

CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**Charter School of New Castle
Charter Renewal
Final Report
November 26, 2024**

On September 30, 2024, Charter School of New Castle (CSNC) submitted an application to renew its charter for a five-year term. The purpose of the final meeting is for the Charter School Accountability Committee (CSAC) to review the renewal application in light of the relevant statutory criteria for renewal and vote on a recommendation to the Secretary of Education.

This report serves as a summary of the strengths, areas for follow-up, and 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 19, 2024:

Voting Committee Members

- Kim Klein, Associate Secretary, Operations Support
- Aimee Beam, Education Associate, School Support
- Tiffany Green, Education Associate, Workforce Support
- Brook Hughes, Education Associate, Operations Support
- Joyce Leatherbury, Education Associate, Academic Support
- Ted Molin, Community Member
- Tierra Fair, Community Member

Ex-Officio Members (Non-voting)

- Kendall Massett, Executive Director, Delaware Charter School Network
- Nisha Lodhavia, Delaware State Board of Education

Staff to the Committee (Non-voting)

- Alicia Balcerak, Administrative Assistant III-I, Charter School Office
- John Carwell Jr., Education Associate, Charter School Office
- Faye Schilling, Education Specialist, Charter School Office
- Leroy Travers, Director, Charter School Office

Representatives of EastSide Charter School

- Michelle Lambert, Financial Consultant
- Sarah Moody, Principal
- Henry Naylor, Board Chair
- Amy Novosel, Principal
- Laretha Odumosu, Middle School Executive Director
- Rachel Valentin, Elementary School Executive Director

Ms. Klein asked members of CSAC if there were any follow-up questions or concerns to present to the school.

Follow-up Items:

Kendall Massett thanked the school staff for their unwavering commitment to supporting students and families.

Leroy Travers commended the school for a curriculum that fully meets standards. He thanked the school for leveraging the early submission window and review process, noting that CSNC was the only school to fully take advantage of this opportunity.

Rachel Valentin commended DOE for the process as it was structured this year, highlighting the value of the professional development workshop provided by the Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development (CIPD) workgroup early in the charter renewal process. She suggested continuing this approach in the future.

LaRetha Odumosu thanked the committee for their support throughout the process, describing it as the most efficient and organized renewal experience to date. She suggested that a standardized curriculum review rubric across content areas, developed by the CIPD workgroup, would be beneficial. She also commended Dr. Fulkerson for welcoming feedback and providing support throughout the renewal process.

Henry Naylor stated that it is a privilege to work with the CSNC leadership team, praising their dedication to students and families as well as their consistent efforts in carrying out the business of education.

Kim Klein commended the CSNC leadership team for their commitment to excellence, noting that every visit to the school reflects the vision they are working toward. She also thanked the team for their contributions to a seamless charter renewal process.

Conclusion:

Ms. Klein asked if there was a motion to recommend that CSNC had 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, 2025, with or without conditions. The motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to recommend renewal for a five-year term without conditions.

Next Steps:

- On or before November 26, CSAC will issue a final report, which will include its recommendation on the renewal application.
- The public comment period will close on December 5.
- The Secretary of Education will announce his decision at the December 12 State Board of Education meeting and ask for the assent of the State Board.