



## SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 8.1

**Meeting Date:** January 22, 2015

**Subject:** Public Hearing on the Renewal of the Charter for Capitol Collegiate Academy

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

**Division:** Office of the Superintendent

**Recommendation:** To conduct public hearing to consider the level of support for the renewal of the charter for Capitol Collegiate Academy.

**Background/Rationale:** The Governing Board will hold a public hearing in accordance with Education Code section 47607 (b) to consider the level of support for the renewal of Capitol Collegiate Academy (Charter petition expiration date: June 30, 2015). Sacramento City Unified School District received Capitol Collegiate Academy's charter renewal petition on January 5, 2015.

**Financial Considerations:** Financial and compliance considerations will be made available for this agenda item after staff has thoroughly reviewed the charter renewal petition.

**Documents Attached:**

1. Executive Summary
2. Public Hearing Notice
3. Executive Summary from the Charter Renewal Petition

**Estimated Time of Presentation:** 10 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

Public Hearing on the Renewal of the Charter for Capitol Collegiate

Academy

January 22, 2014



### I. OVERVIEW / HISTORY

Sacramento City Unified School District granted Capitol Collegiate Academy's charter petition for establishment on May 6, 2010, and approved the charter petition for four years. The charter petition expires on June 30, 2015.

Sacramento City Unified School District received a charter renewal petition from Capitol Collegiate Academy on January 5, 2015. Capitol Collegiate Academy is seeking a five-year renewal term for their proposed independent charter school for students in grade levels K-8. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the level of support for the renewal of the charter for Capitol Collegiate Academy.

### II. DRIVING GOVERNANCE

The charter renewal process is guided by Education Code 47607 (b). A charter school seeking renewal of its charter shall submit a written request to the Board at least 120 days before the term of the charter is due to expire, but not more than six months before the term of the charter is set to expire. Upon receipt of the notice that a charter school wants to renew its charter and at least 90 days before the expiration date of the charter, the Board shall conduct a public hearing to receive input on whether or not to renew the charter. At least 30 calendar days before the expiration date, the Board shall either grant or deny the request for renewal.

A charter may be renewed an unlimited number of times; however, each renewal must be for exactly five years. (EC § 47607). If a school district fails to make written factual findings to support a denial within 60 days of the district's receipt of a petition, the charter school's petition is automatically renewed. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, §11966.4(c).)

### III. BUDGET

The budget for Capitol Collegiate Academy should be detailed within the charter renewal petition and appendices. District staff will present a review of the charter's financials and provide the Board with a review of the findings and a recommendation for approval or denial at the Board Meeting on February 19, 2015.

### IV. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND MEASURES

The goal of the Public Hearing is for the Board of Education to consider the level of support for the renewal of the charter for Capitol Collegiate Academy. District staff will present a comprehensive review of the charter renewal petition and provide the Board of Education with

# Board of Education Executive Summary

## Office of the Superintendent

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a review of the findings and a recommendation for approval or denial at the Board Meeting on February 19, 2015.

### **V. MAJOR INITIATIVES**

Not Applicable.

### **VI. RESULTS**

Not Applicable.

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

- District staff conducts a thorough and comprehensive review of the charter renewal petition.
- District staff presents the findings and a recommendation for approval or denial of the charter renewal petition at the Board Meeting on February 19, 2015.
- The Board reviews District staff's findings and recommendations, and the Board approves or denies the renewal of the charter at the Board Meeting on February 19, 2015.

The charter renewal petition is available online at: <http://www.scusd.edu/document/capitol-collegiate-charter-school-renewal-petition>

**Sacramento City Unified School District  
Capitol Collegiate Academy**

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Sacramento City Unified School District hereby gives notice that a  
Public Hearing will be held as follows:

**Topic of Hearing:**

**Public Hearing on the Renewal of the Charter for Capitol Collegiate Academy**

Copies of this program may be inspected at:

**Serna Educational Center  
5735 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95824**

The Sacramento City Unified School District Governing Board will hold a public hearing in accordance with Education Code section 47607 (b) to consider the level of support for the renewal of the charter for Capitol Collegiate Academy. The district received Capitol Collegiate Academy's charter renewal petition on January 5, 2015.

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**HEARING DATE:** Thursday, January 22, 2015

**TIME:** 6:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Serna Educational Center  
5735 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95824

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Sue Lee at [sue-lee@scusd.edu](mailto:sue-lee@scusd.edu) or (916) 643-9079.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### MISSION AND VISION

Capitol Collegiate Academy prepares students in grades kindergarten through eight to compete, achieve, and lead in high school, in college and in life.

