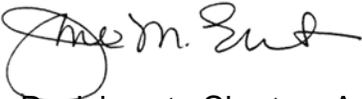




TO: P-12 Education Committee
FROM: Jhone M. Ebert 
SUBJECT: Charter Schools: Revisions to Charters Authorized by
New York City Department of Education Chancellor
DATE: March 2, 2017
AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Regents approve the proposed revisions to the charters of the following three schools authorized by the New York City Department of Education Chancellor:

1. **Brooklyn Scholars Charter School**
2. **Coney Island Preparatory Public Charter School**
3. **VOICE Charter School of New York**

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This issue will be before the Board of Regents P-12 Education Committee and the Full Board for action at the March 13, 2017 Regents meeting.

Procedural History

The Commissioner and Department staff forward the revision recommendations for the following charter schools, as proposed by the New York City Department of Education Chancellor in her capacity as a charter school authorizer under Article 56 of the Education Law. The New York City Department of Education Chancellor asks that the charters be revised as indicated and has provided a summary for each school as set forth below.

Background Information

Brooklyn Scholars Charter School

Table 1: School Summary

Name of Charter School	Brooklyn Scholars Charter School
Board Chair	Karen Thomson
District of Location	19
Opening Date	2009-2010
Current Charter Term	Full Term: 7/1/2016 - 6/30/2021
Facility	Private
Current Grade Levels/Number of Students	K-8/ 678 students
Mission	Brooklyn Scholars Charter School is founded on academic excellence, moral focus, parental partnership, and student responsibility.
Proposed Revision	Brooklyn Scholars Charter School is requesting to increase the school's current authorized enrollment from 678 students to 704 students.

Table 2: Brooklyn Charter School Approved Enrollment For the Current Charter Term

	Year 1 2016-2017	Year 2 2017-2018	Year 3 2018-2019	Year 4 2019-2020	Year 5 2020-2021
Grade Configuration	Grades K-8				
Total Approved Enrollment	678	678	678	678	678

**Table 3: Brooklyn Scholars Charter School Proposed Enrollment
For the Current Charter Term**

	Year 1 2016-2017	Year 2 2017-2018	Year 3 2018-2019	Year 4 2019-2020	Year 5 2020-2021
Grade Configuration	Grades K-8				
Total Approved Enrollment	704	704	704	704	704

Table 4: Brooklyn Scholars Charter School Academic Achievement

All Students	ELA					Math				
	Brooklyn Scholars	CSD 19	Variance to CSD 19	NYS	Variance to NYS	Brooklyn Scholars	CSD 19	Variance to CSD 19	NYS	Variance to NYS
2014-2015	21.4%	16.0%	+5.4%	31.3%	-9.9%	34.0%	18.0%	+16.0%	38.1%	-4.1%
2015-2016	37.2%	22.7%	+14.5%	37.9%	-0.7%	36.9%	18.0%	+18.9%	39.1%	-2.2%

**Table 5: Brooklyn Scholars Charter School Demographics
Compared to District of Location**

	2014 -2015			2015 -2016		
	Brooklyn Scholars	CSD 19	Variance	Brooklyn Scholars	CSD 19	Variance
Economically Disadvantaged	54.4%	85.3%	-30.8%	53.5%	83.4%	-29.9%
English Language Learners (Current)	0.0%	12.2%	-12.2%	0.0%	12.3%	-12.3%
Students with Disabilities (Current)	10.2%	21.5%	-11.3%	11.2%	22.6%	-11.4%

Summary of Public Comment

As required by the Charter School Act, the New York City Department of Education Chancellor held a public hearing about the proposed revision to the charter of Brooklyn Scholars Charter School on November 14, 2016. There were no attendees present at the hearing. There were no public comments made in support and no public comments in opposition to the proposed charter revision.

Coney Island Preparatory Public Charter School

Table 1: School Summary

Name of Charter School	Coney Island Preparatory Public Charter School
Board Chair	Josh Wolfe
District of Location	21
Opening Date	2008-2009
Current Charter Term	Full Term: 12/16/2013 – 6/30/2018
Facility	Site 1: DOE Site 2: DOE Site 3: Private
Current Grade Levels/Number of Students	K-3, 5-8, 9-12/ 930 students
Mission	Coney Island Prep is a rigorous K-12 public charter school located in the heart of South Brooklyn, New York. By setting the highest expectations for personal and academic achievement, our mission is to prepare every Coney Island Prep scholar to succeed in the college and career of his or her choice.
Proposed Revision	Coney Island Preparatory Public Charter School is requesting to increase the school's current authorized enrollment from 948 students to 1032 students.

