

SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item 9.

Documents Attached:

1. Executive Summary
2. Resolutions 3065 and 3066

Board of Education Executive Summary

Academic Office

Consider Resolution No. 3065 or 3066: Renewal Charter Petition

Language Academy of Sacramento

March 21, 2019

I. Overview/History

A. Action Proposed

On January 22, 2019, the Sacramento City Unified School District (“District”) received a renewal charter petition (“Renewal Petition”) from Language Academy of Sacramento Charter (“LAS” or “Charter School”), an independently operated public charter school of the District, seeking renewal of its charter for a five-year period, from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2024.

District Staff recommends that Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education (“Board”) conference and take action to approve or deny the Renewal Petition under the California Charter Schools Act, with due consideration of the findings in this Report.

B. History

Language Academy of Sacramento Charter is a charter school serving students in transitional kindergarten through 8th grade, operated by Language Academy of Sacramento, a nonprofit corporation. (Renewal Petition, p. 12). The Charter School is located at 2850 Street, Sacramento, California on District-owned property. (Renewal Petition, pp. 10.2, 20). As of the 2017-2018 school year, LAS enrolled 585 students. (Renewal Petition, pp. 35, 82).

The District originally approved the Charter School’s charter on February 19, 2004, for a term of five years. Since that time, the Charter School’s charter has been renewed twice (2009-2014), and is now set to expire on June 30, 2019. (Renewal Petition, p. 10.2). Pursuant to Education Code section 47605, subdivision (b), a public hearing was held on February 7, 2019, to consider the level of support for the renewal of the Charter School’s charter.

After reviewing the Renewal Petition, District Staff provided LAS with a letter, dated February 15, 2019, identifying a number of recommended revisions, updates and/or clarifications to the Renewal Petition. In response, on February 22, 2019, the Charter School submitted additional

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academic performance criteria specified in Education Code section 47607, subdivision (b) (5 CCR § 11966.4(a)(1).):

1. That the Charter School has attained its Academic Performance Index (API) growth target in the prior year or in two of the last three years, both schoolwide and for all groups of pupils served by the Charter School; or
2. That the Charter School ranked in deciles 4 to 10, inclusive, on the API in the prior year or in two of the last three years; or
3. That the Charter School ranked in deciles 4 to 10, inclusive, on the API for a demographically comparable school in the prior year ~~and~~ the last three years; or
4. That the District determines that the academic performance of the Charter School is at least equal to the academic performance of the public schools that the Charter School pupils would otherwise have been required ~~to~~, as well as the academic performance of the schools in the school district in which the Charter School is located, taking into account the composition of the pupil population that is served at the Charter School.

Education Code section 52052~~(b)~~ provides an alternative to be used by schools and school districts in lieu of the API, which was discontinued after 2016. For purposes of paragraph (1) to (3), inclusive, of subdivision (b) of Section 47607, alternative measures show increases in pupil academic achievement for all groups of pupils ~~schoolwide~~ and among significant student groups shall be used.

B. Review Process for Renewal Petition; Grounds for Denial

The Board of Education may deny a renewal petition if the charter school fails to ~~meet~~ meet the minimum standard for renewal, or if the Board of Education finds that:

- 1)

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the Charter School generally has academic achievement that is below that of the District as a whole, the Charter School's academic performance generally exceeds comparable District schools. (Renewal Petition, pp. 90).

SBAC 2017-2018: ELA Standards Met/Exceeded	LAS	SCUSD	Pacific	Oak Ridge	Will C. Wood
Overall	35%	40%	17%	15%	31%
Hispanic or Latino	34%	31%	16%	15%	25%
English Learner	5%	8%	5%	7%	2%
Reclassified Fluent English Proficient ("RFEP")	52%	58%	42%	35%	48%
Students with Disabilities	11.76%	15%	0%	14%	6%
Economically Disadvantaged	29.09%	31%	15%	14%	30%

SBAC 2016-17: ELA Standards Met/Exceeded	LAS	SCUSD	Pacific	Oak Ridge	Will C. Wood
Overall	39%	39.41%	15.85%	15.03%	33.59%
African-American	45%	22.11%	7.69%	12.77%	9.09%
Hispanic or Latino	37%	31.27%	15.42%	15.03%	28.33%
English Learner	13%	10.38%	3.7%	5.95%	6.28%
Reclassified Fluent English Proficient ("RFEP")	66%	65.12%	47.82%	36.66%	65.55%
Students with Disabilities	18%	13.60%	0%	4.35%	3.13%
Economically Disadvantaged	30%	30.52%	14.64%	14.14%	33.39%

