



**Department of Education  
Charter School Accountability Meeting**

**May 6, 2013  
Modification Application  
Final Meeting**

**Kuumba Academy Charter School**

Mr. David Blowman called the meeting to order in the absence of Mary Kate McLaughlin. Mr. Blowman explained that the Secretary of Education has authorized him to Chair today's meeting. For the purpose of the record introductions were made:

**Attending Committee Members**

- David Blowman, Deputy Secretary of Education, Committee Chair
- Karen Field Rogers, Financial Reform & Resource Management
- Deb Hansen, Education Associate, Visual and Performing Arts, Charter Curriculum Review
- April McCrae, Education Associate, Education Associate, Science Assessment and STEM
- Paul Harrell, Director, Public & Private Partnerships
- Barbara Mazza, Education Associate, Exceptional Children Resources
- Kendall Massett, Executive Director, Delaware Charter School Network (non-voting)
- Donna R. Johnson, Executive Director, State Board of Education (non-voting)

**Support to the Committee**

- John Carwell, Director, Charter School Office
- Catherine Hickey, Deputy Attorney General, Counsel to the Committee
- Brook Hughes, Education Associate, Charter Finance
- Chantel Janiszewski, Education Associate, Charter School Office
- Sheila Kay-Lawrence, Administrative Secretary

**Representatives of Charter School**

- Raye Jones Avery, Board of Directors
- Tamara Price-Cobb, Assistant Principal
- Sally Maldonado, Head of School
- Lynne Howard, Expansion Director
- Michelle Lambert, Accountant
- Dawn Downes, Innovative Schools

Mr. Blowman explained the purpose of today's meeting is to make a final recommendation on Kuumba Academy Charter School's application for a charter modification application to add grades 6 to 8. He stated that the Committee's preliminary recommendation was that the charter application not be approved and the Committee's report required specific responses from the school.

Mr. Blowman said the Committee discussion today will focus on the following criteria that required further clarification from the school. He said at the conclusion of the Committee's discussion John Carwell will provide the next steps.

*Criterion Two: Form of Organization*  
*Criterion Four: Goals for Student Performance*  
*Criterion Six: Educational Program*  
*Criterion Eight: Economic Viability*  
*Criterion Nine: Financial and Administrative Operations*  
*Criterion Eleven: School Discipline and Attendance*  
*Criterion Twelve: Health and Safety*

**Criterion Two: FORM OF ORGANIZATION.** Ms. Hickey said that the applicant has not provided a copy of the original certificate of incorporation; however, they did provide a copy of the Certification from the Department of State that such a certificate was filed with that office on December 23, 1998. She said a copy of the Amended and Restated Bylaws were provided by the applicant. She said clarification is requested to establish that the applicant understands that any standing committee of the Board of Directors, including the Executive Committee described in Article VII, Section 2(a). She said additional clarification is requested to establish that the amended and restated bylaws are submitted have been adopted by the school's board of directors.

Mr. Carwell said based on Ms. Hickey's review and recommendation for the committee is that this section is met with the following conditions;

- 1) A copy of the original certificate of Incorporation be provided
- 2) Understanding of clarification of assurance that any committee needs to follow open committee laws
- 3) Bylaws have been amended and adopted by the Board

**Criterion Four: GOALS FOR STUDENT PERFORMANCE.** Ms. McCrae said the response was extensive and well presented.

Ms. McCrae's recommendation is that this criterion is met.

**Criterion Six: EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.** Ms. Hansen said she would like to commend the school on their responsiveness to the curriculum they have presented. She said there were three areas that needed to be addressed that were outstanding in the preliminary report, English Language Arts, World Languages, and Visual & Performing Arts. She said all areas were addressed and meets the approval.

Ms. Hansen's recommendation is that this criterion is met.

**Criterion Eight: ECONOMIC VIABILITY.** Ms. Hughes said the applicant's original submission included budget worksheets that contained inconsistencies and discrepancies. She said the revised submission addresses the issues identified in the original application and provides additional clarification on revenue and expenditure estimates.

Ms. Hughes' recommendation is that this criterion is considered met.

## **Criterion Nine: FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS.**

**Criteria and timeline for hiring staff.** Mr. Carwell said the Reviewer's noted the response was satisfactory.

**Administrative preferences.** Ms. Hickey said the revisions to the applicant's request and narrative address the concerns raised in the preliminary report. She said stated preference for siblings of students enrolled at the school is in compliance with the statute.

**Mr. Carwell's recommendation is this criterion is met.**

**Criterion Eleven: SCHOOL DISCIPLINE AND ATTENDANCE.** Mr. Carwell said John Sadowski was the reviewer for this criterion and the response from Applicant was satisfactory.

**Mr. Carwell's recommendation is this criterion is met.**

## **Criterion Twelve: HEALTH AND SAFETY.**

**Transportation.** Mr. Carwell said that the reviewer Ron Love said the response was satisfactory and met.

**School nutrition program.** Mr. Carwell said the reviewer Aimee Beam said the response for the free and reduce lunch program was satisfactory

**Mr. Carwell's recommendation is this criterion is met.**

Mr. Blowman's recommendation by the Committee to the Secretary of Education will be that Kuumba Charter School Modification application, for the purposes of the Preliminary Report, will be considered *Approved* with conditions. A vote was taken. All six ayes; and one abstention none opposed.

Mr. Blowman asked Mr. Carwell to share next steps. Mr. Carwell provided the date for the Public Hearing as scheduled.

- Public Hearing will be held on June 4, 2013 at 5:00 PM at the Dept. of Education, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Cabinet room, Dover, DE 19904. The final decision will be made on June 20, 2013 State Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Ms. Avery wanted to make a comment that on behalf of the Board of Directors from Kuumba Academy she wanted to thank each one of the Committee members for being very responsive with assistance. She said that people have a misconception that the Department of Education is some kind of force that you cannot call up and get help from. She said it has not been her experience since the school was founded not to be able to receive guidance from the Department of Education. She wanted to thank the Committee and to let the Committee know how proud the Board is of their school leadership for continuing to do an excellent job.