



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item 10.1

Meeting Date: March 17, 2016

Subject: Approve Resolution No. 2877: Renewal of the Charter for California Montessori Project – Capitol Campus

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

Department: Office of Strategy and Innovation

Recommendation: To conference and take action to approve the renewal of the charter for California Montessori Project – Capitol Campus.

Background/Rationale: Sacramento City Unified School District received California Montessori Project – Capitol Campus’ renewal petition on January 19, 2016 (Charter petition expiration date: June 30, 2016). The Governing Board held a public hearing in accordance with Education Code Section 47607 (b) to consider the level of support for the renewal of California Montessori Project – Capitol Campus on February 18, 2016. District staff conducted a review of the renewal petition and revised renewal petition. The staff’s findings and recommendation will be presented for Board Action on March 17, 2016.

Financial Considerations: The financial considerations are outlined within the Executive Summary.

LCAP Goal(s): Family and Community Engagement

Documents Attached:

1. Executive Summary
2. Resolution

Estimated Time of Presentation: 5 minutes

Submitted by: Jack L. Kraemer, Charter Oversight, Coordinator

Approved by: Al Rogers, Ed. D., Chief Strategy Officer

Board of Education Executive Summary

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I. OVERVIEW / HISTORY

Action Proposed:

District Staff recommends approval of the renewal of the charter for California Montessori Project – Capitol Campus (CMP) for five (5) years, beginning July 1, 2016 until June 30, 2021, to serve 367 students in grades K-8 through the 2020-2021 school year.

History:

California Montessori Project – Capitol Campus is a public, independent charter school located at 2635 Chestnut Hill Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826. Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) granted a renewal of CMP's charter petition with an expiration date of June 30, 2016. The Charter School is currently in its tenth year of operation with SCUSD (15 years overall) and serves 329 students in grades K-8.

Sacramento City Unified School District received a charter renewal petition from CMP on January 19, 2016, with a mutually agreed upon 30 day extension of the renewal petition timeline requirements. A Public Hearing was held to consider the level of support for the renewal of the charter for CMP on February 18, 2016.

After reviewing the renewal petition, District Staff provided CMP with numerous areas that needed updates and/or clarification. In response to the District Staff findings and recommendations, CMP submitted a revised petition addressing District Staff's concerns.

II. DRIVING GOVERNANCE

As defined by Education Code Section §47607, a charter school shall meet one of the following criteria before receiving a charter renewal:

- 1) Attained its Academic Performance Index (API) growth target in the prior year or in two of the last three years, or in the aggregate for the prior three years;
- 2) Ranked in deciles 4 to 10, inclusive, on the API in the prior year or in two of the last three years;
- 3) Ranked in deciles 4 to 10, inclusive, on the API for a demographically comparable school in the prior year or in two of the last three years; or

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- 4) The entity that granted the charter determines that the academic performance of the charter school is at least equal to the academic performance of the public schools that the charter school pupils would otherwise have been required to attend.

Due to the suspension of the majority of the California Standards Tests in 2013-14, CMP does not have a 2015 Growth API. Schools that do not have a current year API calculation will use either the more recent API score, an average of the three most recent API scores, or an alternate measure that shows an increase in academic achievement (Assembly Bill 484; See Education Code sections 52052(e)(2)(F) and 52052(e)(4)). CMP meets all three of the API criteria as defined by AB484. Additionally, CMP had 51%, 33%, 64%, and 82% of their overall students achieve at proficient/advance levels for the 2014-15 CAASPP ELA, Math, Science – 5th, and Science – 8th assessments respectively. When compared to the overall student population of students in the State and SCUSD, the overall CMP population attained higher levels of achievement in ELA, higher or the same in Math, higher in Science – 5th, and higher in Science – 8th.

The Board of Education may deny a Renewal Petition if the charter school fails to meet the minimum standard for renewal, or if the Board of Education finds that:

- 1) The charter school presents an unsound educational program for students during the term of its renewal charter;
- 2) The charter school is demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the renewal petition;
- 3) The renewal petition does not contain the necessary affirmations; or
- 4) Where changes to the charter school's operations are proposed, the Renewal Petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the 16 required elements set forth in the Charter Schools Act.

