

The New Maurice J. Moyer Academy

**Application for Charter Modification: Name Change
(Minor Modification)**

Date Submitted: January 5, 2014

Table of Contents

Section A: Core Questions.....	3
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Section A: Core Questions

- 1. What modification does the school's Board of Directors wish to make to the term(s) of the charter? Identify the page number(s) on which the term(s) is/are stated in the currently approved charter. If the term(s) of the charter the school wishes to modify is/are conditions placed on the charter by the Secretary of Education and members of the State Board of Education, state the condition(s) and the date(s) on which the condition(s) was/were placed on the school's charter.**

The Board of Director's wishes to change the name of The New Maurice J. Moyer Academy to Maurice J. Moyer Academic Institute. While the name The New Maurice J. Moyer Academy is listed throughout the approved charter application, it was first listed on page 1. The modification to change the name of the school is not a result of a condition placed on the charter.

- 2. What is the effective date of the proposed modification? (Please note: if this is a request for an enrollment expansion of greater than 15%, the applicant must provide an impact analysis pursuant to 14 Del. Code Chapter 5 §511(b)3 as an Attachment See Section B Question 3 in this application.)**

The effective date of the proposed modification is July 1, 2014. With an effective date of July 1, 2014, the Board of Directors, administrative team, and enrollment team would have ample time to create collateral materials to reflect the new name of the school. Additionally, building signage and documents would need to be modified to reflect the change.

- 3. The authorizer will review your most recent Performance Review Reports as part of your application. Discuss the school's academic performance, its compliance with the terms of its charter, and its financial viability as measured by the Performance Framework.**

During SY 2012-2013, the students of the New Maurice J. Moyer Academy made great academic growth in both ELA and mathematics. When comparing DCAS scores from the spring 2012 to spring 2013, our students improved by 17 percentage points in both math and ELA. In addition, our special education students improved by 15 percentage points in math and 25 percentage points in reading. While we accept the fact that we must continue to improve, we are proud of our academic growth from last school year.

Currently, The New Maurice J. Moyer Academy is in violation of its charter in two areas including educational plan and enrollment. During the 2012-2013 school year, we submitted a charter modification to change our educational plan and enrollment targets. Both modifications were denied. The Board of Directors resubmitted a charter modification for enrollment targets on December 19, 2013. Aside from those two

issues, we have fulfilled the terms of our charter.

The current Financial Performance Framework (SY 2012-2013), that we received from DE DOE, is in the process of being revised. According to our auditor (board's auditor), the revision will result in The New Maurice J. Moyer Academy earning a rating of Meets Standard for each indicator. There were two major issues that impacted last year's Financial Performance Framework report. First, there was an outstanding balance from the management company (K12) that was settled. The debt was created as a result of services provided to the school prior to the new Board of Director's start date (July 1, 2012). Additionally, before the purchase of the school facility, rent was approximately \$25,000 per month. After the purchase of the building, the monthly mortgage payment is \$16,000. This equates to an annual savings of \$108,000. While this information is not captured in the original Financial Performance Framework, we expect to be rated as Meets Standard in the revised document.

4. Describe the rationale for the request(s). Discuss any relevant research-base or evidence that supports this type of request. (Attachments may be provided.)

Reverend Maurice J. Moyer played a critical role in the civil rights movement not only in Delaware, but on the national stage. Throughout his life, Reverend Moyer participated in protests against laws that denied equal access to schools. Reverend Moyer was an icon in Wilmington and we have a responsibility to ensure that the school accurately captures his legacy. To date, the history of Maurice J. Moyer Academy has not been a positive reflection of Reverend Maurice J. Moyer.

To establish a symbolic change from the "old" to "new" Moyer, the Board of Directors is proposing to change the name of the school to Maurice J. Moyer Academic Institute. The current name fails to identify the most immediate objective of the school, the academic development of students. The Board of Directors feels that this distinction will enhance our ability to enroll students who have aspirations to attend an academically focused school environment. The name change would also serve as a time to reengage community members, parents, and students around redefining our purpose as an educational institution.

To fully understand our future, it is necessary to reflect on the history of Moyer Academy. The original Maurice J. Moyer Academy was founded on a premise of being an alternative school. Its charter was largely based on targeting (and educating) students who demonstrated academic and behavior challenges at their home school. While it was not specifically titled as such in the original charter, the at-large community perceived Moyer Academy as an "alternative" school. In addition, the school experienced numerous highly publicized acts of school violence and was widely recognized as Delaware's worst school. In 2009, the charter was revoked by the DE DOE. As common with most charter revocations, it included public testimonies that caused irreparable damage to the reputation of Maurice J. Moyer Academy. Based on

these factors, the Board of Directors believes that a name change is necessary for the school to reach its ultimate potential.

As the governance body for the school, we have a responsibility to create an educational environment that reflects the life-long work of Reverend Maurice J. Moyer. When we consider the impact that Reverend Moyer had on the civil rights movement in Delaware, discontinuing the use of Reverend Moyer's name was not an option. The modification of the name change provides the Board of Directors with an opportunity to align the purpose of the school with the life's work of Reverend Moyer, to appropriately educate all students.

5. Describe how the proposed modification will impact the operation of the school. Include how student achievement, staffing, facilities, and the financial viability of the school may be impacted in the current school year and for the remainder of the school's charter term.

To help focus our goal of being an academic institution, the Board of Directors for the New Maurice J. Moyer Academy is proposing to change the name of the school to the Maurice J. Moyer Academic Institute. As students apply to attend the newly named school, they will be reminded that Moyer is a rigorous instructional environment. Additionally, as staff apply for positions at the newly named school, the expectation of academic excellence is embedded in the name of the school. While authentic change is ultimately driven by the quality of work generated by both staff and students, the change of name will serve as a constant reminder that Maurice J. Moyer Academic Institute has a specific focus on academic achievement.

The change of name will not impact staffing, facilities, or financial viability of the school.

6. Indicate the projected impact, if any, of the proposed modification on the school's present financial position, and its financial position going forward. If the modification promises to create financial challenges, indicate how those will be remedied.

Other than costs associated with modifying building signage, documents, and the school website, the change of name will have an immaterial impact on the current and future financial positions of the school.
