



## SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 11.1

**Meeting Date:** February 19, 2015

**Subject:** **Approve Resolution No. 2822: Renewal of the Charter for St. HOPE  
Public Schools - Oak Park Preparatory Academy**

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

**Department:** Office of the Superintendent

**Recommendation:** To conference and take action to approve the renewal of the charter for St. HOPE Public Schools – Oak Park Preparatory Academy.

**Background/Rationale:** Sacramento City Unified School District received Oak Park Preparatory Academy's charter renewal petition on January 5, 2015 (Charter petition expiration date: June 30, 2015). 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 Oak Park Preparatory Academy on January 22, 2015. District staff has conducted a thorough review of the petition. The staff report and recommendation will be presented for Board Action on February 19, 2015.

**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:** Sue Lee, Ed.D., Charter Oversight, Coordinator II

**Approved by:** José L. Banda, Superintendent

# Board of Education Executive Summary

## Office of the Superintendent

Approve Resolution No. 2822: Renewal of the Charter for St. HOPE Public Schools - Oak Park Preparatory Academy  
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### I. OVERVIEW / HISTORY

#### *Action Proposed:*

Staff recommends approval of the renewal of the charter for Oak Park Preparatory Academy for five (5) years, beginning July 1, 2015 until June 30, 2020, to serve 180 students in grades K-8 each school year from 2016-18.

#### *History:*

Oak Park Preparatory Academy (OPPA) is a public, independent charter school located at 2315 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento, CA 95817. Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) granted OPPA's charter petition for establishment on October 6, 2011, and approved the charter petition for three years. The charter petition expires on June 30, 2015. The Charter School is currently in its third year of operation and serves approximately 135 students in grades 7-8.

Sacramento City Unified School District received a charter renewal petition from OPPA on January 5, 2015. A public hearing was held to consider the level of support for the renewal of the charter for OPPA on January 22, 2015.

After reviewing the renewal petition, District Staff provided OPPA with a list of six (6) elements that needed updates and clarification. In response, OPPA provided District Staff with a revised petition addressing Staff's concerns.

### II. DRIVING GOVERNANCE

As defined by Education Code Section §47607, after a charter school has been in operation for four years, 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
- 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.

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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.

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). For the 2012-13 school year, OPPI did not have any significant subgroups.

#### *District Staff's Review:*

Based on the results of the District review process, staff assessed that OPPI meets the statutory requirements for renewal.

Oak Park Preparatory Academy's 2013 statewide API rank is 9, exceeding the minimum threshold rank of 4 required by Education Code Section 47607(b)(2).

Due to the suspension of the majority of the California Standards Tests in 2013-14, no API was calculated for OPPI. 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)). In its third year of operation, OPPI has only one API calculation in its history, a 2013 growth API score of 887. The state set 800 as the API target for all schools to meet.

Although the originally submitted renewal petition included the information required, District Staff recommended revisions to improve the petition in six areas: 1) Element A, Educational Program; 2) Element B, Measureable Pupil Outcomes; 3) Element C: Methods to assess pupil progress; 4) Element F, Health and Safety Procedures; 5) Element J, Pupil Suspension and Expulsion; and 6) Financial Statements and Future Plan.

Oak Park Preparatory Academy provided a Revised Petition adequately addressing District Staff's concerns and recommendations by revising, updating, and/or providing the following.

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#### ELEMENT A: Educational Program

##### *Staff's Recommendation(s):*

- Update ELD standards; revise, update, and clarify sections of the EL plan.
- Provide concrete examples of strategies designed to support low-achieving students.
- Include detailed discussion of enrichment and academic opportunities for high-achieving students.
- Clarify how technology needs are equally accessible to all students.
- Provide additional information regarding staff training/professional development with regard to special education and Section 504.

##### *OPPA's Revision(s):*

In the revised petition, there is a description of the research-based SIOP model of instruction for ELs and statements that staff uses it. Since no mention was made of this model in the previous iteration of the petition, the District is will be committed to monitoring OPPA's fidelity to the EL Program described in the revised petition.

The Renewal Petition has been revised to include additional discussion of the Charter School's targeted strategies for providing "intensive academic support" for low-achieving students. (Petition, pp. 72-76.) Specifically, the Renewal Petition now lists supports such as scaffolding daily materials, guided notes, graphic organizers, chunking reading passages, pre-teaching complex vocabulary, and targeted checks that are embedded within each lesson by classroom teachers. (Renewal Petition, p. 74.) Additional discussion of after-school tutoring and credit recovery opportunities for students who are struggling academically has also been added. Some general information regarding Tier 2 and 3 RtI (Response to Intervention) for students achieving "far below grade level" has been added. (Renewal Petition, p. 76.) Petitioners have also updated information regarding the Charter School's Mentoring Through Community Partnerships program.

As revised, the Renewal Petition and the Charter School's bell schedule now clarify that enrichment activities are offered during the Wednesday electives periods. (Renewal Petition, pp. 34-5, 77.) Petitioners note that the subject matter of enrichment classes is based on the results of student surveys and "may include learning a new language, chess, mock trial, debate, geography bees, drama, art, or science experiments." (Renewal Petition, p. 77.)

The Renewal Petition has been revised to provide that typing of long-range assignments for 8th grade is not mandatory. It also now states that in addition to lunch recess, time is made available before and after school, as well as on weekends for students who have no home

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computer or internet access to complete assignments using the school's computers. (Renewal Petition, p. 47.) Petitioners note that with implementation of the PCSGP grant, the Charter School was able to secure five laptop carts and two Kindle carts and that every student now has access to technology during school hours.