Capitol Collegiate Academy is a free public charter school founded on the firm belief that all students, regardless of race or socio-economic status, are entitled to a high quality education. We believe that a no-excuses culture is the foundation for success and that with discipline, structure, academic rigor, humility, and unyielding optimism, we will ensure that students have the early foundation necessary to go on and excel in high school, in college, and in their careers.

### NEED

In California, prison capacity and planning is based on third grade test scores. Similarly, male students who cannot read on grade level by fourth grade are over one hundred times more likely to go to jail than to go to college. In Sacramento, if only half of the high school drop outs in 2008 had graduated, the city would save over \$10 million per year in taxes paid and public dollars saved. Currently, performance on the California Standards Test remains relatively low in the South Sacramento community. Many schools in this area earned a statewide rank between 1 and 2 out of a possible 10. Further, the majority of students tested in South Sacramento last year were not on grade level, with fewer than 35% of students proficient in reading on average. The South Sacramento community is in need of public school options focused solely on establishing a powerful foundation in the early elementary years, and with the supports and structures designed to meet the clear academic needs of students growing up in these communities. Collaborating with schools to share best practices, working with community partners and parents to support student achievement, and allocating all of our available resources towards our mission will ensure that for our students in South Sacramento, zip code does not determine destiny.

### CAPACITY

Capitol Collegiate Academy is founded, developed, governed, and operated by highly-qualified, committed, and mission-aligned education, business, and community leaders. The Founding Group shares a clear and explicit belief that all students, regardless of socio-economic background, should have access to a high quality education and that these students are able to achieve at the same level as their more affluent peers. We believe that college preparation begins in kindergarten and that students should be educated with this end goal in mind. Prominent petitioners for Building Healthy Communities, a collaborative of community organizations in South Sacramento, have expressed the need for and support of our efforts. Using the expertise of this group as well as other community partners, we have assembled a team of legal, business, school, policy, and community leaders, each bringing a component of his or her expertise that will drive the work and success of the Charter School. The Lead Founder of Capitol Collegiate Academy is an urban school leader and educator with a successful background in education and business. It is through the collective work of this strong founding team that Capitol Collegiate

Academy will provide a rigorous elementary education and create college-bound students in some of South Sacramento's most at-risk communities.

## **CORE BELIEFS**

A challenging curriculum and cohesive culture are the foundational stones on which Capitol Collegiate Academy is built. We create a small, safe, and structured learning environment that challenges students to perform at their personal bests. Charter School culture drives the focus of all classrooms, while at the same time addressing the individual needs of each student. Teachers create planning documents that reflect the deliberate consideration of how students learn and what will propel them forward in achievement. Teachers are given the structure, support, and resources needed to collaborate with each other, challenge students in the classroom, and construct exceptional lesson plans and standards-driven curriculum. For those students unable to master academic content during class, daily tutoring and homework support is provided.

## **CORE VALUES**

Capitol Collegiate Academy is characterized by academics and culture. We strive to build a strong community within the Charter School and work to actively engage our students in their learning. As a result, we operate with six core values for members of our school community – humility, effort, respect, optimism, integrity, courage.

### **HUMILITY**

1. We are proud of our accomplishments without boast or brag.
2. We can be happy for others and ourselves at the same time.
3. We recognize both our strengths and our weaknesses.

### **EXCELLENCE**

1. We do our best work every day.
2. We never give up.
3. There is no such thing as “good enough.”

### **RESPECT**

1. We treat each person as valuable and worthy.
2. We accept each person for who they are.
3. We show our respect at all times for people, property, and ideas.

### **OPTIMISM**

1. We are confident in our achievement and abilities.
2. We assume the best in others.
3. We expect a successful outcome.

### **INTEGRITY**

1. We align our actions with our beliefs.
2. We do the right thing because it is the right thing to do.
3. We are honest.

### **COURAGE**

1. We know there is no obstacle too large to overcome.
2. We confront our fears with a positive attitude.
3. We maintain mental and moral resolve to always move forward.

### **LEGISLATIVE INTENT FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS**

It is the intent of the Legislature, in enacting the Charter Schools Act of 1992, to provide opportunities for teachers, parents, pupils, and community members to establish and maintain schools that operate independently from the existing school district structure, as a method to accomplish all of the following:

- (a) Improve pupil learning
- (b) Increase learning opportunities for all pupils, with special emphasis on expanded learning experience for pupils who are identified as academically low-achieving
- (c) Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods
- (d) Create new professional opportunities for teachers, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the Charter School site
- (e) Provide parents and pupils with expanded choices in the types of educational opportunities that are available within the public school system
- (f) Hold the Charter Schools established under this part accountable for meeting measurable pupil outcomes, and provide the Charter Schools with a method to change from rule-based to performance-based accountability systems
- (g) Provide vigorous competition within the public school systems to stimulate continued improvements in all public schools

Education Code Section 47605(b)(5)(B), requires each charter school to have a “charter” that provides reasonably comprehensive descriptions of at least the sixteen (16) required elements. The following provisions of this charter coincide with the requirements of Education Code Section 47605.

