

-
- Information Item Only
 - Approval on Consent Agenda
 - Conference (for discussion only)
 - Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
 - Conference/Action
 - Action
 - Public Hearing

Division : Strategy and Innovation Office

Board of Education Executive Summary

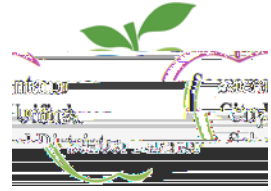
Office of the Superintendent

Approve Resolution No. 2900 or 2901: Initial Charter Petition for G

Board of Education Executive Summary

Office of the Superintendent

Approve Resolution No. 2900 or 2901: Initial Charter Petition for Growth
Public Schools
August 18, 2016



provides that there is “significant time built into the annual calendar for professional development.” (Petition, p. 126.) Other than this very basic description, Petitioner does not provide specific details, dates, structures, or instructional strategies related to the proposed professional development. In short, the Petition lacks a clear description of the manner in which the school will implement professional development keyed towards each teacher’s individual PEP, and targeted towards the improvement of the Charter School’s student population.

A review of the teacher signature page reveals that 7 of the 9 teachers who indicated that they were meaningfully interested in teaching at the Charter School have yet to meet the

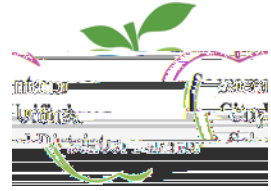
Board of Education Executive Summary

Office of the Superintendent

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Public Schools

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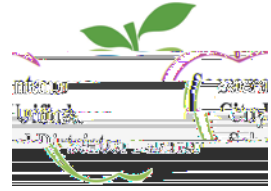


the District as a whole. Equally important, Petitioner does not discuss with any specificity, when, how and where these means and strategies will be used. For example, Petitioner offers to print recruitment materials in “English, Spanish and other languages as necessary...” (Petition, p. 131.) The District serves a diverse community that includes, but is not limited to, native Chinese, English, Hmong, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese speakers and therefore should have all school materials, such as personalized learning plans, progress reports, and other relevant and important documents accessible in each language. The Petition does not indicate a recognition of the breadth of languages spoken within the District, or the need to provide all the aforementioned material in each of these languages. As presented, their plan is

Board of Education Executive Summary

Office of the Superintendent

Approve Resolution No. 2900 or 2901: Initial Charter Petition for Growth
Public Schools
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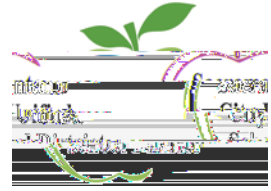
for the rent or purchase of facilities. Instead the budget lists "5610 Rent" as a line-item, but simply provides "-" as the amount allocated.

Petitioner's proposed schedule includes 2 hours and 15 minutes per day

Board of Education Executive Summary

Office of the Superintendent

Approve Resolution No. 2900 or 2901: Initial Charter Petition for Growth
Public Schools
August 18, 2016

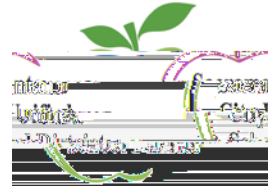


The Petition states that the Charter School shall “[c]omply with the Ralph M. Brown Act.” (Appx. W.) The purpose of the Brown Act (Gov. Code, §§ 54590, et seq.), is to ensure that agencies take actions “openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly” and to ensure that the public remains informed

Board of Education Executive Summary

Office of the Superintendent

Approve Resolution No. 2900 or 2901: Initial Charter Petition for Growth
Public Schools
August 18, 2016



Of the 88 families called, the District was only able to verify 5 families (6%) meaningfully interested in sending their child of qualifying age to the Charter School for the 2017-18 school year. Extrapolating 6% to the actual population size of 350 signatures yields a statistical result of approximately 21 interested families with children of qualifying age. Utilizing a ratio of 1 qualified student for every 14.66 families based on the sampling of 88 families yielding 6 qualified students, 350 families will statistically yield approximately 24 qualified students. The result is well below the projected enrollment of 112 for the 2017-18 school year, and well below the 66 signatures required per Education Code section 47605, subdivision (a) (1) (A), which raises questions about the sufficiency of parental support for the Charter School.

