room, Townsend Building, Dover.
- The public comment period ends on December 14, 2018.
- The Secretary of Education will announce her decision at the December 20, 2018 State Board of Education meeting and seek the assent of the State Board as necessary.