

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
CHARTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Minutes

September 25, 2013

The Board of Education Charter School Committee met at the James Monroe State Office Building, Jefferson Conference Room, 22nd Floor, Richmond, with the following members present: Mr. Chris Braunlich, chair, Mrs. Betsy Beamer, Mrs. Darla Edwards, Mr. Walter Cross, Mrs. Linda Hyslop, and Dr. Rick Richardson. Also present were Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Patricia Wright and Board member Mrs. Diane Atkinson.

Mr. Braunlich called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Mr. Braunlich described the steps of the review process and reviewed the committee's task of examining the Metropolitan Preparatory Academy public charter school application as stipulated in the *Code of Virginia*. The purpose of the meeting was for the committee to discuss the application, meet with the applicant, and decide if the application met the Board's approval criteria. Mr. Braunlich explained that it was not the responsibility of the committee or Board to approve or disapprove an application.

An opportunity for public comment was provided but no comments were made.

Mr. Braunlich made note of the revised application and supplemental materials and that the Department staff re-reviewed certain sections of the application after their initial review. He also noted that the name of the charter school has been changed from Church Hill Preparatory Academy to Metropolitan Preparatory Academy. Before the examination of the application, Mr. Braunlich introduced the applicant, Ms. Tunya Bingham. She, in turn, introduced Mr. Brandon Tutwiler and Mr. Jimmy King.

Mr. Braunlich confirmed that the applicant information (Part A) was complete; an executive summary provided an overview of the proposed charter school; and the assurances (Part C) were signed. Mr. Braunlich then gave the Metropolitan Preparatory Academy team the opportunity to address the educational (Sections II.-VI.), logistical (Sections VII.-X.), and business (Sections XI.-XV.) components of the application. The applicant presented the information through a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Braunlich stressed the importance of focusing on those areas that have changed since the initial application based upon comments provided with the re-review.

The committee discussed the following areas: dual enrollment, establishing partnerships with institutions of higher education, the Pearson Data Solutions system, performance based goals and objectives, addressing special needs students in the program, and being thoroughly familiar with IDEA and its regulations. A discussion centered on the location of the charter school and being aware of compliance regulations with the Americans with Disabilities Act as well as the cost of the conversion of elementary schools to high schools. Discussion on the budget centered on the

cost of salaries and facilities, as well as facility improvements. The applicant has plans to discuss these issues in greater detail with the Richmond City superintendent.

The committee commended the applicant for undertaking a school for young urban males but cautioned that there were issues that still need to be addressed such as staffing, budget, facility improvements, and the instructional program. While the committee voted that the Educational Program met the minimum criterion, committee members underscored the need for more specificity and detail in that area. The committee encouraged dialogue with other charter schools that have a similar focus. The applicant should work closely with Richmond City Public Schools on strengthening the application, especially in the areas of Economic Soundness and Management and Operation.

The components, criteria, and action by the committee are listed below.

Required Application Components		Met the Criterion
I.	Executive Summary	Yes
II.	Mission Statement	Yes
III.	Goals and Educational Objectives	Yes
IV.	Evidence of Support	Yes
V.	Statement of Need	Yes
VI.	Educational Program	Yes
VII.	Enrollment Process	Yes
VIII.	Displacement	Yes
IX.	Transportation	Yes
X.	Residential Charter School	N/A
XI.	Economic Soundness	No
XII.	Management and Operation	No
XIII.	Employment Terms and Conditions	Yes
XIV.	Liability and Insurance	Yes
XV.	Disclosures	Yes

The committee then gave unanimous consent that overall the application was compliant.

Mr. Braunlich explained that a consensus report will be prepared and provided to the applicant within ten business days. The report will be presented to the Board for first review at the October 24, 2013, meeting. The Board will make a determination as to whether the Metropolitan Preparatory Academy charter school application meets the approval criteria and take final action at the meeting on November 21, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 2:45 p.m.