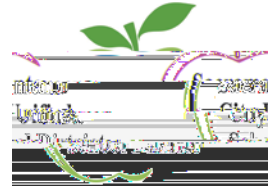
The District also placed calls to the 9 teachers that submitted signatures for the petition. Only 2 of the 9 were listed as cleared credentials, while 4 were listed as Preliminary and the other 3 as Intern. The results of the telephone survey are as follows:

- No answer/3 attempts: 6
- Not able to teach at the school: 1
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Board of Education Executive Summary

Office of the Superintendent

Approve Resolution No. 2900 or 2901: Initial Charter Petition for Growth
Public Schools
August 18, 2016



As noted above, the Petitioner presents a very general and vague description of the Charter School's educational program without sufficiently developing and describing how the program will be implemented on a day to day basis. As detailed below, the Petition's description of the proposed Charter School also fails to provide a clear and comprehensive description of other key aspects of the educational program.

- **Expeditions**

According to the Petition, "approximately one Friday per month, and for approximately six weeks total through the year, students will participate in hands-on, real-world, experiential learning experiences that may also take place outside of the school walls." (Petition p. 45.) Petitioner has termed this instruction "expeditions." Petitioner does not provide a reasonably comprehensive description of key aspects of these expeditions, including but not limited to the following:

According to the Petition, these expeditions are "run in collaboration with community organizations and local business." The Petition does not specify which business and organizations it will work with, how it will seek out these business and organizations, and what financial arrangements will be made, if any, with these business and organizations.

The Petition does not specify how the Charter School will ensure that all students are provided transportation, free of charge, to and from these off-campus expeditions.

The Petition does not specify how the Charter School will determine what expeditions are appropriate for each grade level. If a specific expedition has a cap on the number of students who can participate, then how will the Charter School determine which student is selected for that specific expedition?

In light of the fact that the Petition indicates that student expeditions will also serve as time for teacher professional development (Petition, p. 126), how will the Charter School staff the expeditions?

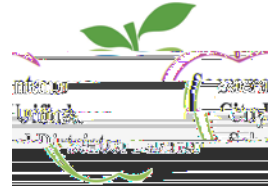
The Petition does not specify how the Charter School will ensure student safety during these expeditions.

Board of Education Executive Summary

Board of Education Executive Summary

Office of the Superintendent

Approve Resolution No. 2900 or 2901: Initial Charter Petition for Growth
Public Schools
August 18, 2016



In addition to a traditional school year, Petitioners intend to offer before and after school programs for students that “need more time.” (Petition, p. 51.) However, the Petition provides no further detail about these before and after school programs. The Petition does not explain how many students will be enrolled, how many teachers will be needed to staff the programs, what days they will be offered, or how it has been budgeted.

- The Petition Does Not Contain Reasonably Comprehensive Description of Goals and Measurable Pupil Outcomes

A charter petition should, at minimum, include a description “of annual goals, for all pupils and for each subgroup of pupils identified pursuant to Section 52052, to be achieved in the state priorities as described in subdivision (d) of Section 52060, that apply for the grade levels served, or the nature of the program operated, by the charter school, and specific annual actions to achieve those goals.” (Ed. Code § 47605 subd. (b)(5)(A)(ii).) In addition, a charter petition must include measurable student outcomes that describe the extent to which all students of the school will demonstrate that they have attained the skills, knowledge, and attitudes specified as goals in the school’s educational program. When describing expected pupil outcomes, the Petition must, “...include outcomes that address increases in pupil academic achievement both schoolwide and for all groups of pupils served by the charter school.” (Ed. Code § 47605(b)(5)(B).)

Petitioner acknowledges that the Petition does not include goals or measurable pupil outcomes that address increases in pupil achievement for each subgroup of pupils served by the Charter School. Petitioner provides, “[b]ecause GPS does not know what its numerically significant subgroups will be, all goals, actions and outcomes are designed to apply school wide and to all student subgroups.” (Petition, p. 103.) The fact that Petitioner does not know with certainty what its numerically significant subgroups will be is not sufficient reason to ignore the requirements of Education Code section 47605 subdivisi(s)6(tu910(n)-)4(v(.70))8()10TJ0 Tc 0 T4(o)-2(o)2(f)1H

