



Board of Education Executive Summary

Accountability Office
Charter School Renewal Petition
April 12, 2012

Public Hearing and Action on Charter School Renewal Petition – Public Affiliates

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- 2) The petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition,
- 3) The petition does not contain the number of signatures prescribed by code,
- 4) The petition does not contain an affirmation of each of the conditions prescribed by code and
- 5) The petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of sixteen certain elements in its program and operations.

Newly adopted State regulations require for the automatic renewal of a charter school petition, if a school district fails to adopt written factual findings to support a denial within 60 days of the district's receipt of a petition. (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 5, §11966.4(c).)

In addition, a charter school seeking renewal must also meet at least one of the following criteria set forth in Education Code §47607:

- 1) Attained its Academic Performance Index (API) growth target in the prior year or in two of the last three years, or in the aggregate for the prior three years.
- 2) Ranked in deciles 4 to 10, inclusive, on the API in the prior year or in two of the last three years.
- 3) Ranked in deciles 4 to 10, inclusive, on the API for a demographically comparable school in the prior year or in two of the last three years.
- 4) The entity that granted the charter determines that the academic performance of the charter school is at least equal to the academic performance of the public school that the charter school pupils would otherwise have been required to attend, 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

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PS7 has met the academic achievement standards of Education Code section 47607 and has complied with the standards and criteria of Education Code section 47605. We recommend that the governing board grant PS7's renewal petition.

III. Results of Petition Review:

The Petition provided the information required by the Charter Schools Act of 1992 (Education Code § 47605); however, District Staff recommended some revisions to improve the petition in three areas: 1) Element J, Pupil Suspension and Expulsion; 2) Element L, Attendance Alternatives; 3) Element M, Description of Employee Rights; and 4) Financial Plan as it relates to budget expenditure and economic reserve.

PS7 timely and effectively responded to staff recommendations by submitting the Revised Petition to the District.

1. Element J, Pupil Suspension and Expulsion

Staff Recommendation The overall descriptions of pupil suspension and expulsion elements are acceptable; however, Staff requested the element to include language indicating that all expulsion documents will be forwarded to the District's Student Hearing and Placement Department.

PS7's Response: The revised petition added language to element J, which makes the petition now reasonably comprehensive in its descriptions. PS7 elaborated element J and included the following:

Following the approval of an expulsion recommendation by the SHP Board of Directors for an in-district student, all expulsion documents for the student, along with the student's cumulative file, will be forwarded to the District Director of Student Hearing and Placement (Revised Petition, page 58)

2. Element L, Attendance Alternatives

Staff Recommendation Similarly, the overall attendance alternatives description is satisfactory but lacks information on what the charter needs to provide each student for transferring to District schools.

PS7's Response: In the revised petition, PS7 added language to clarify what information is to be provided for each student transferring out of the charter school, "if a student decides to transfer from PS7, the Charter School will provide that student with a copy of their most recent report card and current grades at the time of disenrollment," (Revised Petition, page 74).

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3. Element M, Description of Employee Rights

Staff Recommendation This element of the charter renewal petition did not fully describe the charter

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PS7's Response PS7 provided detailed explanation for the lower salaries and benefits and economic reserve budget as provided in the revised petition. District Staff are satisfied with the revision and this element is now reasonably comprehensive.

IV. Budget Implications

Even though a negative financial impact to the District cannot be used as a criteria to deny a charter school petition, the potential loss of district students does reduce available revenue in General Fund.

The following are estimates based upon known information:

To estimate the Loss of Revenue Limit and Lottery Funds for 502 ADA for 2012-2013 school year, offset by a reduction in expenses for teachers and supplies, the potential reduction of funds to the district is approximately \$915,000.

These losses would be offset by any fees paid to the district, including (but

