
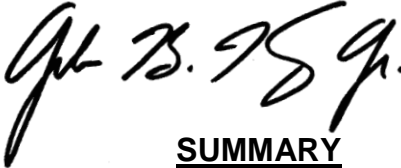




TO: P-12 Education Committee
FROM: Cosimo Tangorra, Jr. 
SUBJECT: Charter Schools: Revision to Charter Authorized by the
Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education
(NYCDOE)

DATE: September 8, 2014

AUTHORIZATION(S):


SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Regents approve the proposed charter revision Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School which is authorized by the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE)?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State Statute.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the P-12 Education Committee and the Full Board for action at the September 2014 meeting of the Board of Regents.

Background Information

Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School (REACS or the "School") is an elementary school first authorized by the Chancellor of the NYCDOE to begin operation in the 2010-11 school year. REACS served 192 students¹ in grades K-4 during the 2013-14 school year and will phase-in to its authorized grade span of K-5 in the 2014-15 school year during which it is projected to serve 244 students. The School is operating under the terms of its first charter which expires December 14, 2014. The School is located in private facilities in Queens within Community School District (CSD) 28.

¹ Enrollment reflects ATS data from 10/31/2013.

The School submitted a charter revision request to the Chancellor of the NYCDOE to amend its Bylaws to include a new position of CEO, who will serve as both an ex-officio non-voting member of the Board of Trustees and a member of the school leadership team. The Chancellor of the NYCDOE approved the revision request and submitted it to the Regents for approval (see attachment).

The chart below outlines the material terms of Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School's charter and the proposed revision.

School	Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School
Current Board Chair	Lilian Hamer
School Leader	Dr. Lena Richardson
District of Location	CSD 28
Current Charter Term	Initial Charter issued December 15, 2009 and expires December 14, 2014
Management Company	As proposed, none
Partners	As proposed, none
Facility	122-05 Smith Street, Queens, NY 11434 – Private
Authorized Enrollment and Grade Span during Charter Term	School will reach authorized scale serving grades K-5 in the 2014-2015 academic year with projected enrollment of 244 students.
Proposed Changes with Material Charter Revision	Revise bylaws to include the position of CEO, who will serve as an Ex-Officio non-voting member of the Board of Trustees and a member of the school leadership team.

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 permit the charter school to 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 above listed charter revision as proposed by Chancellor of the NYCDOE and the provisional charter for the Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School is amended accordingly.

Timetable for Implementation

The Regents action for the Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School would take effect on October 1, 2014.

Attachments

School: Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School (84Q342)
CSD: 28
Enrollment/ Grades Served in 2014-2015 (at scale): K-5/ 244

Revision Background

- Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School (REACS, or the “School”) is adding the position of CEO, who will serve as an Ex-Officio non-voting member of the Board of Trustees and a member of the school leadership team. The rationale for the organizational change is as follows:
 - The addition of the CEO position will allow the Principal more time and capacity to focus on the academic program of the School.
 - The CEO will have the capacity and experience to better oversee the operations of the School, and in particular the development of the facilities necessary to meet the School’s needs in the near and long term.
- REACS is currently under charter renewal review by the NYCDOE; the current charter expires in December 2014.
 - Recommendation for renewal is currently slated for the Board of Regents December 2014 agenda.
- REACS submitted the proposed charter revision to the NYCDOE for approval in June 2013. However, there was a technical error with the submission, and the NYCDOE was not made aware of the requested revision until the School submitted its renewal application in March 2014. The School has already identified the candidate for the CEO position and would like to accelerate approval of this revision to make the position permanent.

