



TO: P-12 Education Committee

FROM: Cosimo Tangorra, Jr. *Cosimo Tangorra Jr.*

SUBJECT: Revisions to a Charter Authorized by the Board of Regents: Collegiate Academy for Mathematics and Personal Awareness (CAMPA) Charter School

DATE: April 6, 2015

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Elizabeth B Berlin*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Regents approve the proposed revision to the charter of Collegiate Academy for Mathematics and Personal Awareness Charter School?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by New York State law.

Proposed Handling

This issue will be before the Board of Regents P-12 Education Committee for discussion and action, and before the Full Board for action at the April 2015 meeting of the Board of Regents.

Background Information

The Board of Trustees of the Collegiate Academy for Mathematics and Personal Awareness Charter School has submitted a request to amend the school's charter, proposing a change in the grades served. Information about the revision request is provided below.

Name of Charter School	Collegiate Academy for Mathematics and Personal Awareness Charter School
Board Chair	Dr. Daryl Rock
District of Location	Brooklyn CSD 19
Opening Date	September 2015
Current Charter Term	August 24, 2015 - June 30, 2020
Facility	The School has leased 3 modular classroom buildings owned by the Bethlehem Baptist Church located at 1962-84 Linden Boulevard, in the East New York neighborhood of Brooklyn.
Current Grade Levels/Number of Students	Approved to open with 125 students in grade 5 and serve up to 455 students in grades 5 through 8.
Mission	<i>The Community of the Collegiate Academy for Mathematics and Personal Awareness Charter School (CAMPA Charter School) will work tirelessly to ensure that our students will be in a serious, nurturing environment that will foster academic success and promote character development. We expect that all of our students will not only leave CAMPA Charter School with a command of the skills necessary to perform at a high level in college, but will also develop the social tools required to thrive in our ever-changing global society.</i>
Proposed Revision	The School seeks serve 125 grade 6 students in year 1, growing to serve maximum of 375 grade 6-8 students in years 4 and 5 of its charter term.

On December 17, 2013, the Board of Regents approved and chartered the Collegiate Academy for Mathematics and Personal Awareness Charter School (“CAMPA” or the “School”), to be located in Brooklyn Community School District (“CSD”) 19. Initially, the School was approved as a middle school beginning with 125 grade 5 students and growing to serve 455 students in grades 5-8 by year 5. The School had difficulty recruiting grade 5 students largely due to the grade 6-8 middle school configuration in the CSD 19, where students transition to middle school after the completion of the grade 5. On April 15, 2014, the School submitted a request to revise its enrollment plan to open with 75 Grade 5 students and 50 Grade 6 students (instead of 125 Grade 5 students) in 2014-2015. The school was not able to meet its enrollment for either grade by May 16, 2014 as required in the Department’s letter approving the revision. The School subsequently requested approval on April 15, 2014 to use the 2014-2015 school year as a planning year and delay opening until August 2015. The Department approved the non-material request and has worked with the School throughout the pre-opening period to ensure that all required school components are in place prior to opening in September 2015.

The School's Trustees request that the Board of Regents approve a material revision to its charter to allow the School to eliminate service to grade 5 students in order to align with the CSD 19 middle school grade configuration. The School seeks approval to serve 125 grade 6 students in year 1, growing to serve a maximum of 375 grade 6-8 students in years 4 and 5 of its charter term.

Summary of Public Comment

As required by the Charter School Act, the New York City Department of Education held a public hearing about the proposed revision to change the grades served on March 11, 2015. Three representatives from the School attended the hearing. No other members of the public attended or submitted comments in support of or opposition to the proposed revision.

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 amend 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 amend the charter 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 Collegiate Academy for Mathematics and Personal Awareness Charter School and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

Timetable for Implementation

The Regents action for Collegiate Academy for Mathematics and Personal Awareness Charter School will become effective immediately.