

CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



THOMAS EDISON CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL APPLICATION FINAL REPORT

CSAC Final Meeting: November 29, 2022

By September 30, 2022, Thomas Edison Charter School (TECS) 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 (DOE) on its website. The renewal application template developed by DOE 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.

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 review of the charter applicant's renewal application, performance review reports, annual reports and performance agreements and during CSAC meetings.

The following individuals attended the final meeting of CSAC on November 29, 2022:

Voting Committee Members of the Charter School Accountability Committee

- Kim Klein, Associate Secretary of Operations Support and CSAC Chairperson
- Aimee Beam, Education Associate, School Support
- Gregory Fulkerson, Education Associate, Academic Support
- Tiffany Green, Education Associate, Educator Support
- Brook Hughes, Education Associate, Operations Support
- Joyce Leatherbury, Education Associate, Academic Support
- April McCrae, Education Associate, Academic Support
- DeAnne Wimbish, Education Associate, Office of Equity, and Innovation

Ex-Officio Members (Non-voting)

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

Staff to the Committee (Non-voting)

- Leroy Travers, Director, Charter School Office
- Carla Jarosz, Deputy Attorney General
- Faye Schilling Education Specialist, Charter School Office

Representatives of Thomas Edison Charter School

- Salome Thomas-El, Principal
- Patricia Winder, Chief Financial Officer
- Elizabeth Yates, Assistant Principal

Discussion

Ms. Klein stated that CSAC held its initial meeting on October 26, 2022 and issued its initial report on November 2, 2022. The school was provided an opportunity to submit a response to the CSAC initial report by November 17, 2022 and the school submitted a timely response. Ms. Klein stated that DOE and State Board of Education held a joint public hearing on November 15, 2022. Ms. Klein stated that the purpose of the CSAC final meeting was for the committee to continue its review of the renewal application, pursue any areas of concern through a discussion with the applicant, and issue recommendation on the application.

CSAC identified one area in which they are seeking additional information from the school.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development

1. Provide a timeline for TECS' Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) plan.
A - Universal screeners are administered three times per year in September, January, and May. The MTSS team meets two times per month. There may be circumstances in which the team has additional meetings, however, the standard is two times per month.

Mr. Travers asked if any individual members of CSAC had any questions or concerns regarding the application that would require further discussion. The committee did not have further questions or comments.

Principal Thomas-El expressed his gratitude to DOE and the Charter School Office for their support. He indicated that he and his staff are passionate about educating their students and look forward to doing so for years to come.

Conclusion

Ms. Klein asked if there was a motion to recommend that Thomas Edison Charter School has met the standard for charter operations under the charter school law and, therefore, its charter should be renewed for a five-year term beginning on July 1, 2023 with or without conditions. The motion was made and seconded to recommend approval without conditions and was carried unanimously.

Next Steps:

- The public comment period will close on December 8th.
- The Secretary of Education will announce his decision at the December 15th State Board of Education meeting and ask for the assent of the State Board.