Students scoring at or above Level 3, compared to CSD, NYC, and State averages

% Proficient in English Language Arts					
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013*	2013-2014
Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School	-	-	-	30.3%	21.5%
CSD 28	-	-	-	32.4%	32.7%
Difference from CSD 28	-	-	-	-2.1	-11.2
NYC	-	-	-	28.1%	28.4%
Difference from NYC	-	-	-	2.2	-6.9
New York State	-	-	-	31.2%	31.4%
Difference from New York State	-	-	-	-0.9	-9.9

% Proficient in Math					
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013*	2013-2014
Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School	-	-	-	24.2%	21.9%
CSD 28	-	-	-	37.0%	39.7%
Difference from CSD 28	-	-	-	-12.8	-17.8
NYC	-	-	-	33.1%	34.2%
Difference from NYC	-	-	-	-8.9	-12.3
New York State	-	-	-	28.9%	35.8%
Difference from New York State	-	-	-	-4.7	-13.9

* All comparisons for 2012-2013 to either the CSD or NYC take into account only grades the school itself serves.

Performance on the NYC Progress Report (available only through the 2012-13 school year)

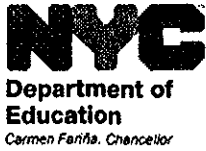
Progress Report Grade	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Overall Grade	-	-	-	B
Student Progress	-	-	-	B
Student Performance	-	-	-	B
School Environment	-	-	-	B
Closing the Achievement Gap Points	-	-	-	1.5

Special Populations

School	Free and Reduced Price Lunch					Students with Disabilities					English Language Learners				
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
	-	69.0%	76.6%	73.2%	71.4%	-	2.8%	10.3%	12.0%	17.2%	-	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%
CSD 27	-	67.6%	-	-	-	-	13.9%	-	-	-	-	9.7%	-	-	-
CSD 28	-	-	67.7%	64.0%	68.4%	-	-	14.6%	14.3%	15.0%	-	-	12.6%	12.2%	12.2%
NYC	-	65.3%	68.1%	69.8%	73.5%	-	15.9%	15.7%	16.1%	17.1%	-	16.1%	15.5%	15.0%	14.7%

Additional Enrollment Information					
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Grades Served	-	K-1	K-2	K-3	K-4
CSD(s)	-	27	28	28	28

Comparisons to both the CSD(s) and City are made against students in grades K-8, 9-12 or K-12 depending on the grades the school served in each school year. Special population figures are as of October 31st for each given school year, with the exception of the 2012-2013 school year, which is as of October 26th, 2012.



September 8, 2014

Honorable John B. King Jr.
Commissioner of Education
New York State Education Department
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12234

Re: Material Charter Revision Approval Rationale – Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School

Dear Commissioner King:

Please be advised that the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) has accepted the material charter revision request made by Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School (the "School") located in Queens, in community school district (CSD) 28. The School serves students in grades K-5. The School seeks to amend its management structure and bylaws to add the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who will serve as an Ex-Officio non-voting member of the Board of Trustees, and a member of the school's leadership team effective beginning in the 2014-15 school year.

The addition of the CEO position will allow the school Principal more time to focus on the academic program of the School. Also, as the School operates in private space, the new CEO will have the expertise and capacity to address facility and expansion issues, as well as manage the operations of the School in a focused manner.

As this is a material change to the School's charter, a public hearing was held on September 4, 2014 to discuss the proposed revision. Of approximately 100 attendees, there were 16 speakers; all speakers expressed support for the School, the School's charter renewal (which currently is under review) and the proposed charter revisions.

After reviewing the request, the NYCDOE finds that the proposed charter revisions:

- i. will meet the requirements set out in Article 56 of the Education Law, and all other applicable laws, rules, and regulations;
- ii. will permit the charter school to operate in an educationally and fiscally-sound manner; and
- iii. 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.

As the charter authorizing entity, I approve this material charter revision request. If you require any further information please contact us. NYCDOE recognizes that the Board of Regents may take up to 90 days from the receipt of the proposed revision to review the material change. If we do not hear from you within that timeframe will deem the recommended material revision to be approved by the Board of Regents.

Sincerely,



Chancellor Carmen Fariña
Chancellor
New York City Department of Education

CC:

Lilian Hamer, Board Chair Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School
DawnLynne Kacer, Office of School Design and Charter Partnerships Executive Director, NYC DOE
Bill Clarke, Executive Director, Charter Schools Office NYSED

Enclosure(s):

School's rationale cover letter, Board minutes recording the charter amendment vote, Public hearing notice