



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

TO: P-12 Education Committee

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

SUBJECT: Revisions to a Charter Authorized by the Board of Regents: New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science IV and New Visions Charter High School for Humanities IV

DATE: April 6, 2015

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Elizabeth P. Berlin*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Regents approve the proposed revision to the charter of New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science IV and New Visions Charter High School for Humanities IV?

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

New Visions Charter High Schools, as the education corporation for New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science IV (AMS IV) and New Visions Charter High School for Humanities IV (HUM IV), has submitted a request to amend the schools' charters, proposing a change in location. Information about the revision request is provided below.

Name of Charter School	New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science IV
Board Chair	Jennella Young
Management Company	New Visions for Public Schools, Inc.
District of Location	Approved to open in Brooklyn CSD 13,14,16,17,18 or 19
Opening Date	August 2015
Current Charter Term	July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2020
Facility	Proposed for co-located space
Grade Levels/Number of Students	Approved to open with 125 students in grade 9 and to serve up to 600 students in grades 9 through 12. The school intends to serve a maximum of 566 students.
Mission	New Visions Community Charter: High School for Advanced Math and Science IV (AMS IV) provides all students, regardless of their previous academic history, the highest quality education in an atmosphere of respect, responsibility and rigor. AMS IV ensures that graduates have the skills and content knowledge necessary to succeed in post-secondary choices by engaging students, teachers and administrators in learning experiences that allow risk-taking, embrace multiple attempts at learning, cultivate students' imaginative and creative abilities, and celebrate achievement. Through an intensive study math & science concepts, students generate research questions, develop the skills necessary to answer those questions, create products that demonstrate understanding, and defend their knowledge publicly.
Proposed Revision	Seeks approval to open in Queens CSD 27 (instead of Brooklyn)

Name of Charter School	New Visions Charter High School for Humanities IV (HUM IV)
Board Chair	Jennella Young
Management Company	New Visions for Public Schools, Inc.
District of Location	Approved to open in Brooklyn CSD 13,14,16,17,18 or 19
Opening Date	August 2016
Current Charter Term	July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2021
Facility	Seeking public or private space
Current Grade Levels/Number of Students	Approved to open with 125 students in grade 9 and serve up to 600 students in grades 9 through 12. The school intends to serve a maximum of 566 students.

Mission	New Visions Community Charter: High School for the Humanities IV (HUM IV) provides all students, regardless of their previous academic history, the highest quality education in an atmosphere of respect, responsibility and rigor. HUM IV ensures that graduates have the skills and content knowledge necessary to succeed in post-secondary choices by engaging students, teachers and administrators in learning experiences that allow risk-taking, embrace multiple attempts at learning, cultivate students' imaginative and creative abilities, and celebrate achievement. Through an intensive study of English, History and Art concepts, students generate research questions, develop the skills necessary to answer those questions, create products that demonstrate understanding, and defend their knowledge publicly.
Proposed Revision	Seeks approval to open in Queens CSD 27 (instead of Brooklyn)

The Board of Regents approved and issued five-year initial charters to New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science IV (AMS IV) and New Visions Charter High School for Humanities IV (HUM IV) in October 2012. The schools are governed by New Visions Charter Schools, which was formed as an education corporation in October 2012. New Visions Charter Schools also oversees New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science III (AMS III) and New Visions Charter High School for Humanities III (HUM III). AMS III and HUM III opened for instruction in August 2013, and each will grow up to 600 students in grades 9 through 12 in the 2017-2018 school year. AMS III and HUM III are co-located in Sheepshead Bay High School at 3000 Avenue X, Brooklyn, NY 11235, in Brooklyn CSD 22.

AMS III, AMS IV, HUM III and HUM IV are managed by New Visions for Public Schools, Inc. (CMO), which assists in and oversees the implementation of the New Visions education model, including the provision of curricular resources, leadership support and professional development, as well as support in operational areas (fiscal, outreach, technology, talent acquisition, human resources, etc.).

New Visions charter high schools are intended to serve students who are educationally disadvantaged and are designed for location in public school buildings or communities that are served by failing schools. Each set of schools – AMS and HUM - is organized as a pair in order to provide a small school environment in grades 9 and 10 (Lower House) yet offer specialized advanced coursework, such as AP courses and specialized career exploration, in grades 11 and 12 (Upper House).

New Visions Charter Schools requested co-location space in 2014-2015 to open AMS IV and HUM IV in Brooklyn. The request was denied because of lack of space. New Visions Charter Schools requested approval from NYSED Charter School Office to take a second planning year for these two schools, which was accepted. Pursuant to New York Education Law §2853(3)(e), New Visions Charter Schools then requested co-location space for the 2015-2016 school year. The NYC Department of Education is proposing co-location of AMS IV with August Martin High School and Voyages Prep –

South Queens Transfer High School in CSD 27, for one school only, to commence in 2015-2016. A joint public hearing is scheduled for April 17, 2015 and the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) will vote on the proposed item on April 29, 2015. More details about the proposed co-location may be found at <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/changes/queens/feedback?id=679>.

New Visions Charter Schools will open AMS IV in public space in CSD 27, if approved by the Panel for Educational Policy. The board has requested a planning year for HUM IV and will continue to seek public or private space to open the school in 2015-2016. New Visions Charter Schools is exploring strategies to align the AMS IV program with the HUM IV program to compensate for the staggered opening of the paired schools, and will work with the NYSED Charter School Office for approval of any needed revisions to the approved charters.

New Visions Charter Schools requests that the Board of Regents approve a material revision to the charters of New Visions Charter High School for Math and Science IV and New Visions Charter High School for Humanities IV to allow the schools to change the district of location to Queens CSD 27.

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 of the schools' charters on Monday, March 30, 2015. No comments in opposition to the proposed location of the New Visions schools in CSD 27 were recorded. Two comments were recorded in opposition to the proposed co-location of AMS IV with August Martin High School: the Education Chair of Community Board 9 spoke in opposition to co-location, and the Education Liaison to Council Member Wills stated that they had not been consulted by the DOE on co-location. Note: the joint public hearing on the proposed co-location will be conducted on April 17, 2015.

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 New Visions Charter High School for Math and Science IV and New Visions Charter High School for Humanities IV and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

Timetable for Implementation

The Regents action for New Visions Charter High School for Math and Science IV and New Visions Charter High School for Humanities IV will become effective immediately.