

**CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY
COMMITTEE**

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**Las Americas Aspira Academy Charter School
Charter Renewal
Final Report
November 26, 2024**

On September 30, 2024, Las Americas ASPIRA Academy (ASPIRA) 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/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 21, 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
- Provey Powell, 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 ASPIRA

- Jose Aviles-Rivera, Head of School
- Kelli Cruz, Director of Finance
- Guillermina Gonzalez, Board President
- Christine Jimenez, Literacy Specialist
- Margie Lopez-Waite, Chief Executive Officer
- Greg Panchisin, Chief Operating Officer
- Debbie Panchisin, Chief Academic Officer
- Kim White, Director of Educational Enrichment
- DeYanna Yancey-Harris, Chief Mission Officer

Follow-Up:

Leroy Travers asked the school to continue working with members of the Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development Team until all areas of the curriculum meet standard. Kendall Massett thanked the school for their contributions to the charter community and for the detailed preparation evident in their application.

Conclusion:

Ms. Klein asked if there was a motion to recommend that ASPIRA 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 unanimously approved to recommend renewal for a five-year term with the following condition:

1. All areas of the curriculum meet standard.

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.