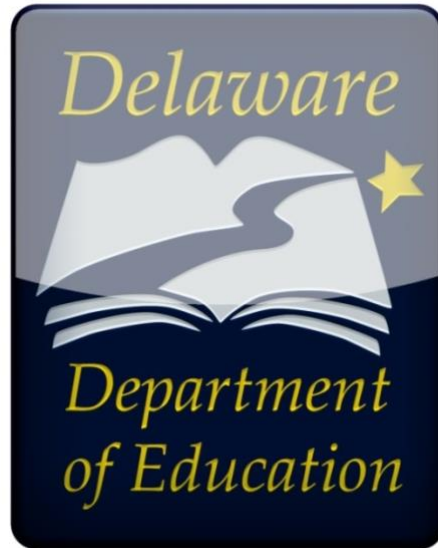


CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Providence Creek Academy RENEWAL APPLICATION FINAL REPORT

CSAC Final Meeting: December 2, 2020
CSAC Final Report Published: December 4, 2020

By September 30, 2020, Providence Creek Academy (PCA) 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 (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 during the CSAC meetings.

The following attended (electronically) the Final Meeting of the CSAC on December 2, 2020:

Voting Committee Members of the Charter School Accountability Committee

- Kim Klein, Chairperson of the Charter School Accountability Committee and Associate Secretary of Education, DDOE
- Gregory Fulkerson, Ph.D., Education Associate, Academic Support Team, DDOE
- Tiffany Green, Education Associate, Educator Support Team, DDOE
- April McCrae, Ed.D., Education Associate, Academic Support, DDOE
- Brian Moore, Education Associate, School Climate and Discipline, DDOE
- Catherine Oravez, Education Associate, Federal Funds and Cost Recovery, DDOE
- James Pennewell, Education Associate, Capital Projects Management, DDOE
- Michael Saylor, Ph.D., Education Associate, Educator Support Team, DDOE
- Charles Taylor, Community Member and Former Charter School Leader
- Ted Molin, Vice President, Wilmington Trust, Community Member
- Chandra Pitts, CEO, One Village Alliance, Community Member
- Susan Veenema, Education Associate, Exceptional Children Resources, DDOE

Ex-Officio Members (Non-voting)

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

Staff to the Committee (Non-voting)

- Darryl Parson, Deputy Attorney General, Counsel to the Committee, Delaware Department of Justice
- Leroy Travers, Lead Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Brook Hughes, Education Associate, Financial Reform and Resource Management, DDOE
- John H. Carwell Jr., Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Alicia Balcerak, Administrative Secretary, Charter School Office, DDOE

Representatives of Providence Creek Academy

- Melissa Rhoades, Chairman of the Board
- Lisa Moore, Vice President of the Board
- Chuck Mosier, Board Treasurer
- Christine Chaney, Board Secretary, Teacher Member
- Danielle Gordy, Board Member
- Denise Stouffer, Head of School
- Amanda Silcox, Dean of Academics
- Renee Stubbs, Dean of Students
- Courtney Dowell, Human Resources Director
- Brandon Paris, Business Coordinator
- Rachael Straightiff, Human Resources and Business Assistant

Discussion

Ms. Klein stated that on March 12, 2020, Governor Carney issued a declaration of a state of emergency for the state of Delaware due to a public health threat. The State of Emergency allows all public meetings of executive branch public bodies, including CSAC, to be conducted electronically, either by means of telephone or video-conference call. The meeting was open to the public electronically only, as was reflected on the State's Public Meeting Calendar.

Ms. Klein stated that the Charter School Accountability Committee (CSAC) held its initial meeting on October 27, 2020 and the CSAC issued its Initial Report on November 5, 2020. The school was provided an opportunity to submit a response to the CSAC Initial Report by November 20, 2020 and the school submitted a timely response. Ms. Klein also stated that the Department of Education and State Board of Education held a virtual initial joint public hearing on November 10, 2020.

Ms. Klein stated that the purpose of the CSAC Final meeting was for the CSAC to continue its review of the Renewal Application, pursue any areas of concerns through a discussion with the applicant, and issue recommendations on the application. She added that the CSAC would issue a final report on the application no later than December 4, 2020.

Ms. Klein noted that at the October 27th initial meeting, the CSAC identified areas that required a response and/or additional information from the school. The information included the following:

1. A copy of an updated Student Code of Conduct.

Ms. Klein asked each member to share any comments or questions regarding the school's response to the CSAC Initial Report.

Mr. Moore thanked the school for providing the updated code of conduct.

Ms. Klein asked the CSAC if they had any questions or comments regarding the application that required further discussion. There were none.

Conclusion

Ms. Klein then asked if there was a motion to recommend that Providence Creek Academy 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, 2021 with or without conditions. The motion was made and seconded to recommend approval without any conditions and was carried unanimously.

Ms. Klein reminded the school that the CSAC's recommendation was just that: a recommendation to the Secretary of Education on the renewal application.

Next Steps:

- The public comment period closes on December 11, 2020.
- The Secretary of Education will announce her decision at the December 17, 2020 State Board of Education meeting and seek the assent of the State Board, as necessary.