



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: P-12 Education Committee
FROM: Ken Slentz 
SUBJECT: Charter Schools: Revision to Charter Authorized by the
Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education
(NYCDOE) – Academic Leadership Charter School

DATE: March 3, 2014

AUTHORIZATION(S):


SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Regents approve the proposed charter revision for the Academic Leadership Charter School which is authorized by the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE)?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State Statute

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the P-12 Education Committee and the Full Board for action at the March 2014 meeting of the Board of Regents.

Background Information

I recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposed revision to the charter of the Academic Leadership Charter School authorized by the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education in her capacity as a charter school authorizer under Article 56 of the Education Law.

The Academic Leadership Charter School was first authorized by the Chancellor of the NYCDOE and granted a Charter by the Board of Regents to serve 350 students in grades K-5 in February 2009. In February 2014, the Board of Regents granted the School a full renewal charter which expires on June 30, 2018. The School submitted a charter revision request to the Chancellor of the NYCDOE to amend its charter to expand the grades the

School serves to include grades 6-8 and to expand overall enrollment to 500 students. The expansion would begin with grade 6 in the 2014-15 school year. The School's elementary grades are co-located with P.S. 65 Mother Hale Academy at 677 East 141st Street in CSD 7 in the Bronx. If the expansion request is approved, the School's middle school grades will be located in private space in the Bronx. The School has negotiated a lease for private space that will be executed upon approval of the expansion request. The chart below outlines the material terms of the Academic Leadership Charter School's charter and the proposed revision.

Name of Charter School	Academic Leadership Charter School
Current Charter Term	Initial Charter: February 10, 2009 – February 9, 2014 First Renewal Charter: February 11, 2014 – June 30, 2018. The School opened for instruction in the 2009-10 school year
Current Grades and Enrollment	K-5, 350 students
Community School District of Location	NYC CSD #7 The School is co- located with P.S. 65 Mother Hale Academy at 677 East 141st Street
Proposed Charter Revision	Expand to serve 500 students in grades K-8, beginning with grade 6 in the 2014-15 school year. The middle school grades will be located in private space.

The material submitted by the NYCDOE to the Board of Regents in support of the charter revision request is attached to this item.

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that the proposed revised charter: (1) meets the requirements set out in Article 56 of the Education Law, and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations; (2) will permit the charter school to operate in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; (3) is likely to improve student learning and achievement and materially further the purposes set out in subdivision two of section twenty-eight hundred fifty of Article 56 of the Education Law; and (4) will have a significant educational benefit to the students expected to attend the charter school, and the Board of Regents therefore approves the above listed charter revision as proposed by Chancellor of the NYCDOE and the provisional charter for the Academic Leadership Charter School is amended accordingly.

Timetable for Implementation

The Regents action for the Academic Leadership Charter School will take effect immediately.

Attachment

Richard Larios
Senior Director
Charter Schools
Accountability & Support

52 Chambers Street
Room 413
New York, NY 10007

Tel: 212 374 6504
Fax: 212 374 5761

February 27, 2014

Mr. Bill Clarke
Director, Charter School Office
New York State Education Department
89 Washington Ave
Albany, NY 12210

Re: Material Charter Revision Approval Rationale— Academic Leadership Charter School

Dear Mr. Clarke:

This letter is to acknowledge and accept the material charter revision request made by Academic Leadership Charter School, located in the Bronx, New York, in CSD 7, currently serving grades K through 5. The school seeks to expand its grades served to K through 8 by school year 2016-17, ultimately serving 500 students. This expansion is contingent upon the school securing private facility space for the middle school grades. The school currently has a lease for private space that will be signed upon the approval of this expansion request.

The New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE) has reviewed the request—originally submitted as part of the school's renewal application and included with the Chancellor's recommendation to NYSED—to allow Academic Leadership Charter School, currently in its first charter, to amend its charter to offer both elementary and middle school grades (K-8) by school year 2016-17. Academic Leadership Charter School was granted a five-year renewal by the New York State Board of Regents at its February 2014 Board meeting. The school would begin its expansion in the 2014-2015 school year when its current fifth graders would matriculate up, comprising the school's first middle school grade.