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR RENEWAL**

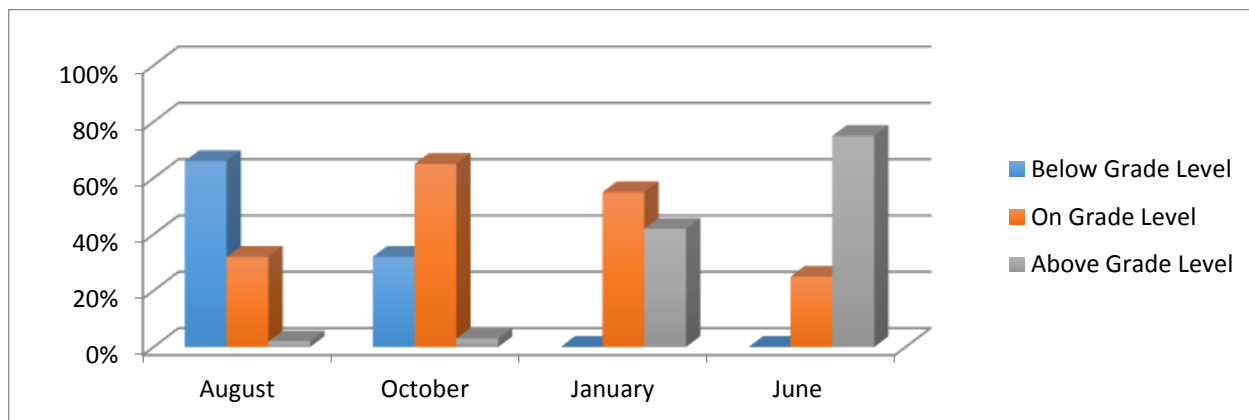
Education Code Section 47607(b) sets forth academic threshold requirements for charter schools seeking renewal after they have been in operation for four years. CCA is not required to meet the academic performance criteria as set forth in Education Code 47607(b) because it is currently in its 4<sup>th</sup> year of operation – that is, CCA has not yet completed its fourth year of operation, so the academic threshold requirements for renewal do not apply to CCA. CCA opened with kindergarten, so no state testing was done. Further, due to the recent changes in state testing, the second grade California Standards Test (“CST”) was not available for formal accountability measurement. As a result, CCA had the opportunity to utilize its Terra Nova and STEP assessment data, per its charter petition. Using this nationally normed data set, CCA did meet **all** of the performance measures listed in the original charter application.

### ***LITERACY***

The STEP Literacy Assessment® is a developmental literacy assessment, instructional tool, and data management system that defines the pathway and tracks the progress of pre-kindergarten through third grade students as they learn to read. Out of the University of Chicago, STEP

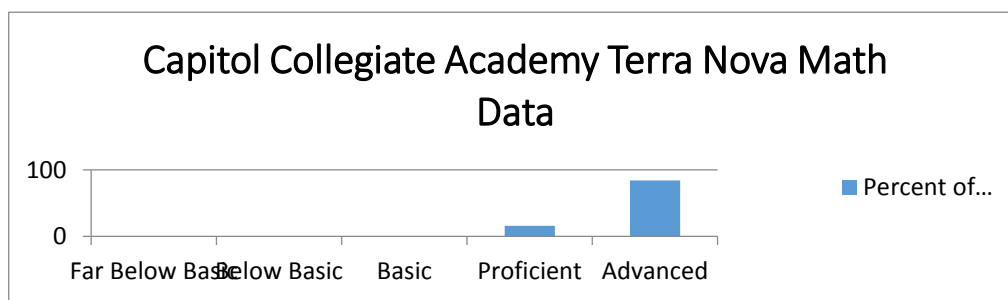
provides a more rigorous literacy assessment for schools. Specifically, STEP provides more rich and high-level data on specific areas of student knowledge in reading that are typically generalized in the more common assessments of Diebels, or the DRA. For example, STEP assesses the exact type of comprehension where student knowledge breaks down (fact, inference, or critical thinking) and provides clear rationale as to why. Further, the bar for moving forward within each level is set at a higher standard than other assessments.

