



December 6, 2012

TO: Board of Education

Appendix OOO-6-12
December 17, 2012

FROM: Jane Belmore, Interim Superintendent

RE: Guiding Principles for Revisions to Board Policy 10000 (Charter Schools)

I. Introduction

- A. Title/topic:** Revisions to Board Policy 10000 (Charter Schools)
- B. Presenter/contact person:** Steve Hartley, Susan Abplanalp, Dylan Pauly
- C. Background information:** The Board has requested that the Administration review and suggest changes to the Board Policy 10000 (Charter Schools). In preparation for this work, the Board has heard from Dr. Julie Mead, Department Chair, Department of Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis, University of Wisconsin-Madison, regarding work she and her colleagues have done pertaining to equity and principle-based chartering. Dr. Mead used this lens to review the District's current policy to provide suggestions and recommendations. Dr. Mead also met with Board Member Maya Cole, Steve Hartley, Susan Abplanalp and Dylan Pauly to further discuss her work.

In order to have a principles-based policy, Administration must clearly understand what the Board's beliefs are regarding the place charter schools have within the District. Consequently, we used Dr. Mead's work, which is premised on the notion that charter schools are going to be part of the fabric of public education, at least for the foreseeable future, to begin drafting some general guiding principles for the Board's consideration, revision and, ultimately, adoption. It is our hope that once the Board establishes a set of guiding principles, the Administration can use these principles as the foundation for revisions to Policy 10000.

- D. BOE action requested:** Review, consideration and discussion of draft Guiding Principles. Ultimately, Administration would like the Board to adopt a set of guiding principles to be used to inform changes to Policy 10000.

II. Summary of Current Information

- A. Provide summary:** The draft guiding principles are based on the notion that charter schools are going to be a part of the public education discussion moving forward. As a local charter school authorizer, the Board has a significant role in establishing the purpose charter schools will have in this District now and in the future. This role,

however, may be significantly altered if legislation establishing a state-wide charter school authorizer is passed. Consequently, the Board has some motivation to critically assess its policies, procedures and practices regarding the review, consideration and approval of charter schools to insure that the District's policies, procedures and practices are accessible, understandable and meaningful.

As this work moves forward, it is our intention to gather input from a number of sources. For example, we intend to survey individuals who have previously submitted charter school proposals to the Board for consideration. We will also convene a small committee that includes community members, parents, building-based staff and central office staff to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the current policy and propose solutions/changes. It is our hope that the individuals who participate in this work will become part of the proposed charter school committee charged with reviewing initial and/or detailed charter school proposals.

- B. Recommendations and/or alternative recommendation(s):** Adopt guiding principles to inform revisions to Policy 10000.
- C. Link to supporting detail:**
Draft Guiding Principles

III. Implications

- A. Budget:** Unknown at this time. Costs should be minimal, although existing staff time will be necessary to review and assist with charter school proposals.
- B. Strategic Plan:**
- C. Equity Plan:**
- D. Implications for other aspects of the organization:** The implication for other aspects, including allocations and staff impact, are unknown at this time.

IV. Supporting Documentation

- A.** See Section II.C



Guiding Principles for Charter Schools

December 10, 2012

Reviewing and Revising Board Policy 10000 (Charter Schools)

10000

Current Introductory Language in 10000: It is the policy of the School Board to consider the establishment of charter schools as provided by law. The Board believes that the creation of charter schools could enhance the educational opportunities for Madison Metropolitan School District students by providing innovative and distinctive educational programs and by giving parents/students more educational options within the District.

Revisions to Policy 10000 should:

- 1.) Make authorization by the District meaningful and mutually beneficial.
 - a. Charter schools will add to the educational landscape and help solve a District problem.
 - b. Charter schools should be unique and provide families with options that differ from existing schools and programs currently available to students enrolled in the District.
- 2.) Give preference to applications and proposals that demonstrate a strong commitment to cultivating management/employee relationships, so as to reflect the belief that good working conditions are good learning conditions.
- 3.) Create an application and review process that is predictable and uniform and that accounts for District time and resources necessary for review and consideration of proposals.
 - a. All charter schools will be non-profit.
 - b. The District will form a charter committee that will review all applications to ensure that proposed charter schools advance the District's mission, vision, priorities and goals as established by the School Board.
 - c. The charter committee will utilize a rubric based on the National Association of Charter School Authorizers when reviewing charter school proposals.
 - d. Charter schools will not be exploratory or lab schools. Proposed charter schools will be transparent and research-based (with data analysis of results).
 - e. All charter school proposers will be expected to pay an initial application fee and an ongoing administration fee for administrative support and review.
- 4.) Recognize the scarcity of public funds and require a demonstration of strong financial stewardship by the District and the proposer through a predictable and transparent funding formula.
 - a. Charter schools should be viable and sustainable.
- 5.) Strengthen the review process and school accountability measures for charter schools once approved and in operation.

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