

**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Agenda Item.004 Tc40 12 Tj

Board of Education Executive Summary

AcademicOffice

Approve Resolution No. 2976 and 2977: Initial Charter Petition for Success Skills, Inc. NorCal Trade and Tech
December 7 2017

I. OVERVIEW / HISTORY

Action Proposed:

Sacramento City Unified School District (“District”) Staff and legal counsel have reviewed the charter petition (“Petition”) submitted by Success Skills Inc. (“SSI”), a 501(c)(3) profit-organization (“Petitioner”), proposing the creation of NorCal Trade and Tech (“NTT” or “Charter School”). After careful review, District Staff identified a number of concerns within the Petition, including, but not limited to, the Charter School educational plan, finances, facilities, and governance, which are set forth in this report. As a result, District Staff believe deficiencies in the Petition could warrant a denial of the Petition on the following grounds, pursuant to Education Code section 47605:

1. The petitioner is demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition.
2. The petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of certain required elements set forth in Education Code section 47605, subdivisions (b)(3)(

In order to deny a Petition on the grounds set forth above, Education Code 47605, subdivision (b) requires the Governing Board to make “written factual findings, specific to the particular Petition, setting forth specific facts to support or more” of the grounds for denying the charter. Therefore, if the District Board determines it will deny this Petition, District Staff recommend that the Board adopt the proposed findings of fact, set forth below, as its own findings.

History:

On or about October 1 2017, the District received an initial Petition proposing the creation of the Charter School by SSI. The District held a public hearing on November 16, 2017, so that the District’s Governing Board (“Board”) could consider the “level of support for the petition by teachers employed by the district, other employees of the district, and parents.” (Ed. Code § 47605, subd. (b).)

While SSI has not previously operated a charter school, over the last decade, it has served veterans and distressed adults through career education. (Petition, p. 14.) The Petitioner proposes to establish a charter school to primarily serve adults for high school completion, and adult elementary programs, including adult basic education and English language development. (Petition, p. 8.) The Petitioner states, “NORCAL Trade and Tech will help adults to learn both the basic academic skills and knowledge necessary to survive in the 21st century, as well as the

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vocational skills necessary to earn a livable wage (Petition, p. 15.) Petitioner proposes to initially offer a truck and bus driving training program, and will later offer programs for auto body repair, diesel mechanics, building, and construction. (Petition, p. 21.) In addition to the educational and technical programs mentioned, NTT states they will provide services to students through partnerships with Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (“WIOA”) providers. (Petition, p. 50.)

Petitioner desires to locate the proposed charter school on District property at 24th and Florin in South Sacramento. (Petition, p. 15.) During the 2018 school year, the Petitioner hopes to enroll two hundred (200) students, while increasing enrollment by two hundred (200) students each subsequent school year. (Petition, p.15.) Petitioner estimates a total enrollment of one thousand (1,000) students by the 2023 school year, its fifth year of operation. (Petition, p. 15.)

II. DRIVING GOVERNANCE

The Charter Schools Act of 1992 (“Act”) governs the creation of charter schools in the State of California. The Act includes Education Code section 47605, subdivision (b), which provides the standards and criteria for petition review, and provides that a school district governing board considering whether to grant a charter petition “shall be guided by the intent of the Legislature that charter schools are and should become an integral part of the California educational system and that establishment of charter schools should be encouraged.” (Ed. Code, § 47605, subd. (b).) Specifically, the governing board may not deny a petition unless it makes written factual findings setting forth specific facts to support one, or more of six findings:

- 1) The charter school presents an unsound educational program for the students to be enrolled in the charter school;
- 2) The petitioner is demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition;
- 3) The petition does not contain the number of signatures prescribed by Education Code section 47605, subdivisions (a)(A) or (a)(1)(B);
- 4) The petition does not contain an affirmation of each of the conditions set forth in Education Code section 47605, subdivision (d), including that the charter school: (1) will be nonsectarian in its admission policies, employment practices and all other operations; (2) will not charge tuition; and (3) will not discriminate against any student on the basis of the characteristics set forth in Education Code section 220;

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5) The petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of fifteen certain elements in its program and operations as set forth in Education Code section 47605, subdivision (b)(5) (A), which describes fifteen separate elements that must be addressed in every petition to establish a charter school. These elements include a description of the School's governance structure, admissions policy, health and safety and student discipline policies; or

6) The petition does not contain a declaration of whether or not the charter school shall be deemed the ex Tc 0.05 Tcvm(ills)2(,)1(l)3(n)-4(c)4(.)JTJ 0.002 Tc -0.002 Tw 3.92 0 T-

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attendance (students who are 5 to 18 years of age). Petitioner's proposed program would serve adults, therefore, would have non-compulsory attendance.

