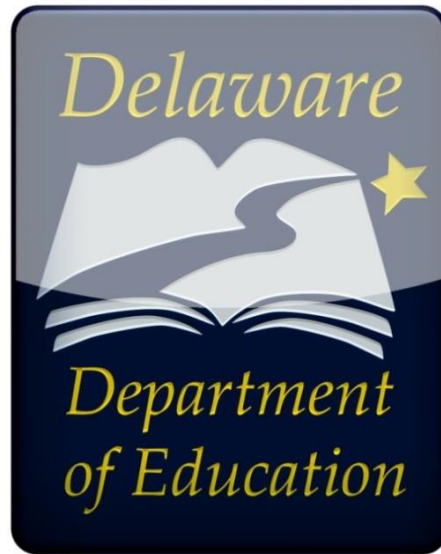


CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Newark Charter School

**RENEWAL APPLICATION
FINAL REPORT**

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

By September 30, 2018, Newark 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 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
- Amy Baker-Sheridan, Education Associate, Academic Support, DDOE
- Tracey Neugebauer, Education Associate, Exceptional Children Resources, DDOE
- Michael Saylor, Education Associate, Educator Supports-School Leadership, DDOE
- Brian Moore, Program Manager, School Climate and Discipline, DDOE
- Charles Taylor, Retired Head of School, Community Member
- Chandra Pitts, CEO, One Village Alliance, Community Member

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
- Sheila Kay-Lawrence, Administrative Secretary, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Brook Hughes, Education Associate, Finance 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

- Franklin Newton, Board Chair, Newark Charter School
- Gregory Meece, School Director, Newark Charter School
- Lisa Ueltzhoffer, Jr./Sr. High School Principal, Newark Charter School
- Jessica Browne, Dean of Instruction, K-6, Newark Charter School
- Jill Scannell, Director of Learning Support, Newark Charter School
- Joanne Schlosberg, Business Manager, Newark Charter School

Discussion

Mr. Longfellow stated that an initial public hearing was held on October 15, 2018 and the CSAC Initial Meeting was held on October 25, 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 on 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. Mr. Longfellow added that a final report will be issued no later than December 5, 2018.

Mr. Longfellow stated that, at the initial meeting on October 25, 2018, the CSAC identified areas that required a response and/or additional information from the school. This information included:

- A narrative on the school's justification for a ten year renewal versus a five year renewal.
- A plan describing the school's process for reviewing and revising curriculum to ensure instruction is aligned to the adopted standards, in all content standards, for the next ten years.

Mr. Longfellow asked each member if they had any concerns or questions regarding the application that required further discussion. No committee member expressed any concerns, asked any questions, or requested additional information from the school.

Conclusion

Mr. Longfellow asked if there were a motion to recommend a general renewal of the charter of Newark Charter School with or without conditions. The motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation without any conditions and was carried unanimously.

Mr. Longfellow then asked if there were a motion to recommend a renewal of the charter of Newark Charter School for a 10 year term beginning on July 1, 2019. The motion was made and seconded to recommend approval 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, 2nd 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.