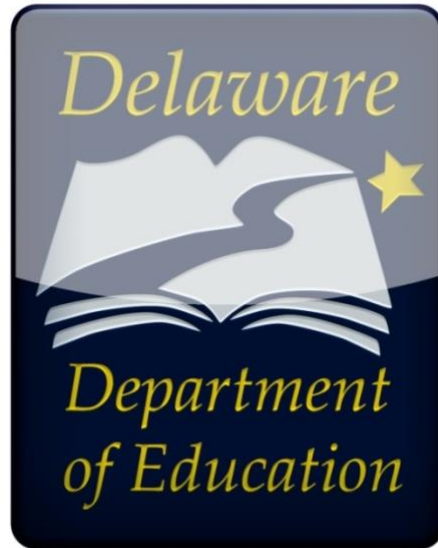


CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



MOT Charter School

**RENEWAL APPLICATION
FINAL REPORT**

CSAC Final Meeting: December 2, 2020
CSAC Final Report Published: December 4, 2020

By September 30, 2020, MOT Charter School (MOT) submitted an application to renew its charter. Consideration of this application is in accordance with the applicable provisions of 14 *Del. C.* § 514A and 14 DE Admin. Code § 275. Written renewal application guidance is provided by the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) on its website. The renewal application template developed by DDOE is aligned to measures and targets within the Performance Framework, which outlines the academic, organizational and fiscal standards by which all Delaware charter schools are evaluated. The evaluation of the school's performance as measured by the Framework is a major component of the decision on the renewal application. The decision on the renewal application is based on a comprehensive review, guided, in part, by the following three questions:

1. Is the academic program a success?
2. Is the school financially viable?
3. Is the school organizationally sound?

This report serves as a summary of the strengths, areas of follow-up, and/or concerns identified by members of the Charter School Accountability Committee (CSAC) during their individual reviews of the charter applicant's renewal application, Performance Review Reports, Annual Reports and Performance Agreements and during the CSAC meetings.

The following were in attendance (electronically) at the Final Meeting of the CSAC on December 2, 2020:

Voting Committee Members of the Charter School Accountability Committee

- Kim Klein, Chairperson of the Charter School Accountability Committee and Associate Secretary of Education, DDOE
- Michael Saylor, Ph.D., Education Associate, Educator Support, DDOE
- April McCrae, Ed.D., Education Associate, Education Assessment, DDOE
- Tiffany Green, Education Associate, Educator Support, DDOE
- Gregory Fulkerson, Ph.D., Education Associate, Academic Support, DDOE
- Catherine Oravez, Education Associate, Federal Funds and Cost Recovery, DDOE
- James Pennewell, Education Associate, Operations Support, DDOE
- Susan Veenema, Education Associate, Exceptional Children Resources, DDOE
- Brian Moore, Education Associate, School Climate and Discipline, DDOE
- Charles Taylor, Community Member and Former Charter School Leader
- Ted Molin, Vice President, Wilmington Trust, Community Member

Ex-Officio Members (Non-voting)

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

Staff to the Committee (Non-voting)

- Darryl Parson, Deputy Attorney General, Counsel to the Committee
- Leroy Travers, Lead, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Alicia Balcerak, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Brook Hughes, Education Associate, Finance Office, DDOE

Representatives of MOT Charter School:

- Ned Southworth, Head of School
- Jen Taylor, Chair board of directors
- Shana Noll, K8 Director of Curriculum and Instruction
- Mitch Weiss, Director of Student Services
- John Scali, Principal STEM Academy
- Jenna Camponelli, Director of Special Education
- Ellen Greene, Office Manager of both campuses
- Terry Howarth, School Principal K-8 Academy
- Meryl Hewitt, Business Manager
- Faye Schilling, Principal Arts Academy

Discussion

Ms. Klein stated that on March 12, 2020, Governor Carney issued a declaration of a state of emergency for the state of Delaware due to a public health threat. The State of Emergency allows all public meetings of executive branch public bodies, including CSAC, to be conducted electronically, either by means of telephone or video-conference call. This meeting is open to the public electronically only, as was reflected on the State's Public Meeting Calendar.

Ms. Klein stated that the initial CSAC meeting was held on October 28th, and the CSAC issued its Initial Report on November 5th. The school was given the opportunity to submit a response to the CSAC Initial Report by November 20th. A timely response was received from the school. An initial public hearing on the application was held virtually, on November 12, 2020.

Ms. Klein explained that the purpose of today's meeting is for the CSAC to continue its review of the Renewal Application, pursue any areas of concerns through a discussion with the applicant, and issue recommendations on the application. This discussion and recommendation will be outlined in a Final Report, which will be issued following this meeting, no later than December 4th.

Ms. Klein remarked that the minutes for the CSAC Initial Meeting on October 28, 2020 were distributed in advance. She then asked if there were any amendments to the minutes as presented. The motion was made and seconded to approved the minutes and was carried unanimously.

Ms. Klein explained that the CSAC identified areas of concern that required a response from the school. At the Initial Meeting and through the Initial Report, CSAC requested additional information from the school. This information included:

1. Curriculum:
 - ELA Grade 6, evidence of integration which can be a revised scope and sequence that demonstrates integration for grade six.
 - For grades 9-12 the sample learning experiences and assessments that were requested and are missing.
 - HS Math Standards were not addressed or not fully addressed in the curriculum, point out where in the curriculum they can be found.
 - Visual and Performing Arts: sample assessments that were requested were not included and that the Dance Scope and Sequence was missing
2. Financial and Operations Support: - A 10-year projection for enrolment
3. Organizational: - Ensure that the Department of Justice's phone number is within two clicks of the homepage.
4. Mentoring Program: - Ensure that all mentors are captured within the mentoring center.

Ms. Klein asked if there are there any comments on the school's response or further questions. Gregory Fulkerson, Educator Support, stated that MOT has met the curriculum requirements.

Ms. Oravez, Operations Support, thanked the school for providing its ten-year enrollment projections. Mr. Moore, Student Support, thanked the school for updating the homepage of its website with the Department of Justice's phone number. Ms. Green, Educator Support, confirmed that the mentoring center had been updated, as requested.

Ms. Klein asked the CSAC if they had any questions or comments regarding the application that required further discussion. There were none.

Conclusion

Ms. Klein then asked if there was a motion to recommend that MOT Charter School has met the standard for charter operations under the charter school law and, therefore, its charter should be renewed for a ten-year term beginning on July 1, 2021 with or without conditions. The motion was made and seconded to recommend approval without any conditions and was carried unanimously.

Ms. Klein reminded the school that the CSAC's recommendation was just that: a recommendation to the Secretary of Education on the renewal application.

Next Steps:

- On or before December 4th, CSAC will issue a Final Report, which will include its recommendation on the Renewal Application.
- The public comment period ends on December 11th.
- The Secretary of Education will announce her decision at the December 17th State Board of Education meeting and seek the assent of the State Board.