Petitioner states, if adult

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However, even if Petitioner receives the loan mentioned above, based upon the Petitioner's submitted budget, adequate reserves may not be available to the Charter School during the second year of operation. During the 2020 school year, the Petition indicates that the Charter School would only have \$17,924 in reserves during the month of January. ~~After~~ Ch School's cash flow projections are incorrect, or if unforeseen expenses occur, this could render the Charter School insolvent.

The limited cash reserves maintained by the Charter School become more alarming because the Petition identifies positions for both Assistant Teachers and Paraeducators (Petition 46). 45-

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In order to successfully implement the proposed educational program, the Petitioner should provide a detailed plan for the use of technology.

Petitioner states, “NTT shall utilize web 2.0 learning technologies and open educational resources (OERs), including Khan Academy, MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses), Career courses from Ford Next Generation Learning, technology courses from GCF LearnFree, and online ESL sites.” (Petition, p. 30.)

Given the Petitioner’s proposed use of multiple online instructional resources, it is critical that students have access to technology. However, the Petition states:

“NTT shall apply for the Public Charter School Grant Program (PCSGP1(s)-1h2tio16n.-4(ubl)-2

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statutory language that indicates teachers and students are meaningfully interested in attending at the school or attending the school. Additionally, the student signatures do not identify any specific school or even indicate that the Petition is being submitted to the Sacramento City Unified School District for consideration.

Additionally, several of the teachers' signatures submitted with the Petition are from individuals whose names also appear on NTT's other petitions submitted to Twin Rivers School

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Language Development, Bilingual High School Completion, and High School with English Support. (Appx., p. 156.) Additionally, it appears that the Bilingual High School Completion program is only offered for Spanish. (Appx., p. 156.) However, Petitioner states "... if sufficient students who speak other languages request such a program we will work to provide it." (Appx., p. 156.)

These proposed EL programs raise many concerns. First, it is unclear how the Petitioner will successfully deliver elementary content intended for first or second grade students to adults enrolled in the Adult Elementary English Language Development program. For example, how will Petitioner make curriculum developed for a six (6) year old student relevant to an

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SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2976
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE INITIAL CHARTER PETITION OF
SUCCESS SKILLS, INC.: NORCAL TRADE AND TECH

WHEREAS, petitioners for Success Skills, Inc. (“Petitioners”) submitted to Sacramento City Unified School District (“District”) an initial charter petition (“Petition”), dated October 17, 2017 for NorCal Trade and Tech and

WHEREAS, the District’s Governing Board held a public hearing on November 16, 2017 and took board action on December 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board has considered the level of public support for NorCal Trade and Tech and has reviewed the Petition, including all supporting documentation; and

WHEREAS, in reviewing the Petition, the Governing Board has been guided by the intent of the

SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2977

RESOLUTION TO DENY THE INITIAL CHARTER PETITION OF SUCCESS SKILLS, INC.:
NORCAL TRADE AND TECH

WHEREAS, petitioners for Success Skills, Inc. ("Petitioners") submitted to Sacramento City Unified School District ("District") an initial charter petition ("Petition"), dated October, 2017 for NorCal Trade and Tech and

WHEREAS, the District's Governing Board held a public hearing on November 16, 2017 and took board action on December, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board has considered the level of public support for NorCal Trade and Tech has reviewed the Petition, including all supporting documentation; and

WHEREAS, in reviewing the Petition, the Governing Board has been guided by the intent of the California Legislature that charter sch(r)3(h)-1oi2od hae(ha)4rt9.4hou2od hd(n)ha