

School Operations
Dr. John D. Pace III, Chief Operating Officer

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF TWO NEW CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATIONS, AND ONE CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENT

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Section 1002.33, F.S., authorizes the establishment of charter schools by individuals and/or organizations. 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 for charter schools to be opened at a time determined by the applicant. M-DCPS then submits the applications with a recommendation for approval or denial by the School Board. Section 1002.33(6)(b)(3)(a), F.S., requires that the School Board, as the Sponsor, approve or deny the applications no later than 90 calendar days after receipt, unless the sponsor and the applicant mutually agree in writing to temporarily postpone the vote to a specific date.

CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION EVALUATION

Pursuant to School Board Policy 9800, *Charter Schools* (Policy 9800), the District reviews all applications using an evaluation instrument developed by the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) and may request additional information. The FLDOE Standard Model Application includes standards of evaluation, certification and assurance declarations, and an Applicant History Addendum.

Policy 9800 requires the Superintendent to convene the charter school Application Review Committee (ARC) to meet publicly and conduct final reviews of charter school applications and to provide the Superintendent with a recommendation for presentation to the School Board. The ARC met and identified strengths and/or deficiencies in the written application, as well as areas that required clarification to fully evaluate the quality of the application and the capacity of the applicant to properly implement the proposed plan. Pursuant to Policy 9800, the charter school applications and associated evaluations are being presented for final approval or denial by the School Board as set forth herein.

A total of two (2) charter school applications are being presented for consideration in this item. These charter school applications, if approved, have proposed to open for the 2022-2023 school year. It is important to note that pursuant to section 1002.33(6)(b)(5), F.S, upon written notice at least 30 calendar days before the first day of school, approved applicants may defer the opening of the school's operation for up to three years to provide time for adequate facility planning; therefore, any deferral options for these applications would expire August 1, 2025. An overview of the charter school applications is contained in Table 1.

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Table 1: CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATIONS						
#	School Information	Proposed Term	Grade Levels	Student Enrollment	Type of Application	Founding/ Gov. Board Members
			Proposed Initial Year		Proposed Geographic Area	
		Initial/Exp.	Maximum Capacity			
1	Mater Academy Biscayne Middle School (MSID pending)	5 Years	6-7	440	Standard	Cesar C. Crousillat, Chairperson; Shannie Sadesky, Vice Chair; Idalia Suarez, Secretary; Maurene Sotero Balmaseda, Director; and Maria Beatriz Nunez, Director
	Legal Entity: Mater Academy, Inc. Proposed ESP: Academica ARC: December 14, 2021	2022-2027	6-8	902	North Miami / Biscayne Area	
2	Mater Academy Biscayne High School (MSID pending)	5 Years	9-10	450	Standard	
	Legal Entity: Mater Academy, Inc. Proposed ESP: Academica ARC: December 14, 2021	2022-2027	9-12	1,200	North Miami / Biscayne Area	

AMENDED CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTS

Section 1002.33(7), F.S., outlines the issues involved in the operation of charter schools to be considered in advance and written into a charter school contract between the charter school and the School Board following a public meeting.

Policy 9800 requires that the Superintendent convene the Contract Review Committee (CRC) to meet publicly and negotiate any substantive amendments to charter school contracts for presentation to the School Board for their final approval or denial.

Pursuant to the law and School Board Policy 9800, Charter Schools, one (1) charter school contract is being presented with three requested amendments for consideration in this item, as contained in Table 2:

Table 2: CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT AMENDMENT					
Non-Profit	Term	Current Grade Levels	Current Enrollment	Recommended Action(s) and/or Special Provisions	Geographic Area
School Name	Initial/Exp.		Maximum Capacity		
Location			Facility Capacity		
Renaissance Charter School, Inc.	15 years	5-8	486	Recommended Action: Effective for the 2022-2023 school year to: (1) Relocate to a new location identified by folio # 25-3031-016-0030 and 25-3031-017-0010 (City of Sweetwater), upon completion of the construction (Note: Expansion is contingent upon facility capacity). (2) Delete grade 5, add grades 9-12, and increase student enrollment by 550 students to reflect a middle/high charter school serving grade levels 6-12 and a maximum student enrollment capacity of 1,050 students, pursuant to s.1002.331., High Performing Charter Schools. (3) Change the name of the school to Renaissance Upper Charter School to reflect the new grade level configuration.	City of Doral
Renaissance Middle Charter School (MSID 6028)	2015-2031		Up to 500 students		Central Region
High Performing Charter School ARC: October 25, 2021 CRC: December 1, 2021			500		VD 5
8360 NW 33 St Doral, FL 33122					

*Pursuant to s.1002.331(2), F.S., "high performing" is a designation, made by the Commission of Education for certain charter schools that allows them to increase enrollment, expand grade levels, submit quarterly rather than monthly financial reports, consolidate charters, and/or modify charter term up to 15 years. Recent changes in legislation also allow a high-performing charter school to increase enrollment beyond the contract capacity, but not to exceed the capacity of the facility at the time enrollment will take effect.

DISTRICT IMPACT

Any significant increase in charter school student enrollment (Charter FTE) directly impacts the District's operating budget as well as instructional and non-instructional staffing levels. This amended contract being presented represents a potential increase in overall charter school enrollment or an anticipated loss to the District.

Table 3: DISTRICT IMPACT						
District Impact	Total Loss- FTE		Total Loss - Human Capital			
	Total FEFP Revenue (\$)	Projected Charter FTE (#)	Instructional Positions		Non-Instructional Positions	Total Positions
			Core ¹	Non-Core ²		
Renaissance Middle Charter School (MSID 6028)	\$2,556,842	413	17	7	17	41
TOTAL LOSS:	\$2,556,842	413	17	7	17	41

Initial Year Loss (2022-2023 SY): The revenue and positions indicated as "District Impact" provide an estimate of the potential impact on the District's General Fund (\$2,556,842) instructional staffing (24 positions), and non-instructional staffing (17 positions). The loss of revenue is based on 95% of FEFP funds per student and 75% of the enrollment projection that the District will not realize.

DUE PROCESS

To ensure proper notice and due process, the non-profit, legal entity was noticed of the Superintendent's recommendations to the School Board and was provided a copy of the amended charter contracts prior to the School Board Meeting.

Copies of the charter school applications, applications evaluations, and amended charter school contract can be accessed online at the link below 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.

- [Applications and Evaluations](#)
- [Amended Charter Contract](#)

School Board approval of this item does not reflect or constitute a finding of need, justification, or endorsement for any charter school as proposed in the item but only that it meets the statutory requirements for School Board approval of a charter school contract under Section 1002.33, F.S. and Policy 9800.

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

- A. Approve two (2) new charter school applications and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate contracts reflecting the contents of the applications as approved by the School Board with:
 1. Mater Academy, Inc., d/b/a Mater Academy Biscayne Middle School; and,
 2. Mater Academy, Inc., d/b/a Mater Academy Biscayne High School.
- B. Approve a charter school contract amendment with Renaissance Charter School, Inc., d/b/a Renaissance Middle Charter School (MSID 6028), effective for the 2022-2023 school year, to:
 1. Relocate to a new location identified by folio # 25-3031-016-0030 and 25-3031-017-0010 (City of Sweetwater), upon completion of the construction (*Note: Expansion is contingent upon facility capacity.*);
 2. Delete grade 5, add grades 9-12, increase student enrollment by 550 students to reflect a middle/high charter school serving grade levels 6-12 and a maximum student enrollment capacity of 1,050 students, pursuant to s. 1002.331 F.S., **High Performing Charter Schools**; and,
 3. Change the name of the school to Renaissance Upper Charter School to reflect the new grade level configuration.
- C. Approve a Reduction-in-Force/Layoff as needed, only to the extent described in this item as Total Loss, in accordance with School Board Policies and applicable collective bargaining agreements.