Pending Regents approval, the school is in the process of securing a private facility to house its middle school grades.

As this is a material change to Academic Leadership Charter School's charter, a public hearing was held on September 26, 2013 to discuss the school's proposed renewal, including its proposed grade expansion.

After reviewing the request, the NYC DOE finds that this revision to Academic Leadership Charter School:

- (i) will meet the requirements set out in Article 56 of the Education Law, and all other applicable laws, rules, and regulations,
- (ii) will permit the charter school to operate in an educationally and fiscally-sound manner, and
- (iii) is likely to improve student learning and achievement and materially further the purposes set out in subdivision two of section twenty-eight hundred fifty of Article 56 of the Education Law.

The Charter Schools Accountability & Support (CSAS) team, on behalf of the NYC

DOE, has approved this charter revision request. If you require any further information please contact us. CSAS recognizes that per law, the State Department of Education may take up to 90 days to review the material change. If we do not hear from you within that timeframe we will consider that you are in agreement with our determination and the status of these requests.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Larios".

Richard Larios
Senior Director
Charter Schools Accountability and Support
New York City Department of Education

CC: Robert Podhurst, ALCS Board Chair; Laurie Price, Interim Executive Director, CSAS

Enclosure(s): Public hearing notice, Board minutes recording the charter amendment vote, Table of middle school enrollment and section counts



**Department of
Education**

Dennis M. Walcott, Chancellor

Notice of Public Hearing

Date: September 26, 2013

Time: Speaker Registration: 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM
Presentation, Comments, and Questions: 6:00 PM

Location: **Academic Leadership Charter School**
677 E 141st St
Bronx, NY 10454

Event : This public hearing is open to anyone interested in learning about the proposed renewal of **Academic Leadership Charter School**.

Name of Charter School	Academic Leadership Charter School
Terms and Dates of Charter	First Renewal Charter: 02/09/09 – 02/09/14
Current Grade(s) and Approved Enrollment	2013-14: Grades: K-5: 350 STUDENTS
Current Year of Operation	2013-14: 5th Year of Operation
District of Location	NYC CSD #7
School Summary	<p>With the leadership of the School Board, its administration, teachers and support staff, Academic Leadership Charter School's mission is to develop in students the ability to exceed NYS Common Core Performance Standards in all major academic areas in a safe and nurturing environment. In partnership with parents and the community, our students will be empowered to become leaders and take an active role in their learning while exhibiting good character.</p> <p>The school's instructional focus is on literacy and content-area knowledge, developing conceptual understanding in the four subject areas (Literacy, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science).</p>

This school is authorized by the New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE). If the DOE declines to renew the school's charter, the school will close at the conclusion of the current charter term. More information can be accessed at: www.schools.nyc.gov/charters .

Comments are welcome; speakers must register within 30 minutes of the hearing's start time. Written comments will also be collected on at the hearing or be submitted via email to: charterschools@schools.nyc.gov.

Pursuant to Education Law 2857(1), the New York City Department of Education is required to hold a public hearing to solicit comment from the community in connection with any revision proposal for a charter school.

Revised Minutes ALCS BOT March 21, 2013

Present: Dr. Robert Podhurst, Dr. Norma Figueroa-Hurwitz, Ted Hurwitz, Dr. Ben Corpus, Bernard Schneider, Leena Varghesi, Dr. Robert Blau, Desiree LaFontaine

Guests: James Sander, Keith Mitchell

Absent: Cheryl Kramer, Nick McNickle

Meeting Called to order at 6:07 by Robert Podhurst

I. Minutes of February 28, 2013 were Approved

II. A. Responsibilities and Roles of Board Members

1. Board of 7-13 members. Must be odd number
2. Oversight of Finances and that School is meeting its commitments as written in our Charter.

B. Responsibilities of the Executive Director

The prime responsibility is to see that the school runs well. Ensure that the academic level is maintained, a coach to Leena and Jaime also to the teachers and staff. Involved in observing classes, working closer with Dept. of Ed, both on operational and educational levels, preparing for Pop In visits, overseeing the budget, preparing for expansion, expanding the school's presence in the community, perusing test results as well as other responsibilities spelled out in the Charter Proposal.

