

CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Sussex Montessori Charter School

Charter Renewal

Final Report

December 7, 2023

As is required, Sussex Montessori Charter School (Sussex Montessori) submitted an application to renew its charter for a term of five years. The purpose of the final meeting is for the Charter School Accountability Committee (CSAC) to review the renewal application considering the relevant statutory criteria for renewal.

This report serves as a summary of the strengths, areas of follow-up and/or concerns identified by members of the CSAC during their review of the charter applicant's renewal application, performance review reports, annual reports, and performance agreements.

The following were in attendance at the final meeting of CSAC on November 30, 2023:

Voting Committee Members

- Kim Klein, Associate Secretary of Operations Support
- Aimee Beam, Education Associate, School Support
- Gregory Fulkerson, Education Associate, Academic Support
- Tiffany Green, Education Associate, Workforce Support
- Brook Hughes, Education Associate, Operations Support
- Joyce Leatherbury, Education Associate, Academic Support
- April McCrae, Education Associate, Academic Support
- Ted Molin, Community Member

Ex-Officio Members (Non-voting)

- Kendall Massett, Executive Director, Delaware Charter School Network

Staff to the Committee (Non-voting)

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

Representatives of Sussex Montessori

- Lisa Coldiron, Head of School
- Linda Zankowski, Board Chair

Discussion

Gregory Fulkerson- Thanked the school for their quick turnaround time with answering the remaining questions in each curriculum area and the resubmission of documents. The school is now meeting the standard in English / language arts and science. The only outstanding area is math.

Tiffany Green- Thanked the school for following up with and correcting items in the mentoring Center.

Joyce Leatherbury- Thanked the school for their continued hard work for students with disabilities. The school has been faithful in attending liaison meetings, as well.

April McCrae- Expressed appreciation for the the school’s quick follow-up on items. Since the first CSAC meeting several productive meetings have taken place.

Kendall Massett- Expressed appreciation for “the little school that could.”

Lisa Coldiron- CSAC CSAC and the Charter School Office (CSO) for their tremendous support. CSAC and the CSO have been with the school every step of the way.

Lisa Zankowski- Stated that it is the school’s desire to become a strong model for what Montessori education could be and hopefully can be replicated throughout the state.

Conclusion

Ms. Klein asked if there was a motion to recommend that Sussex Montessori 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, 2024, with or without conditions. The motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to recommend approval with the following condition:

- On or before February 1, 2024, Sussex Montessori will meet the curriculum standards in Mathematics.

Next Steps:

- On or before December 7th CSAC will issue a final report, which will include its recommendation on the renewal application.
- The public comment period will close on December 7th.
- The Secretary of Education will announce his decision at the December 14th State Board of Education meeting and ask for the assent of the State Board.