

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

**SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF TWO NEW CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATIONS**

} Revised

**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	

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## 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 prior to the School Board Meeting. } Revised

Copies of the charter school applications and application evaluations 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. } Revised

- [Applications and Evaluations](#)

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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 application under Section 1002.33, F.S. and Policy 9800. } Revised

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

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.

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