


MEMORANDUM

October 14, 2015

TO: The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF ONE CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION AND DENIAL OF ONE CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION

At the request of Mrs. Valtena G. Brown, Deputy Superintendent, Chief Operating Officer, the attached Agenda Item D-66 is being withdrawn from the October 14, 2015 Agenda for further consideration.

If you require additional information, please contact Mrs. Valtena G. Brown, Deputy Superintendent, Chief Operating Officer, at 305-995-2938.

AMC:dsp
M362
Attachment

cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet

Valtena G. Brown, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Operating Officer
School Operations

**SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF ONE CHARTER
 SCHOOL APPLICATION AND DENIAL OF ONE CHARTER SCHOOL
 APPLICATION**

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

APPLICATIONS

Section 1002.33, F.S., authorizes the establishment of charter schools in Florida. As provided in Section 1002.33(6), F.S., and School Board Policy 9800, *Charter Schools*, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) receives and reviews charter school applications from individuals and/or organizations. Pursuant to Section 1002.33(6)(b)(3), F.S., a sponsor must approve or deny an application no later than 60 calendar days after the application is received unless the applicants have agreed in writing to extend the statutory timeline. Twenty-four (24) charter applications were received for the 2015 cycle. To date, four applicants have withdrawn their applications from consideration by the Sponsor.

EVALUATION

Pursuant to School Board Policy 9800, *Charter Schools*, (School Board Policy) the District reviews all applications using an evaluation instrument developed by the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) and may include additional information or documents requested by the District. The Standard Model Application includes standards of evaluation, certification and assurance declarations and an Applicant History Addendum. The Sponsor shall deny any application that does not comply with the State's statutory requirements and rules and/or Sponsor's instructions for charter school applications.

The Superintendent has appointed the Application Review Committee (ARC) with the responsibility to review and evaluate charter school applications after an initial technical review is conducted by staff. The ARC is comprised of representatives from various District departments and is charged with identifying strengths and deficiencies in the written application and/or areas that require clarification to fully evaluate the quality of the application or the capacity of the applicant to properly implement the proposed plan.

Pursuant to Section 1002.33(6)3.a., F.S., if an application is denied, the District shall, within ten (10) calendar days after the denial, articulate in writing the specific reasons for the denial, based upon good cause, and provide the letter of denial and supporting documentation to the applicant and the FLDOE. An applicant may appeal the Board's denial by submitting a request in writing to the State Board of Education and the Sponsor no later than thirty (30) calendar days after receiving a notice of denial.

D-66

(WITHDRAWN - - 10/14/15)

Pursuant to School Board Policy, two (2) charter school applications are being presented for final consideration by the School Board. Detailed in the charts below is a summary of the charter school applications. Additional details on the denial application can be found in Attachment A, which is provided under separate cover but is included and incorporated by reference in this Board item.

Table 1: Applications Recommended for Approval							
Type of Application	Name of School	Legal Entity	Term	Gr. Level	Enrollment	Focus/ Theme	Committee Recommendation
				Initial Year	Maximum Capacity		
Standard	The Arts Academy of Excellence ESP: N/A	Arts Academy of Excellence, Inc.	5 years	6-8	198	Performing Arts and Architecture	Approval
	ARC recommended approval on September 28, 2015.		2016/2021	6-12	498		

Table 2: Applications Recommended for Denial							
Type of Application	Name of School	Legal Entity	Term	Gr. Level	Enrollment	Focus/ Theme	Committee Recommendation
				Initial Year	Maximum Capacity		
Standard	Phoenix Academy of Excellence ESP: N/A	Phoenix Academies of Excellence, Inc.	5 years	6-9	182	At-Risk/ Alternative Education	DENIAL (See Attachment A)
	ARC recommended approval on September 28, 2015.		2016/2021	6-9	364		

DUE PROCESS

To ensure proper notice and due process, each applicant was noticed of the Superintendent’s intent to recommend denial to the School Board and provided a copy of the final evaluation prior to this School Board Meeting. The applicants were also informed of the School Board’s Personnel Services and Student and School Support Committee Meeting and procedures for requesting to appear before the School Board at meetings and public hearings. Additionally, prior to submission, a courtesy orientation for charter school applicants was noticed on the Charter School Support department’s website and facilitated by multiple district departments on May 7, 2015. Individual appointments regarding application preparation were also held throughout the year by Charter School Support staff, upon request.

Copies of the applications and evaluations have been transmitted to the School Board Members under separate cover and will be available for inspection by the public in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, Room 924, and in the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. Approve the charter school application for Arts Academy of Excellence, Inc., on behalf of The Arts Academy of Excellence, and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a contract reflecting the contents of the applications as approved by the School Board; and
2. Deny the charter school application for Phoenix Academies of Excellence, Inc., on behalf of Phoenix Academy of Excellence.

VGB:elg
Attachments