


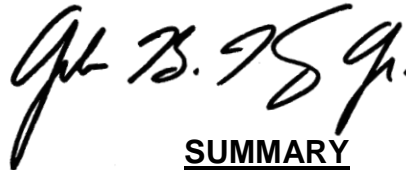


THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: P-12 Education Committee
FROM: Ken Slentz 
SUBJECT: Revision to Charter Authorized by the Board of Regents:
Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts

DATE: June 16, 2014

AUTHORIZATION(S):


SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Regents approve the proposed revision to the charter for the Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State Statute.

Proposed Handling

This item will come before the P-12 Education Committee and the Full Board for action at the June 2014 meeting.

Background Information

The Board of Trustees of the Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts submitted a request to change the district of location for the School from the Rochester City School District to the Greece Central School District. More information about the School and the charter revision request is provided below.

Name of Charter School	Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts
Lead Applicant(s)	David Silver
Management Company	None
Partners	None
District of Location	Originally approved to open in the Rochester City School District
Opening Date	August 27, 2014
Current Charter Term	December 17, 2013 – June 30, 2019
Facility	Private space
Current Grade Levels/Number of Students	Opening with 176 students in Kindergarten through Grade 2 (to expand to 506 students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 by the end of its current charter term)
Proposed Revision	Change the district of location to the Greece Central School District, to commence instruction at 299 Kirk Road, Greece (former Kirk Road Elementary School) in the 2014-2015 school year.

Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts

The Board of Regents approved and chartered the Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts (RACSA or the “School”), to be located in the Rochester City School District, in December 2013. The School will open for instruction in on August 27, 2014, serving 176 students in grades Kindergarten through 2.

Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts was not able to secure an appropriate facility within the boundaries of the Rochester City School District. Several options were explored during the pre-opening period, but none of the buildings under consideration proved to be viable in price, need for renovation and compliance with NYSED school facility requirements.

The School’s Board of Trustees requests that the Regents approve a material revision to its charter to allow the School to change the district of location for the School to the Greece Central School District; specifically to site the School at 299 Kirk Road in Greece. The 299 Kirk Road property is the former Greece Central School District Kirk Road Elementary School, which was closed by the District in 2012 as part of school consolidation. A formal agreement has been made between the Greece Central School District and Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts, for the School to lease the 15,663 square foot facility in advance of anticipated purchase with the support of a third party private investor, prior to April 1, 2015.

The former Kirk Road Elementary School facility will serve the needs of the Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts throughout the charter term. In the 2014-2015 school year, the School intends to use five self-contained classrooms and three spaces in the open room design to accommodate the School's initial eight classes. In addition to classroom space, the School will use an art room, physical education/dance space, computer lab, library, cafeteria and offices. The facility has extensive green space and sufficient parking, and will not require significant renovation. School leaders have been in communication with the NYSED Office of Facilities Planning and expect that the building will meet all requirements for the issuance of a NYSED Certificate of Occupancy.

The Renaissance Academy Charter School has enrolled 180 students in Grades K through 2 to begin instruction at the School in August 2014. Of the total, 168 students reside in the Rochester City School District. In accordance with statute, transportation to the Kirk Road facility will be provided for these students by the Rochester City School District.

In compliance with the public hearing requirements in the Charter School Statute, public hearings about the proposed relocation of the School were held in both the Rochester City School District and the Greece Central School District in May 2014. At both hearings, information was provided to the public about the proposed re-location of Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts. There were no speakers and no comment at either hearing.

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 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 charter revision for Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

Timetable for Implementation

The Regents action for the Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts will take effect immediately.