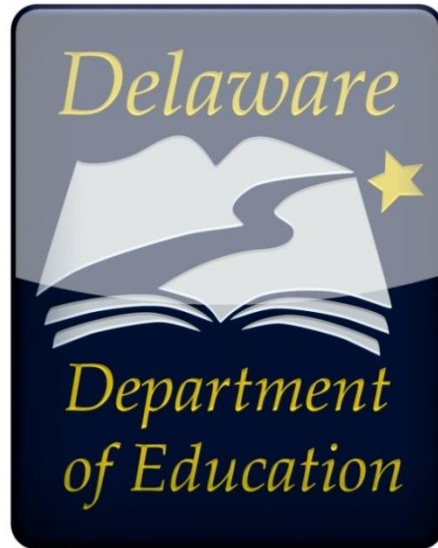


CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Academia Antonia Alonso

**MAJOR MODIFICATION APPLICATION
INITIAL REPORT**

CSAC Initial Meeting: February 20, 2018
CSAC Initial Report Published: February 22, 2018

On February 7, 2018, Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School submitted an application for a major modification of its charter.

The following were in attendance at the Initial Meeting of the Charter School Accountability Committee (CSAC) on February 20, 2018:

Voting Committee Members of the Charter School Accountability Committee

- Karen Field Rogers, Deputy Secretary, DDOE
- Tracey Neugebauer, Education Associate, Exceptional Children Resources, DDOE
- Chuck Taylor, Head of School, Providence Creek Academy
- Chandra Pitts, CEO, One Village Alliance, Community Member
- Deb Hansen, Education Associate, Academic Supports, DDOE
- Maria Stecker, Education Associate, Educator Evaluation, Educator Effectiveness & Talent Management Workgroup, DDOE

Non-voting Committee Members of the Charter School Accountability Committee

- Donna Johnson, Executive Director, Delaware State Board of Education
- Kendall Massett, Executive Director, Delaware Charter School Network

Staff to the Committee

- Catherine T. Hickey, Deputy Attorney General, Counsel to the Committee
- Denise Stouffer, Lead Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Brook Hughes, Education Associate, Financial Reform and Resource Management
- John Carwell, Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Sheila K. Lawrence, Administrative Secretary, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Jen Roussel, Administrative Secretary, Operations Support, DDOE

Representatives of the School

- Maria Alonso, Board Chair
- Jose Aviles, Head of School

Discussion

Karen Field Rogers, Deputy Secretary, Delaware Department of Education and Chair of the Charter School Accountability Committee opened the meeting with introductions of the Charter School Accountability (CSAC) members and staff. She then allowed the school representatives to introduce themselves.

Ms. Field Rogers shared that this was the Initial Meeting of the Charter School Accountability Committee, or CSAC, and the first of two Committee meetings relative to the Major Modification Application submitted by Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School. Ms. Field Rogers noted that Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School had applied for a modification to their charter for the removal of Innovative Schools as their Charter Management Organization (CMO) per letter from Innovative Schools. She also shared that the purpose of the meeting was for the CSAC to discuss the Major Modification Application with the applicant, ask questions, and to probe areas of concern based on the CSAC's initial review of the written application.

Ms. Field Rogers stated that each section of the application was found to align to the minimum requirements for consideration, as identified in Title 14, Delaware Code, Sections 511 and 512. She explained that it was through a determination regarding whether those criteria have been demonstrated by the applicant that the CSAC will base its final recommendation at its Final Meeting. Ms. Field Rogers then allowed the school to provide a summary of their application.

Maria Alonso shared that it had been the goal of the school to build capacity through their initial charter in order to run independently without support from the CMO. She explained that through the support of their CMO, the school had been able to build the capacity. Ms. Alonso shared that in their fourth year of operation they have now built the capacity to run their own operations.

Ms. Field Rogers asked if there were any problems that resulted from Innovative Schools ending their contract as of 2/1/2018. Ms. Alonso noted that the school was only working with the CMO for accounting and back office support services over the last two years. She shared that the school has hired and independently contracted with two members that previously worked for the CMO to provide a seamless transition.

Deb Hansen asked the school if they utilized their CMO for their renewal application process or curriculum development. Ms. Alonso and Mr. Aviles shared that they did not use the CMO for these functions.

Having no further discussion, Mr. Field Rogers reviewed the next steps for the CSAC process.

Next Steps:

Ms. Field Rodgers shared:

- On or before February 22, 2018, the CSAC will provide the school with an Initial Report addressing the information reviewed and discussed at the meeting.
- The first of two public hearings will be held on March 9, 2018, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the J.W. Collette Resource Center, 35 Commerce Way, Dover, DE 19720.
- The school will have an opportunity to respond to the CSAC's Initial Report. The school's response is due on or before March 9, 2018.
- A second and Final Meeting of the CSAC will be held on March 20, 2018, beginning at 3:00 p.m. at the Department of Education, 401 Federal Street, 2nd Floor Cabinet Room, Dover, DE 19901.
- On or before, March 22, 2018, the CSAC will issue a Final Report, which will include its recommendation on the Major Modification Application.
- A second and Final Public Hearing will be held on April 4, 2018, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the Department of Education, 401 Federal Street, 2nd Floor Cabinet Room, Dover, DE 19901.
- The public comment period ends on April 5, 2018.
- The Secretary of Education will announce her decision at the April 19, 2018, State Board of Education meeting.