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Agenda Item Details

Meeting Nov 01, 2022 - School Board Meeting

Category E. Consent Agenda

Subject 5. ASD Memorandum #037- Highland Academy Charter Renewal

Type Action (Consent)

Recommended Action It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the renewal of Highland Academy Charter School's

charter for an additional 10 years through the 2032-2033 school year.

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #037 (2022-2023) October 18, 2022

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: DR. JHARRETT BRYANTT, SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL: HIGHLAND ACADEMY

ASD Core Value: Public education should be responsive to an ever-changing world.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the renewal of Highland Academy Charter School's charter for an additional 10 years through the 2032-2033 school year.

PERTINENT FACTS:

State Statute 14.03.2559(c)(11) limits charter school contracts not to exceed a term of 10 years.

Anchorage School Board Policy and Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) regulations require charter schools to reapply for approval of their charter within 12 months of the expiration date of their current charter. The Highland Academy Charter School's charter will expire on June 30, 2023.

Highland Academy is reapplying to the Anchorage School District School Board and DEED for a 10-year renewal of their charter. The ASD utilizes the DEED application format for our charter school review and application process.

There are currently nine (9) charter schools in ASD. Each charter school is governed by an elected board called an Academic Policy Committee (APC). Each APC hires their principal who in turn is the administrator of the school. The Highland Academy APC is made up of dedicated parents, staff, and members of the community who continue to provide positive and responsible governance over Highland Academy Charter School.

The charter school's application to the District will include any requested waivers outside of Board policy and administrative regulations. If approved by the School Board, these waivers will be included in the school's charter and contract.

The purpose for Highland Academy (6^{th} - 12^{th} grade) is to provide a competency based and student-centered program that promotes mastery learning across the curriculum, and that is rooted in the growth mindset. This framework offers flexibility in the learning environment to provide student voice and choice, thematic unit planning, social-emotional learning and more. The mission is to equip students with the academic, social, and technical skills to excel in today's world and contribute positively to our society and the future. Student placement is based on academic ability, rather than chronological age, ensuring students are appropriately challenged and supported.

Highland Academy is a quality Charter School serving a diverse group of students. Students are well-prepared for college, career, and life. There is a strong culture of community and respect that is evident when you walk in the front door. Students are engaged in learning and embrace contextual learning opportunities such as the Real World Design Challenge. Climate & Connectedness data is high in many areas and highlights include parent satisfaction, student involvement, and school recommendation.

Enrollment at Highland Academy fluctuates from year to year, and the school is working to recover from the pandemic after going from 184 students in 2019 to their current enrollment of 171. The Highland Academy APC and administration are continually seeking student recruitment strategies to boost enrollment and creatively approaching ways to maximize the cost of their building space.

The Highland Academy Charter School renewal application was open through Google Docs to the Administrative Review Team ("Team") for two weeks where they added their suggestions and feedback for the charter renewal proposers. The Team was made up of representatives from many departments in the district including, but not limited to: Assessment & Evaluation, Equity & Community Engagement, Human Resources, Student Supports, Teaching & Learning, Special Education, Gifted, Budget, Risk Management, Healthcare Services, Operations, Maintenance, and Secondary Education. The Team met with the proposers for an administrative review on September 20, 2022.

The attached charter renewal application is the result of the meeting, support, and discussions and includes the recommended changes or modifications.

Attachment: A – DEED Charter School Renewal Application Form & Charter Renewal Contract

Prepared by: Jason Hlasny, Director, Charter Schools

Approved by: Mark Stock, Deputy Superintendent

Jim Anderson, Chief Financial Officer
Mike Fleckenstein, Chief Information Officer
Rob Holland, Chief Operating Officer (Interim)

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Kersten Johnson-Struempler, Senior Director, Secondary Dave Whiting, Senior Director, Purchasing

Highland Academy 2023 Charter Renewal.pdf (16,544 KB)

Motion & Voting

To approve the consent agenda as amended.

Motion by Carl Jacobs, second by Andy Holleman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes Yea: Margo Bellamy, Dave Donley, Pat Higgins, Andy Holleman, Carl Jacobs, Kelly Lessens, Dora Wilson

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