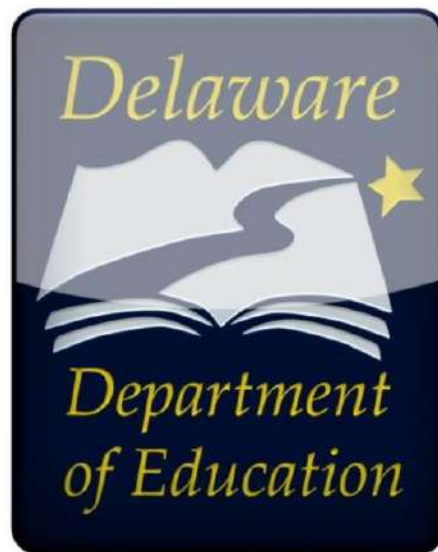


CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DDOE)



Academy of Dover MAJOR MODIFICATION APPLICATION FINAL REPORT

Final Meeting: March 25, 2021
Final Report Published: April 1, 2021

By December 31, 2020, Academy of Dover (AOD) submitted an application for a major modification of its charter. The following individuals attended the final meeting of the Charter School Accountability (CSAC) on March 25th:

Voting Members

- Kim Klein, Chairperson of the Charter School Accountability Committee and Associate Secretary of Operations Support, DDOE
- April McCrae, Ed.D., Education Associate, Science Assessment, DDOE
- Brian Moore, Education Associate, School Climate and Discipline, DDOE
- Catherine Oravez, Education Associate, Federal Funds and Cost Recovery, DDOE
- Gregory Fulkerson, Ph.D., Education Associate, World Languages and International Education, DDOE
- James Pennewell, Education Associate, Capital Project Management, DDOE
- Joyce Leatherbury, Education Associate, General Supervision IDEA, DDOE
- Tiffany Green, Education Associate, Mentoring and Induction, DDOE
- Tierra Fair, Community Member
- Ted Molin, Community Member
- Charles Taylor, Community Member

Ex-Officio Members (non-voting)

- Kendall Massett, Executive Director, Delaware Charter Schools Network
- Vincent Lofink, Delaware State Board of Education

Staff to CSAC (non-voting)

- Leroy Travers, Lead Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Alicia Balcerak, Administrative Secretary, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Brook Hughes, Education Associate, Finance Office, DDOE
- John H. Carwell Jr., Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Darryl Parson, Deputy Attorney General,

Representatives of AOD

- Kimeu Boynton, Board President
- David Hudson, Assistant Principal
- Daniel Jones, Dean of Students
- Allison Walker, Special Education Coordinator
- Michelle Hudson, Human Resources Director

Discussion

Ms. Klein shared that this was the final meeting of CSAC relative to the major modification application submitted by AOD, which included requests to:

- Add grades seven and eight.
- Increase enrollment by a total of 80 students (an increase of 24.2%) over two academic years.

Note: the proposed modifications are to be effective next school year (2021-2022) with the addition of grade seven. Grade eight would be added in school year 2022-2023.

In accordance with 14 Del. C. § 511(b) (3), in addition to meeting the approval criteria established in 14 Del. C. § 512, when the Department considers a modification in which the increased enrollment will occur less than 18 months from the date of application (an expansion), it shall also consider the potential positive and negative impact of the expansion on the schools and the community from which the charter school's new students will likely be drawn. In reviewing the impact, the Department shall consider all information furnished to it during the application process and may exercise its reasonable discretion in determining whether the proposed expansion is contrary to the best interests of the community to be served, including both those students likely to attend the charter school and those students likely to attend traditional public schools in the community.

Ms. Klein stated that the initial CSAC report was issued on February 7th, and the school submitted a timely response to that report. The initial public hearing was held on February 15th. Ms. Klein announced that a final report will be issued no later than April 2nd.

Ms. Klein stated that the purpose of the meeting was for CSAC to continue its review of the major modification application with the applicant, review any areas of continuing concern through a discussion with the applicant, and issue its recommendation on the application.

Ms. Klein stated that, in the initial report, CSAC requested the following information:

1. Social Studies curriculum alignment and sequencing documents, scope and sequences documents and units of instruction.
2. Visual and Performing Arts scope and sequence documents.
3. Projected revenue for years 2022-2025.

Ms. Klein asked if there were any additional questions or comments regarding the items submitted by the school or any further questions regarding the application that require discussion.

Dr. Fulkerson gave the following overview of the curriculum information submitted by AOD:

The evidence submitted for social studies meets expectations for alignment to the social studies standards.

The evidence submitted for the visual and performing arts partially meets expectations for alignment. For visual arts only six of the National Core Arts Standards were addressed, only representing the first two artistic processes of creating and performing/presenting. The artistic processes of responding and connecting are not addressed at all with the standards mentioned. It is imperative that all standards are included in the curriculum, as critical components for learning are missing without them present.

For music, it appears that the Academic Standards for Music are not the National Core Arts Standards and those adopted by Delaware in 2016. While the first six standards are mentioned, they are not addressed in the scope and sequence.

It is recommended that AOD reach out to Dr. Lauren Conrad, the Education Associate for the Visual and Performing Arts within the Department, for support in aligning these scope and sequence documents to the standards.

Mr. Hudson stated that the school would reach out to Dr. Conrad.

There were no items that required further discussion.

Ms. Klein asked if there was a motion to recommend approval of AOD's major modification application. The motion was made and seconded to recommend approval, without condition. The motion was carried unanimously. Ms. Klein reminded the school that CSAC's recommendation was just that, a recommendation to the Secretary of Education on the application to modify the charter.

Conclusion:

The criteria for approving a modification to a charter are set forth in 14 Del. C. § 512. The criteria include that the charter school's educational objectives are consistent with the legislative intent of and restrictions set forth in 14 Del. C. c. 5; the charter school's educational program has the potential to improve student performance; the plan for the charter school is economically viable; the charter school's financial and administrative operations meet or exceed the same standards, procedures, and requirements as a school district; and the charter school's procedures to assure students', employees', and guests' health and safety are adequate.

Next Steps

- The public comment period ends on April 9th.
- The Secretary of Education will announce her decision at the April 22nd State Board of Education meeting and ask the State Board for assent.