Staff finds the revisions to be reasonably comprehensive.

#### ELEMENT B: Measurable Pupil Outcomes

##### *Staff's Recommendation(s):*

- Include specific growth and achievement targets.
- Include discussion of academic and non-academic exit outcomes at matriculation.

##### *OPPA's Revision(s):*

As recommended, the Renewal Petition has been updated to include more specific growth and achievement targets and now includes discussion of the Charter School's academic and non-academic goals for its eighth grade students matriculating to high school. (Renewal Petition, pp. 79-88.) However, the Renewal Petition includes, as a measure to achieve Sub-Goal 3A, the following: "Establish a baseline of parents who complete at least 10 hours of school service a year and increase the percentage of parents completing service hours annually." (Renewal Petition, p. 85.) Petitioners are cautioned that the California Department of Education recently issued a memorandum advising charter schools and school districts that it is illegal to "require" parent volunteer or service hours or financial contributions, to a public school. (See [www.cde.ca.gov/re/lr/fm/fma1501.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/lr/fm/fma1501.asp))

Staff has determined that as revised, Element 2: Measurable Pupil Outcomes is reasonably comprehensive.

#### ELEMENT C: Methods to assess pupil progress

##### *Staff's Recommendation(s):*

- Correct/update the guidelines of the state assessments in Table 3.3.

##### *OPPA's Revision(s):*

The Revised Petition included recommended corrections of the guidelines of state assessments in Table 3.3.

Staff finds the revisions to be reasonably comprehensive.

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#### ELEMENT F: Health and Safety Procedures

##### *Staff's Recommendation(s):*

- Revise the Renewal Petition and Employee Handbook to reflect changes in the law regarding testing for tuberculosis, and provide evidence of staff training.

##### *OPPA's Revision(s):*

The Revised Petition notes that AB 1667 amends Ed Code Section 49406, and OPPA will be in compliance.

Staff finds the revision to be reasonably comprehensive.

#### ELEMENT J: Pupil Suspension and Expulsion

##### *Staff's Recommendation(s):*

- Revise Suspension and Expulsion Policy in Renewal Petition and Parent Handbook to clarify the standards upon which the school determines that a student will be expelled as opposed to being suspended.
- Address OPPA's plan for lowering suspension rates; OPPA's suspension rate was 22.9 in 2013-14.

##### *OPPA's Revision(s):*

The Revised Petition clarifies the standards upon which the school determines that a student will be expelled as opposed to being suspended. Moving forward, OPPA's progress in adopting and implementing suspension policies will continue to be monitored by the District on an annual basis.

Staff finds the revisions to be reasonably comprehensive.

#### Financial Statements and Future Plans

##### *Staff's Recommendation(s):*

- Provide additional information as to how the Charter School expects to meet its financial obligations.
- Align language at page 144 in the Renewal Petition with language on page 146, to provide that District is named as an additional insured on all of the Charter School's insurance policies.

##### *OPPA's Revision(s):*

As revised, the Renewal Petition provides additional information as to how the Charter School expects to meet its financial obligations given that the budget show some months with a negative end balance. (Appendix 9.1) Specifically, Petitioners acknowledge that the St. HOPE

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budget “does reflect months where expenditures exceed net cash.” (Renewal Petition, p. 150.) However, Petitioners further explain that the non-profit plans ahead for such shortfalls and adjusts expenditures accordingly. In the event those adjustments are inadequate, Petitioners indicate that they have received bridge loans from “financial institutions and close partners (including SCUSD).”

In addition, the Renewal Petition has been revised to align language on pages 149 and 151 to provide that District is named as an additional insured on all of the Charter School’s insurance policies.

Staff has concluded that the Charter School’s budget and financial projections are generally accurate and sound.

#### Overall:

District staff reviewed all sixteen elements in the revised petition, including Financial Statements and Future Plans, and found that the sixteen elements are reasonably comprehensive.

### **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 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**

Oak Park Preparatory Academy’s revisions to the petition meet the statutory requirements and recommendations of the District. District staff recommends that the charter petition for Oak Park Preparatory Academy be approved.

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#### **VII. LESSONS LEARNED / NEXT STEPS**

##### *Next Steps:*

As a charter authorizer, the District will provide 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.

The revised charter renewal petition is available online at:

<http://www.scusd.edu/document/oak-park-preparatory-academy-charter-school-renewal-petition>.



**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 2822  
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PETITION TO RENEW THE CHARTER OF  
OAK PARK PREPARATORY ACADEMY**

WHEREAS, petitioners for Oak Park Preparatory Academy (“Petitioners”) submitted to Sacramento City Unified School District (“District”) a charter renewal petition (“Petition”), dated January 5, 2015, for Oak Park Preparatory Academy; 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 January 22, 2015 and took board action on February 19, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board has considered the level of public support for Oak Park Preparatory Academy 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 Oak Park Preparatory Academy for another term.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the term of the charter shall be for five (5) years, beginning on June 1, 2015 and expiring June 30, 2020.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education on this 19th day of February, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES: \_\_\_\_

NOES: \_\_\_\_

ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_

ATTESTED TO:

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José L. Banda  
Secretary of the Board of Education

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Darrel Woo  
President of the Board of Education