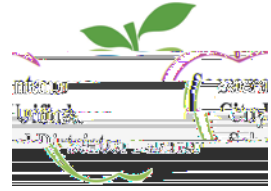
Board of Education Executive Summary

Office of the Superintendent

Approve Resolution No. 2900 or 2901: Initial Charter Petition for Growth

Public Schools

August 18, 2016



- The Petition Does Not Contain Reasonably Comprehensive Description of the Health and Safety Procedures

Petitioners are required to provide a comprehensive description of “procedures that the school will follow to ensure the health and safety of pupils and staff.” (Ed. Code, § 47605, subd. (b)(5)(F).) The Petition does not provide a comprehensive description of all relevant aspects of the Charter School’s health and safety procedures. For example, on page 129 of the Petition, the Petitioner briefly addresses their policies for emergency preparedness. In short, Petitioner relies on an “Emergency Preparedness Handbook” that will be “drafted for the school,” however, the District did not receive the Handbook until June 24, 2016, only after District request. Regardless, the District’s review of the Handbook shows a less than comprehensive description of important aspects of any emergency preparedness plan, including but not limited to the Charter School’s response to bomb threats and lockdown shooting incidents, suicide prevention, and staff training to ensure compliance with, and understanding of, the emergency preparedness plans.

In addition, the Petition does not contemplate or discuss other key aspects of its health and safety procedures, including but not limited to the inclusion of health care coverage options and enrollment assistance pursuant to Education Code section 49452.9.

- The Petition Does Not Contain Reasonably Comprehensive Description of the Means to Achieve Racial and Ethnic Balance

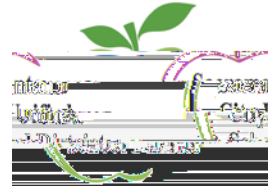
As noted above, the Petitioner’s recruitment strategies are not specifically tailored to the community in which it intends to recruit, and fails to identify how it will ensure a racial and ethnic balance among its students that is reflective of the general population residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the District, in light of the fact that the Rosemont area is demographically different than the District as a whole.

Staff also has concerns with the Petitioner’s outreach to, and recruitment of, students with disabilities. According to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, charter schools should “recruit [students] from all segments of the community served by the school, including _____ and students of all races, colors and national origins.” (United States Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights, Applying Federal Civil Rights Laws to Public Charter Schools (May 2000), <<https://www2.ed.gov/offices/OCR/archives/pdf/charter.pdf>> [as of June 27, 2016], emphasis added.) However the Petition fails to include any discussion regarding how the Charter School intends to recruit students with disabilities.

Board of Education Executive Summary

Office of the Superintendent

Approve Resolution No. 2900 or 2901: Initial Charter Petition for Growth
Public Schools
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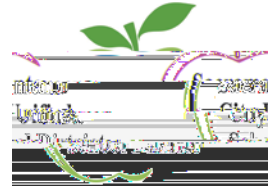


(Petition, p. 34.) The inclusion of the language is questionable and potentially violates California's constitutional guarantee to a free public education. Although "the community hours" are not expressly mandatory, the tone of these statements in both the Student and Parent Handbook and the Charter Petition are likely to dissuade wor1(p.)7(3)12c(y)8(19.44 rw 0

Board of Education Executive Summary

Office of the Superintendent

Approve Resolution No. 2900 or 2901: Initial Charter Petition for Growth
Public Schools
August 18, 2016



process goes beyond establishing a process to resolve conflicts, and instead attempts to impose requirements upon the District. For example, the Petition provides that during the dispute resolution process between the District and the Charter School “no parties will make public comment.” (Petition p. 155.) The Petition is not a contract.⁴ Any suggestion that the Petition somehow requires the District to refrain from making public comments is misguided.

III. BUDGET

State income and various other income sources to the District are reduced when students living in District boundaries enroll at a charter school. Under Education Code section 47604(c), a school district that grants a charter to a charter school to be operated by, or as, a nonprofit public benefit corporation is not held liable for the charter school’s debts or obligations as long as the school district complies with all oversight responsibilities. The District will continue to have monitoring and oversight responsibility for charter school finances, as specified in the Charter Schools Act.

Any modifications to the Charter School’s petition or operations with significant financial implications would requ

**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2901
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE INITIAL CHARTER PETITION OF
GROWTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, petitioners for Growth Public Schools, Inc. (“Petitioners”) submitted to Sacramento City Unified School District (“District”) an i626h1i