

Mt. Diablo Unified School District Contra Costa School of Performing Arts

Staff Analysis of Petition
May 18, 2015



Petition Review Process

Step 1: Convene reviewing committee

- Wendi Aghily: Special Education
- Leyla Benson: Personnel
- Deborah Cooksey: insurance, governance & closing procedures
- Jonathan Eagan, Chris Holleran & Rose Lock: Instructional
- Carmen Garces: English learners
- Nance Juner: Fiscal
- Jeff McDaniel: Facilities
- Felicia Stucky-Smith: Student Services
- John Yeh: Comprehensive Review



The Petition Review Process (continued)

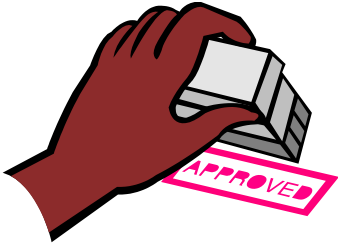
- **Step 2**: Each reviewer individually inputs comments into Charter Petition Evaluation Rubric (“Rubric”).
- **Step 3**: Critical analysis of each team member’s findings and updates Rubric as necessary.
- **Step 4**: Outside counsel conducts independent review of staff’s work on Rubric.
- **Step 5**: Prepare recommended board resolution.

Legislative Intent of Charter Laws

Education Code Section 47601

- Improve pupil learning
- Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods
- Provide parents and pupils with expanded choices in the types of educational opportunities that are available within the public school system
- Hold charter schools accountable for meeting measurable pupil outcomes

Education Code Requirements for Approval



Education Code Section 47605(b)

School boards shall not deny a charter unless:

1. Petition presents an unsound educational program.
2. Petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition.

Education Code Requirements for Approval (continued)



3. Petition does not contain the number of signatures (50% of teachers that the charter school estimates will be employed the first year of operation).
4. Petition does not contain certain affirmation of conditions described in the Education Code.

Education Code Requirements for Approval

(continued)

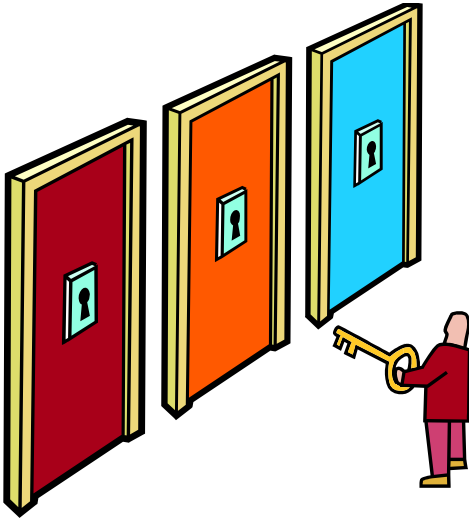
5. Petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the 16 elements, some of which include:
 - ✓ A description of the educational plan [Element 1]
 - ✓ Measurable pupil outcomes identified for use by the charter [Element 2]
 - ✓ The methods to assess pupil progress toward outcomes [Element 3]

Education Code Requirements for Approval

(continued)

- ✓ Employee qualifications [Element 5]
- ✓ The charter school's health and safety procedures [Element 6]
- ✓ Manner for conducting annual, independent audits [Element 9]
- ✓ Student suspension and expulsion procedures [Element 10]

Board Options



- **Option 1**: Unconditionally Approve
- **Option 2**: Approve With Conditions
- **Option 3**: Deny

Analysis: The Charter Presents an Unsound Educational Program

- Petition proposes to offer STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math), but only provides a description of the proposed curriculum in the Arts.
 - The Petition contains virtually no description of the proposed educational program in the areas of STEM.
- While Petition claims that coursework will meet UC/CSU “a-g” requirements, only 2 science courses are identified, none after the 10th grade.

Analysis: Petition Lacks Reasonably Comprehensive Descriptions of: Education Program of the School (continued)

- Lack of reasonably comprehensive descriptions in the following areas:
 - Science, Technology, Engineering and Math program
 - Professional development
 - Proposed class schedule
 - Student assessment data system
 - “A description, for the charter school, of annual goals, for all pupils and for each subgroup of pupils (Ed. Code 47065(b)(5)(A)(ii))

Analysis: Petition Lacks Reasonably Comprehensive Descriptions of: Education Program of the School (continued)

- English Language Learners: Petition fails to identify specific program services, *e.g.*, how ELD instruction would integrate into core subject matter instruction.
- Special Education: Petition does not adequately describe special education services to be provided and it underbudgets for special education encroachment

Analysis: Petition Lacks Reasonably Comprehensive Descriptions of: Measurable Pupil Outcomes & Methodology for Measuring It

- Petition fails to “address increases in pupil academic achievement both schoolwide and for all groups of pupils served by the charter school” as required by Ed. Code.
- The Petition fails to “address increases in pupil academic achievement ... for all groups of pupils served by the charter school.”



Analysis: Petition Lacks Reasonably Comprehensive Descriptions of:

Measurable Pupil Outcomes & Methodology for Measuring It

- The Petition lacks an adequate description of formative assessments.
- The Petition lacks a reasonably comprehensive description of the plan use of pupil outcome data to improve student learning.



Assessments

Analysis: Petition Lacks Reasonably Comprehensive Descriptions of:

Governance Structure



- Petition lacks a reasonably comprehensive description of meaningful opportunities for parents to be involved in the governance of the school.
- The Petition organizers do not demonstrate a depth of knowledge in offering a comprehensive STEAM curriculum.

Analysis: Petition Lacks Reasonably Comprehensive Descriptions of: Racial and Ethnic Balance

- The proposed location of the Concord Pavilion is not equally accessible to all portions of the District. Charter School is not providing transportation.
- Charter School is, therefore, unlikely to achieve the same demographic profile of the District.



Analysis: Petition Lacks Reasonably Comprehensive Descriptions of:

Facilities



- Concord Pavilion is not an appropriate public school setting.
- Petition fails to describe how the facility would provide school-specific facilities, such as classrooms, science laboratories, P.E. facilities, locker rooms, etc.
- Petition does not address legal requirements of zoning, traffic, environmental impact, etc.

Analysis: Petition Lacks Reasonably Comprehensive Descriptions of:

Fiscal/Budget



- Ending balance of year 2 is \$113, including a \$51,000 donation.
- Year 3 operation depends on \$70,000 donation.
- Petition lacks either a fundraising plan or status report listing committed funds.
- Donations are not guaranteed resources.

Staff Conclusions

- The plan has many deficits in relation to the criteria set forth by Education Code. Therefore, adequate grounds exist to deny the petition.
- Reminder of Board options on charter petition:
 - ✓ Unconditionally Approve
 - ✓ Conditionally Approve
 - ✓ Deny

