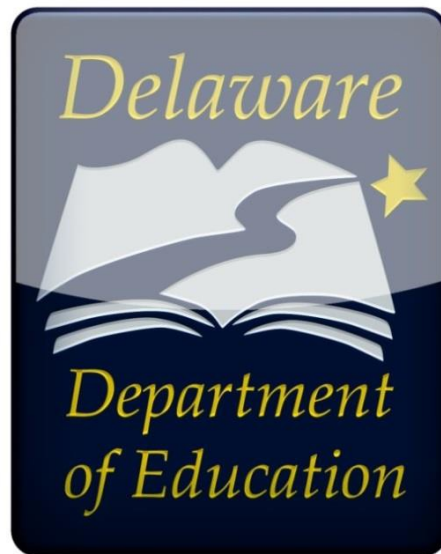


# CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



## Positive Outcomes Charter School

**RENEWAL APPLICATION  
FINAL REPORT**

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

By September 30, 2018, Positive Outcomes 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 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, Associate Secretary, Operations Support, DDOE, Chairperson of the Charter School Accountability Committee
- Christine Alois, Deputy Secretary, Performance Support, DDOE
- Amy Baker-Sheridan, Education Associate, Academic Support, DDOE
- Michael Saylor, Education Associate, Educator Support, DDOE
- Tracy Neugebauer, Education Associate, Academic Support, DDOE
- Brian Moore, Program Manager, School Climate and Discipline, DDOE
- Chandra Pitts, CEO, One Village Alliance, Community Member
- Charles Taylor, Retired Head of School, Community Member

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

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

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

- Catherine T. 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 Kay-Lawrence, Administrative Secretary, Charter School Office DDOE

**Representatives of Charter School**

- Edward Emmett, Head of School
- Steven Norman, Dean of Academics and Instruction
- Michelle Hastie, Business Manager
- Julie Landis, Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- Rachel Hohman, Dean of Student Supports and Services
- Megan Yeager, Special Education Coordinator

## Discussion

Mr. Longfellow stated that an initial public hearing was held on October 9, 2018 and the Initial CSAC Meeting was held on October 25, 2018. He added that the Initial CSAC Report was issued on November 1, 2018. The school submitted a timely response to the Initial CSAC Report on November 16, 2018.

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

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

### Organizational Performance

- Provide a list of the school's completed fire drills

Mr. Longfellow asked the CSAC if they had comments or questions regarding the school's response and/or the renewal application. Mr. Moore stated that the list of fire drills was accurate and compliant.

Dr. Noble asked the school to elaborate on its plans to reduce student truancy by 50%. Mr. Emmett stated that many students enroll with a history of truancy so the staff works with the students to identify the barriers and root causes which includes meeting with parents. Many students, he added, fall behind because of missing school so every effort is made to eliminate the barriers. Mr. Emmett described a student who, prior to enrolling at Positive Outcomes, did not want to attend school. Since enrolling, he added, the student wants to attend school and attends regularly. He noted that the student's parents were surprised by the change. Mr. Emmett also stated that the school's current small size provides a climate and environment for students who may not have felt comfortable at larger schools. Dr. Noble asked if a 50% reduction was a reasonable target. Mr. Emmett clarified that the goal is to reduce student truancy by 50% over 10 years and confirmed that it was a reasonable target. Mr. Norman added that the school's student advisory structure provides students with a "family-like" cohort with both staff and peer supports.

## Conclusion

Mr. Longfellow asked if there were a motion to recommend renewal of the charter of Positive Outcomes Charter School for a 5 year term beginning on July 1, 2019 with or without conditions.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation 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.