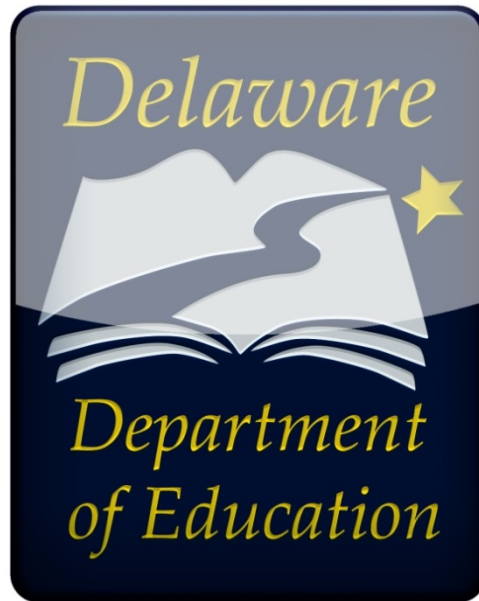


# CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**Odyssey Charter School**

**MAJOR MODIFICATION APPLICATION**

**FINAL REPORT**

CSAC Meeting: April 25, 2014  
Final Report Published: May 1, 2014

**CSAC RECOMMENDATION: APPROVAL**

In July 2013, Governor Jack Markell signed H.B. 165 into law, bringing sweeping changes to Delaware's existing charter school laws. This legislation included a number of provisions to strengthen the application process for charter school modifications.

Per 14 Del. C. §511(e), the first Charter School Accountability Committee (CSAC) meeting provided the applicant an opportunity in for an interview in support of the application, and provided the members of the Charter School Accountability Committee and the Delaware Department of Education with an opportunity to assess applicant capacity, allow the applicant to clarify information provided in the application, and gather additional information. The applicant was provided with an Initial Report that detailed areas of follow-up, and/or concerns identified by members of the CSAC during the Initial Meeting. The applicant then submitted a response to the Initial Report, which is considered part of the application.

After reviewing the response to the Initial Report, CSAC holds a Final Meeting to issue a recommendation on whether the application should be approved. This Final Report details CSAC's recommendation and any outstanding concerns about the application.

The following were in attendance at the Final Meeting of the CSAC on April 25, 2014:

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

- David Blowman, Deputy Secretary, DDOE (Chair to the Committee)
- Kim Wheatley, Director, Financial Reform Resources, DDOE
- Rich Heffron, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, Delaware State Chamber of Commerce
- Tasha Cannon, Deputy Officer Talent Recruitment, Selection and Strategy, Teacher & Leader Effectiveness Unit (TLEU), DDOE
- Michelle Whalen, Education Associate, Exceptional Children Resources Workgroup, DDOE
- April McCrae, Education Associate, Science Assessment and STEM, DDOE

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

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

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

- Catherine Hickey, Deputy Attorney General, Counsel to the Committee
- Jennifer Nagourney, Executive Director, Charter School Office, DDOE
- John Carwell, Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE

**Representatives of the Charter School**

- George Chambers, Board President

## Section A: Core Questions

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At the Initial Meeting, CSAC determined that there were no questions or concerns about Section A of the application that would prevent the school from meeting the approval criteria. The school did not submit a Response to the CSAC Initial Report.

At the Final Meeting, the chair asked the CSAC members if they had any additional concerns and questions that would prevent the school from meeting the approval criteria. No CSAC member spoke to offer one.

## Section G: Relevant Questions

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At the Initial Meeting, CSAC determined that there were no questions or concerns about Section D of the application that would prevent the school from meeting the approval criteria. The school did not submit a Response to the CSAC Initial Report.

At the Final Meeting, the chair asked the CSAC members if they had any additional concerns and questions that would prevent the school from meeting the approval criteria. No CSAC member spoke to offer one.

### **Conclusion:**

A motion was made and seconded that the application be recommended for approval. The motion was unanimously carried.

- Mr. Blowman articulated the next steps in the new application process as follows: The CSAC Final Report would be issued to the applicants no later than May 1, 2014. As Mr. Blowman had earlier informed the applicant, the CSAC Final Report would be based on the application as a whole, including the original application submitted, the response to the CSAC's initial report and the comments made by the applicant during the CSAC meetings. The applicant's final public hearing would be held on May 7, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Auditorium in the Carvel Building located at 820 French Street, Wilmington, DE.
- The process would conclude with the State Board of Education meeting on Thursday, May 17, 2014 where Secretary Murphy will present his decision on the application.