

Sarasota County Schools
Charter Review Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday – September 6, 2018
3:00 p.m.

The Charter Review Committee (CRC) met at 3:00 pm in Blue/220. The purpose of the meeting was to begin reviewing the amended Dreamers Academy charter application.

Present

CRC Members: Natalie Roca, Denise Cantalupo, Tammy Cassels, Elaine Glickman, Al Harayda, Tripp Jennings, Sue Meckler, Jamie Rodriguez, Tara Tahmosh-Newell and Katrina Ward

Not Present

Christa Curtner, Ellie Ingerick, Jody Long

The Charter Review Committee has returned to meet in a special Fall 2018 review cycle to evaluate the amended version of the Dreamers Academy charter application. The original Dreamers Academy application had been submitted in February 2018. However, the May 8, 2018 CRC Final Evaluation report identified concerns, deficiencies and missing details. On May 15, 2018 School Board members agreed to Dreamers Academy withdrawing their application and resubmitting an amended version in Fall 2018.

Today's CRC meeting convened at 3:05 pm. The minutes for the July 24th CRC meeting was approved.

Dr. Roca began by welcoming the committee and reviewing the format and timeline for evaluating the amended Dreamers Academy application. She informed the committee that their focus should be on those sections rated as partially meeting and not meeting the standards because they were determined to be deficient or lacking detail in the original application. Members received a copy of the amended application and the CRC's May 8th report prior to today's meeting and came prepared for the discussion.

Dreamers Academy Amended Charter Application

Dr. Roca shared her preliminary review of the new application in relation to the February 1 application and the CRC's May 8th Evaluation Report. She examined sections for which CRC rated the standard as meeting the evaluation criteria and noted that the information and content had not changed on the amended application. Therefore, there was no need to revisit these sections with one exception – the budget will be re-evaluated to ensure that any changes to the educational design, curriculum, staffing are supported in the budget. The committee did not review sections in sequential order, but preferred to begin looking at several sections which had partially met the standard in the original application. As each section was discussed a preliminary rating was assigned. The results

are as follows:

Section 16: Facilities – Meets (10/0)

Section 21: Financial Management and Oversight – Meets (10/0)

Section 13: Professional Development – Meets (10/0)

Additional sections discussed were: Target Population, Student Recruitment, ESE, ELL and Educational Program Design. Although both sections were rated, it was decided that target population and student recruitment needed to be looked at together again. The application and lottery process was considered acceptable, but the CRC continues to have issues with target population and enrollment preferences. The CRC will seek an answer from FLDOE regarding recruitment and acknowledges that Section 14's rating may change depending upon FLDOE's response. Some areas of the ESE section have been made clearer. However, the CRC expressed concern about a statement in the application that "modifications to the curriculum and level of rigor" might be in the IEP to make adjustments for ESE students. Secondly, relative to providing services to students, the application implies more involvement of district staff than is provided to charter schools. The amended ELL section has been appropriately rewritten with only some minor disagreement. The committee continues to have questions about the education program design. It was decided to re-evaluate the education design section and the ESE section at the same time as Section 4 – Curriculum. The assigned preliminary ratings for these sections are as follows:

Section 2: Target Population and Student Body – Partially Meets (8/2)

Section 14: Student Recruitment and Enrollment – Meets (10/0)

Section 6: Exceptional Students – VOTE POSTPONED

Section 7: English Language Learners – Meets (8/2)

Section 3: Educational Program Design – VOTE POSTPONED

Close of Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm. Next meeting will be on Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 3:00 pm in Blue/Room 220.