Table 2: Coney Island Preparatory Public Charter School Approved Enrollment For Current Charter Term

	Year 1 2013-2014	Year 2 2014-2015	Year 3 2015-2016	Year 4 2016-2017	Year 5 2017-2018
Grade Configuration	Grades K-12				
Total Approved Enrollment	948	948	948	948	948

Table 3: Coney Island Preparatory Public Charter School Proposed Enrollment For Current Charter Term

	Year 1 2013-2014	Year 2 2014-2015	Year 3 2015-2016	Year 4 2016-2017	Year 5 2017-2018
Grade Configuration	Grades K-12				
Total Approved Enrollment	948	948	948	948	1032

Table 4: Coney Island Preparatory Public Charter School Academic Achievement

	ELA					Math				
	Coney Island Prep	CSD 21	Variance to CSD 21	NYS	Variance to NYS	Coney Island Prep	CSD 21	Variance to CSD 21	NYS	Variance to NYS
2014-2015	26.2%	44.6%	-18.4%	31.3%	-5.1%	40.9%	51.1%	-10.2%	38.1%	+2.8%
2015-2016	29.2%	49.4%	-20.2%	37.9%	-8.7%	39.2%	50.7%	-11.5%	39.1%	+0.1%

Table 5: Coney Island Preparatory Public Charter School Demographics Compared to District of Location

	2014 -2015			2015 -2016		
	Coney Island Prep	CSD 21	Variance	Coney Island Prep	CSD 21	Variance
Economically Disadvantaged	83.1%	70.0%	+13.1%	82.7%	68.6%	+14.1%
English Language Learners (Current)	2.5%	16.0%	-13.5%	2.9%	16.3%	-13.4%
Students with Disabilities (Current)	22.6%	18.5%	+4.1%	24.3%	19.4%	+4.9%

Summary of Public Comment

As required by the Charter School Act, the New York City Department of Education Chancellor held a public hearing about the proposed revision to the charter of Coney Island Preparatory Public Charter School on November 29, 2016. Thirty-four individuals attended the hearing. Two comments were made in support and 16 in opposition to the proposed charter revision. Comments in opposition were focused on overcrowding in the building and the loss of specials (performing arts and band).

VOICE Charter School of New York

Table 1: School Summary

Name of Charter School	VOICE Charter School of New York
Board Chair	Marc Cohen
District of Location	30
Opening Date	2008-2009
Current Charter Term	Full Term: 7/1/2013 – 6/30/2018
Facility	Site 1: DOE Site 2: Private
Current Grade Levels/Number of Students	K-8/ 650 students
Mission	The mission of VOICE Charter School of NY is to create a safe and healthy learning environment that will nurture, motivate, and challenge all of our children to achieve the highest level of academic excellence and to develop into mindful, responsible, contributing participants in their education, their community, and the diverse society in which we live. Our program of performance-based instruction in choral singing will guide students through the development of creative and critical thinking and learning skills that they will learn to apply to daily living and the core academic subject areas. Academically rigorous, our standards-driven curriculum will be informed by research-based methods that are differentiated according to the individual needs of each child in our school. We commit to guiding all of our students toward the acquisition of those skills and qualities necessary so that they will be in a position to choose which competitive high school and college they wish to attend and so that they learn to become successful, lifelong learners.
Proposed Revision	VOICE Charter School of New York is requesting to increase the school’s authorized enrollment from 650 students to 810 students.

Table 2: VOICE Charter School of New York Approved Enrollment

	Year 1 2013-2014	Year 2 2014-2015	Year 3 2015-2016	Year 4 2016-2017
Grade Configuration	Grades K-5	Grades K-5	Grades K-5	Grades K-8
Total Approved Enrollment	650	650	650	650

Table 3a: VOICE Charter School of New York Proposed Enrollment

	Year 5 2017-2018
Grade Configuration	Grades K-8
Total Approved Enrollment	752 ¹

Table 3b: VOICE Charter School of New York Proposed Enrollment [pending charter renewal for next charter term]²

	Year 1 2018-19	Year 2 2019-2020	Year 3 2020-2021	Year 4 2021-2022	Year 5 2022-2023
Grade Configuration	Grades K-8	Grades K-8	Grades K-8	Grades K-8	Grades K-8
Total Approved Enrollment	781	810	810	810	810

¹ VOICE Charter School's charter will expire on June 30, 2018. VOICE Charter School will not have fully enrolled all 810 of the requested students until the 2019-2020 school year, which is outside of the school's current charter term.