III. Committee Reports

- A. Education Committee- scores have definitively declined after the Common Core has been added to it and mock tests have been made harder. Teachers are being worked with. Vacation packets have been prepared. Drop in scores which is going to make a new baseline. Public Schools do not have enough space in summer for the anticipated drop in scores. The Board is confident that ALCS will do well, relatively.
- B. Finance Committee-Bob Blau-Paul Augello gave our report, variances all explained. We are in a good financial position. Two additional TA's have been hired.
- C. Real Estate Committee- Ted Hurwitz- Working with 2-3 realtors and seeing mainly old warehouse that have been gutted with asking prices of about 8 Million. Agent took him to a place in Morris Park area. No price was listed for the property, they have countered with an offer of 8.6 million. It has 7 classrooms that nothing needs to be done. Building is nice, multiple bathrooms, offices that sheetrock could be knocked down, outdoor track, Working elevators, suitable, 20 mins. from ALCS driving. We need to hire someone for the financing and Architecture. The Building comes with a 20,000 Sq. Ft. parking lot directly across the street from the building

The board authorizes an allocation of an amount up to \$100,000, subject to the approval by the chair, to be used for the financial review in connection of an investigation of potential educational sites. Unanimous vote

Board approves the expansion of ALCS to the inclusion of grades 6-8 in the Renewal Application to C.S.A.S. office. Unanimous vote

D. Long-Term Planning Committee

E. Development Committee

IV. Space for 2013-2014

- Mr. Larios stated we need to be on the radar for 2014-2015
- Take rooms used for services and specials away for classrooms
- Shared space library (P.S.65 is using the library when it is ALCS time)
- We are approved for 14 Classes (350 students) at PS 65

V. Executive Director's Report

A. Professional Development - Clearer understanding of Common Core Standards

B. Formal Observations and coaching of teachers is in progress

C. Parent teacher conference held. Great turnout and parents completed the DOE Parent Satisfaction Survey

D. A second Open House was held and groups of parents visited classroom led by Parent Organization representatives

VI. New Business - Vote for Jim Sander and Keith Mitchell to become board members next month, April 25th meeting.

Lottery- Thursday, April 11th at 5:00 p.m. school auditorium

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM

Next Meeting – Thursday, April 25th 2013 at ALCS

Academic Leadership Charter School- Middle School Expansion by Facility

Year	Grades at X065 DOE facility	Grades at private facility	Total Sections
2014-2015	K (2 sections) 1 (2 sections) 2 (2 sections) 3 (2 sections) 4 (2 sections) 5 (4 sections) 14 total	6 (2 sections) 2 total	 16 Total
2015-2016	K (2 sections) 1 (2 sections) 2 (2 sections) 3 (2 sections) 4 (2 sections) 5 (2 sections) 12 total	6 (4 sections) 7 (2 sections) 6 total	 18 Total
2016-2017	K (2 sections) 1 (2 sections) 2 (2 sections) 3 (2 sections) 4 (2 sections) 5 (2 sections) 12 total	6 (2 sections) 7 (4 sections) 8 (2 sections) 8 Total	 20 Total
2017-2018	K (2 sections) 1 (2 sections) 2 (2 sections) 3 (2 sections) 4 (2 sections) 5 (2 sections) 12 total	6 (2 sections) 7 (2 sections) 8 (4 sections) 8 total	 20 Total

K-8 Enrollment Projections by grade:

Grade	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
K	50 (2)	50 (2)	50 (2)	50 (2)
1	50 (2)	50 (2)	50 (2)	50 (2)
2	50 (2)	50 (2)	50 (2)	50 (2)
3	50 (2)	50 (2)	50 (2)	50 (2)
4	50 (2)	50 (2)	50 (2)	50 (2)
5	100 (4)	50 (2)	50 (2)	50 (2)
6	50 (2)	100 (4)	50 (2)	50 (2)
7		50 (2)	100 (4)	50 (2)
8			50 (2)	100 (4)
Total	400	450	500	500