



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: Charter Schools: Revision to Charter Authorized by the Board of Regents

DATE: October 10, 2014

AUTHORIZATION(S):

J. B. G. Jr.

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Regents approve the proposed revision to the charter for the Great Oaks Charter School?

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 October 2014 meeting.

Background Information

The Board of Trustees of the Great Oaks Charter School requests to amend the School's charter to enter into an agreement with Great Oaks Foundation, Inc. for the provision of comprehensive management services to the School.

Name of Charter School	Great Oaks Charter School
Board Chair	Susan Akselrad
District of Location	New York City CSD 2
Opening Date	September 2013
Current Charter Term	November 5, 2012 – June 30, 2018
Facility	Currently in leased space at 1 Monroe Street, NY, NY 10002
Current Grade Levels/Number of Students	Currently serving 198 students in Grade 6 through Grade 8 (growing up to 495 students in grades 6 through 10 in 2017-2018)
Mission	<i>“The mission of the Great Oaks Charter School is to prepare our students to succeed in college by obtaining a four-year degree. We will accomplish this by combining high academic and behavioral expectations for our students with an extraordinary level of individual attention to each student’s needs through tutoring. We believe that this model will be particularly beneficial to English language learners and will target them for recruitment.”</i>
Proposed Revision	Seeks to adopt a formal agreement with Great Oaks Foundation, Inc. to provide comprehensive management services to the School, commencing in the 2014-2015 school year.

The Great Oaks Foundation, Inc. was incorporated in February, 2011 as a non-profit entity in New York State for purposes including the establishment and management of public charter schools. The Foundation has informally supported Great Oaks Charter School since the School’s inception, but would now enter into a formal agreement to provide comprehensive services including staff recruitment and support, guidance related to the School’s education and instructional program, financial management services, human resources services, support for the School’s ongoing facility needs and other financial support. The fee for comprehensive management services is established in the proposed agreement at 10% of the School’s non-competitive public revenues (exclusive of special education revenues). The formal agreement includes a provision for an annual independent evaluation of the services provided by a credible external education assessment firm, such as SchoolWorks, Inc.

The proposed agreement for the provision of comprehensive management services has been reviewed by the School’s board of trustees, the School’s attorney and by Department staff. In compliance with the public hearing requirements in the Charter School Statute, a public hearing about the proposed adoption of a management agreement with Great Oaks Foundation, Inc. was held on October 8, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the school.

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 Great Oaks Charter School and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

Timetable for Implementation

The Regents action for the Great Oaks Charter School will take effect immediately.