² VOICE Charter School will be evaluated in the 2017-18 school year for the charter renewal process. The enrollment increases by year is the school's proposal for growth should the school be renewed for another charter term in 2017-18.

Table 4: VOICE Charter School of New York Academic Achievement

All Students	ELA					Math				
	VOICE	CSD 30	Variance to CSD 30	NYS	Variance to NYS	VOICE	CSD 30	Variance to CSD 30	NYS	Variance to NYS
2014-2015	34.2%	33.7%	+0.5%	31.3%	+2.9%	63.7%	43.9%	+19.8%	38.1%	+25.6%
2015-2016	38.9%	44.0%	-5.1%	37.9%	+1.0%	48.1%	42.9%	+5.2%	39.1%	+9.0%

Table 5: VOICE Charter School of New York Demographics Compared to District of Location

	2014 -2015			2015 -2016		
	VOICE	CSD 30	Variance	VOICE	CSD 30	Variance
Economically Disadvantaged	78.8%	71.5%	+7.3%	76.6%	69.8%	+6.8%
English Language Learners (Current)	16.0%	19.4%	-3.4%	17.0%	17.9%	-0.9%
Students with Disabilities (Current)	17.5%	15.4%	+2.1%	16.7%	16.2%	+0.5%

Summary of Public Comment

As required by the Charter School Act, the New York City Department of Education Chancellor held a public hearing about the proposed revision to the charter of VOICE Charter School of New York on November 21, 2016. Thirty-seven individuals attended the hearing. Twenty-two comments were made in support including a letter of support from Assemblywoman Nolan, and two were made in opposition to the proposed charter revision. Comments in support focused on the sense of community at the school, and comments in opposition focused on the district school of PS 11 and where those students will go if VOICE gets more students.

Related Regent's Items

Brooklyn Scholars Charter School

January 2009 Initial Charter

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2009Meetings/February2009/0209emsca4.htm>

March 2014 Renewal

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/314p12a6%5B3%5D.pdf>

March 2016 Renewal

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/316p12a5.pdf>

Coney Island Preparatory Public Charter School

December 2008 Initial Charter

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2008Meetings/December2008/1208emsca9.htm>

February 2011 Enrollment Revision

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2011Meetings/February2011/211p12a1.pdf>

December 2013 Renewal

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1213p12a3%5B1%5D.pdf>

VOICE Charter School of New York

January 2008 Initial Charter

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/Summaries/0108summary.htm>

January 2013 Renewal/Extension

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/report/jan-2013/p-12-education>

March 2013 Renewal

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/313p12a5%5B1%5D.pdf>

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that: (1) the charter school meets the requirements set out in Article 56 of the Education Law, and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations; (2) the charter school can demonstrate the ability to operate in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; (3) granting the request to revise the charter 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) granting the request to revise the charter would have a significant educational benefit to the students expected to attend the charter school, and the Board of Regents therefore approves the charter revision for **Brooklyn Scholars Charter School**, as proposed by the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that: (1) the charter school meets the requirements set out in Article 56 of the Education Law, and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations; (2) the charter school can demonstrate the ability to operate in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; (3) granting the request to revise the charter 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) granting the request to revise the charter would have a significant educational benefit to the students expected to attend the charter school, and the Board of Regents therefore approves the charter revision for **Coney Island Preparatory Public Charter School**, as proposed by the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that: (1) the charter school meets the requirements set out in Article 56 of the Education Law, and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations; (2) the charter school can demonstrate the ability to operate in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; (3) granting the request to revise the charter 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) granting the request to revise the charter would have a significant educational benefit to the students expected to attend the charter school, and the Board of Regents therefore approves the charter revision for **VOICE Charter School of New York**, as proposed by the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

Timetable for Implementation

The Regents action for **Brooklyn Scholars Charter School** will become effective immediately.

The Regents action for **VOICE Academy Charter School of New York** and **Coney Island Preparatory Public Charter School** will become effective July 1, 2017.