If the Board of Education denies the renewal, the Board must adopt written findings of facts based on any of the above mentioned finds. In addition, the District "shall consider increases in pupil academic achievement for all groups of pupils served by the charter school as the most important factor in determining whether to grant a charter renewal." Ed. Code § 47607(a)(3)(A).

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District Staff's Review:

The District Staff reviewed the below listed elements in the CMP renewal petition.

Elements:

- 1) Educational Program
- 2) Measurable Student Outcomes
- 3) Method by Which Pupil Progress is to be Measured
- 4) Governance Structure
- 5) Employee Qualifications
- 6) Health and Safety Procedures
- 7) Means to Achieve a Reflective Racial and Ethnic Balance
- 8) Admissions Requirements
- 9) Financial Audit
- 10) Suspension and Expulsion Procedures
- 11) Staff Retirement Systems
- 12) Attendance Alternative
- 13) Description of Employee Rights
- 14) Dispute Resolution Process
- 15) Labor Relations
- 16) Procedure for School Closure
- 17) Impact on District (i.e. facilities, District oversight, etc.)

Although the originally submitted renewal petition included the above information required, District Staff recommended revisions and additional information to improve the petition. The changes made to the CMP initial renewal petition are noted in Appendix A of the Charter School's revised renewal petition.

Based on the results of the District Staff's review process of the initial and revised renewal petitions, District Staff assessed that all sixteen elements and the Long-Term Plans are reasonably comprehensive individually and collectively. District Staff also assessed that CMP meets the statutory requirements for renewal.

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

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as the school district complies with all oversight responsibilities. The District will continue to have monitoring and oversight responsibility for the charter school's finances, as specified in the Charter Schools Act.

Any modifications to the Charter School's petition or operations with significant financial implications would require District approval prior to implementation.

IV. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND MEASURES

Not Applicable.

V. MAJOR INITIATIVES

Not Applicable.

VI. RESULTS

California Montessori Project – Capitol Campus' revised renewal petition meets the statutory requirements and recommendations of the District Staff. District Staff recommends that the renewal of the charter for California Montessori Project – Capitol Campus be approved.

VII. LESSONS LEARNED / NEXT STEPS

Next Steps:

As the charter authorizer, District will provide continued oversight by conducting annual visits and programmatic audits to review the charter school's records of past performance and future plans regarding academics, finances, and operations. Particularly in the following areas:

- Recruitment efforts for racial/ethnic balance
- Instructional offerings for English Learners
- Pupil suspension and expulsion policies

The revised charter renewal petition is available online at:

<http://cap.cacmp.org/>

**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2877
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PETITION TO RENEW THE CHARTER OF
CALIFORNIA MONTESSORI PROJECT – CAPITOL CAMPUS**

WHEREAS, petitioners for California Montessori Project – Capitol Campus (“Petitioners”) submitted to Sacramento City Unified School District (“District”) a charter renewal petition (“Petition”), dated January 19, 2016, for California Montessori Project – Capitol Campus; and

WHEREAS, following feedback from District staff, the Petition was revised and submitted (“Revised Petition”);

WHEREAS, the District’s Governing Board held a public hearing on February 18, 2016 and took board action on March 17, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board has considered the level of public support for California Montessori Project – Capitol Campus and has reviewed the Revised Petition and all information received with respect to the Revised Petition, including all supporting documentation; and

WHEREAS, in reviewing the Revised Petition, the Governing Board has been guided by the intent of the California 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; and

WHEREAS, after analysis of the Revised Petition and the related supplemental materials, the Superintendent and District staff have recommended approval of the Revised Petition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education hereby approves the Revised Petition to renew the Charter of California Montessori Project – Capitol Campus for another term.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the term of the charter shall be for five (5) years, beginning on July 1, 2016 and expiring June 30, 2021.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education on this 17th day of March, 2016, by the following vote:

AYES: _____
NOES: _____
ABSTAIN: _____
ABSENT: _____
ATTESTED TO:

José L. Banda
Secretary of the Board of Education

Christina Pritchett
President of the Board of Education