SBAC Difference 2017-2018 from 2014-2015 ELA	
Overall	8%
Hispanic or Latino	9%

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CST Science: Standard Met/Exceeded	LAS	SCUSD
2015-2016	Grade 5: 57% Grade 8: 40%	Grade 5: 41% Grade 8: 56%
2014-2015	Grade 5: 36% Grade 8: 51%	Grade 5: 41% Grade 8: 58%
2013-2014	Grade 5: 65% Grade 8: 68%	Grade 5: 46% Grade 8: 62%

Student Population	2017- 2018	2017- 2018	2017- 2018	2017- 2018	2016- 2017	2016- 2017	2016- 2017
	District: #	Site: #	Site: %	District: %	Site: %	District: %	District: #
Total Enrollment	40,854	585	100	100	100	100	41,085
English Learner	7,752	268	48.5	19	47.3	19.8	8,143

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whether to grant a charter renewal.” Ed. Code § 47607(a)(3)(A). Review of the Charter School’s academic achievement, both schoolwide and by pupil subgroup shows that the results are generally favorable, with the Charter School generally outperforming comparable District schools, while typically performing slightly below the District as a whole. (Renewal Petition, pp. 92-96.) While the overall academic performance of LAS students, especially middle school students, is generally above or equal to that of students enrolled in equivalent grades in the District’s comparable schools, District Staff will continue to monitor the Charter School’s performance closely over the course of the charter term, with an expectation of further increases in academic achievement schoolwide ~~and~~ across all pupil subgroups.

1. Schoolwide Academic Achievement

The Renewal Petition includes data from the ~~2016~~ 2017 CAASPP Smarter Balanced assessments (“SBAC”), indicating that schoolwide, 39% of LAS students met or exceeded standards for ELA and 31% met or exceeded standards for Math. (Renewal Petition, ~~96~~ 92-

The Charter School’s schoolwide achievement in 2017-

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- L) Attendance Alternatives
- M) Description of Employee Rights
- N) Dispute Resolution Process, Oversight, Reporting and Renewal
- O) Labor Relations
- P) School Closure Procedures

District Staff also reviewed the impact on the District as described in the original Renewal Petition.

Following its review of the originally submitted Renewal Petition, District Staff recommended revisions and additional information to improve the Renewal Petition. Specifically, District Staff noted deficiencies or incomplete information regarding the following: (1) the Renewal Petition's lack of a reasonably comprehensive description of new requirements of charter schools; (2) assurances that the Charter School shall not discriminate based on religion; (3) failure to provide a clear description of the target student population and goals and actions as to each subgroup of

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SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 3065
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL CHARTER PETITION OF
LANGUAGE ACADEMY OF SACRAMENTO

WHEREAS, petitioners for Language Academy of Sacramento (“Petitioners”) submitted to Sacramento City Unified School District (“District”) a renewal charter petition (“Petition”), dated January 22, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the District’s Governing Board held a public hearing February 7, 2019 and took board action on March 2, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board has considered the level of public support for Language Academy of Sacramento and has reviewed the Petition including all supporting documentation; and

WHEREAS, in reviewing the Petition, the Governing Board has been guided by the intent of the California Legislature that charter schools are and should become an integral part of the California educational system and that establishment of charter schools should be encouraged; and

WHEREAS, the District staff reviewed and analyzed the Petition and supporting documents for legal, programmatic, and fiscal sufficiency; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education hereby adopts the Petitioner submitted Written Analysis Response and written Staff Report

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Petition is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the term of the charter shall be for five (5) years, beginning on July 1, 2019 and expiring June 30, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Petition approval is conditional upon signed Memorandums of Understanding for Operations and Special Education by Petitioner and District no later than May 8, 2019.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education on this 2nd day of March, 2019, by the following vote:

AYES: _____

NOES: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

ATTESTED TO:

Jorge A. Aguilar
Secretary of the Board of Education

Jessie Ryan
President of the Board of Education

SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 3066
RESOLUTION TO DENY THE RENEWAL CHARTER PETITION OF
LANGUAGE ACADEMY OF SACRAMENTO

WHEREAS, petitioners for Language Academy