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December 30, 2015

VIA ELECTRONIC AND REGULAR MAIL

Jennifer Nagourney, Executive Director
Charter Schools
John G. Townsend Building
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, DE 19901-3639

Re: **Great Oaks Charter School- Wilmington**

Ms. Nagourney:

On behalf of the board of Great Oaks Charter School—Wilmington ("GO-WIL"), I am writing to submit for your consideration the attached application for a "minor modification" of the existing original charter of GO-WIL, which will have the effect of increasing the student enrollment capacity of GO-WIL by twenty-five students. After careful consideration of the current operations of the school, including a strong start by GO-WIL in its first year, initial successes in the performance of the students attending GO-WIL, and favorable reception and strong demand for GO-WIL in the communities it serves, the board has determined that increasing enrollment by twenty-five additional students will serve the interests of the school, GO-WIL's students and the communities served by GO-WIL.

Should you have any questions regarding the attached application, please don't hesitate to contact myself or Kia Childs.

Sincerely yours,



Michael P. Maxwell

cc: Michael Duffy
Kia Childs

GREAT OAKS CHARTER SCHOOL WILMINGTON

MINOR CHARTER MODIFICATION

Submitted: December 30, 2015

DE Department of Education
Charter School Office
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, DE 19901
Phone: (302) 735-4020
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Section A Core Questions:

1. What modification does the school's Board of Directors want to make to the term(s) of the charter? Identify the page number(s) on which the term(s) is/are stated in the currently approved charter. If the term(s) of the charter the school wants to modify is/are conditions placed on the charter by the Secretary of Education and members of the State Board of Education, state the condition(s) and the date(s) on which the condition(s) was/were placed on the school's charter.

Our charter school's Board of Directors wishes to increase our 2016-17 enrollment by 8%. Specifically, as outlined on page 4 of our Charter Application submitted on December 20, 2013, we wish to add 25 seats to the 2016-17 enrollment, for a total of 125 students.

2. What is the effective date of the proposed modification?

The effective date for this minor modification is August 29, 2016.

3. The authorizer will review your most recent Performance Review Reports as part of your application. Discuss the school's academic performance, compliance with the terms of its charter, and financial viability as measured by the Performance Framework.

As a first year charter school, we do not have any current state performance review reports. However, the data we have collected from our current population of 212 6th graders indicates that we are creating an environment that fosters academic growth for students, and professional growth for staff. We wish to serve as many students as possible given the following:

Reading Growth

- To date, 76% of students of demonstrated gains of at least 1 year according to assessment tools Reading A to Z
- On our first round of the Achievement Network's Common Core aligned interim assessments, our students outperformed the network (63 other north east middle schools teaching common core standards) by 3% overall.
- Round two of interim assessments demonstrated that student proficiency increased by 7%, we outperformed the network for 8% overall.
- To date, 100% have increased fluency by at least 15 wpm according to 6-minute fluency solutions.

Math Growth

- On our first round of the Achievement Network's Common Core aligned interim assessments, students outperformed the network by 4% overall.
- Round two of interim assessments demonstrated that student proficiency increased by 5%.

School Culture & Climate

- 50% of our students earned Honor Roll in Quarter 1.
- 92% of parents participated in Mandatory Report Card Conferences in Quarter 1.
- 96% of surveyed parents have indicated that they are exceedingly pleased with their student's academic program and the support from teachers and administration.
- To Date, there have been 0 occurrences of violent behavior.
- 75% of students actively participate in at least one of our 16 after school activities weekly.
- 100% of students have earned at least 5 community service hours through Great Oaks Wilmington.
- 100% of students have earned at least 5 hours of college exploration through Great Oaks Wilmington.

Staff and Student Retention

- To Date, 100% of the teaching staff has committed to return for the 2016-17 school year.
- 100% of surveyed staff members have indicated that they are exceedingly pleased with the professional growth support from administration.
- 85% of current students have re-enrolled for the 2016-17 school year.
- 100% of eligible siblings of current 6th graders have enrolled for next year.
- We currently have 75 applications for 100 seats for the 2016-17 school year.
- 50% of our tutor corps (which is only a 1-year) commitment wants to remain in Wilmington to pursue opportunities with Great Oaks Wilmington.
- 100% of tutor corps has completed at least 10 hours of community service in the city of Wilmington.

4. Describe the rationale for the request(s). Discuss any relevant research base or evidence that supports this type of request. (*Attachments may be provided*)

Given the fact that we have had an exceptionally strong start, and are receiving applications at a rate that we did not anticipate, we want to take advantage of the opportunity to serve as many students as possible. Our mission is to prepare all students for college success, while also cultivating highly effective teachers and creating a positive impact on our surrounding communities. By increasing our student enrollment, we will also increase the sizes of our tutor corps and teaching staff. In doing so, we will have greater capacity to present students with an

individualized and rigorous academic program, while also widening our impact on the surrounding community.

5. Describe how the proposed modification will impact the operation of the school. Include how student achievement, staffing, facilities, and financial viability of the school may be impacted in the current school year and for the remainder of the school's charter term.

The proposed modification will require 5 additional tutors to be added to the tutor corps, allowing every student to receive small group or 1:1 instruction for 2 hours daily. As we are currently located on the eighth floor of the Community Education Building and are currently only using 7 of our 14 classrooms for direct instruction, there are no anticipated impacts to facilities. As the attached projections indicate, a 25-student increase will create heightened financial viability given the increase in revenue and minimal changes to personnel expenses.

6. Indicate the projected impact, if any, of the proposed modification on the school's present financial position, and its financial position going forward. If the modification promises to create financial challenges, indicate how those will be remedied.

Please see the revised multi-year budget, which incorporates the proposed increase of 25 students into next year's cohort. The effect of this modification will not create any additional financial challenges to the school's present financial position. Rather, such an increase in student count will allow us to continue to provide a high quality offering to all of our students as we continue to grow to scale.