**Capitol Collegiate Academy STEP Data (Kindergarten)**



## **MATH**

We teach both a Math Problem Solving as well as a Math Procedures Block. We believe that students should be able to represent their knowledge in both contexts. For Math Problem Solving, we use Singapore Math and Math Investigations. Both focus on *how* students solve and justify problems using multiple methods. In Math Procedures, students focus on standards in small groups and learn the specifics behind the steps to solving math problems. As opposed to the Problem Solving, which requires students to construct meaning *before* knowing how to more technically solve a problem, Math Procedures is the more “traditional” math that formally teaches students the logistical steps required to solve “book and paper” problems. This content is completely based on Common Core State Standards (“CCSS”) and California State Standards. Below are our Terra Nova results from last year – this is a **nationally normed assessment that compares our students to the rest of the country.**



\*\*SARC: Because CCA does not have Standardized Testing and Reporting (“STAR”) results (we did not have a tested grade

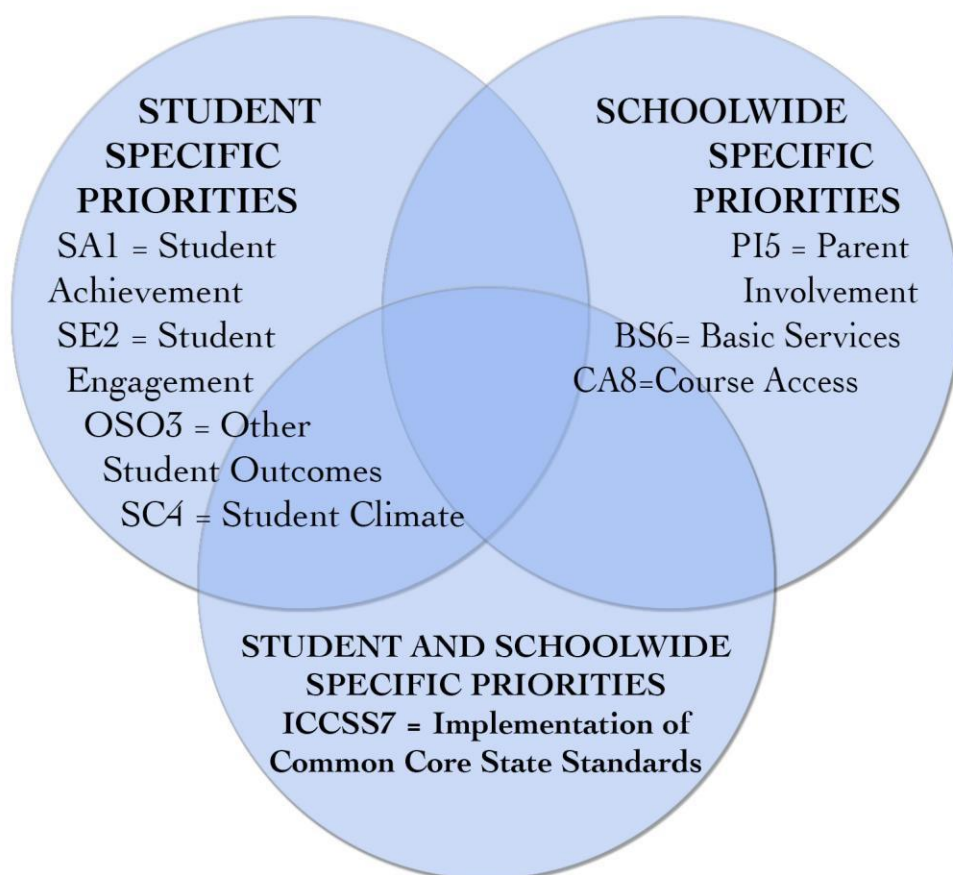


*last year), the achievement results on our SARC must legally reflect the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD or the "District") averages. The facility reports are also linked to the District standards. The staffing components are the only pieces of information that are within the control of and/or specific to the Charter School. You can find this information on our website: [www.capitolcollegiate.org](http://www.capitolcollegiate.org)*

## **EIGHT STATE PRIORITIES**

California has identified eight state priorities for schools, school districts, and county offices of education. These eight areas of specified state priorities are intended to encompass the key ingredients of high quality schools. CCA embraces these key components for success and for the purpose of discussion, has categorized the state priorities in two ways:

- 1) Student Specific Priorities – Focus on student action and performance
- 2) School-wide Specific Priorities – Focus on school-wide decision and priorities



Capitol Collegiate Academy has embraced and embodied the elements of the eight state priorities and has therefore provided a high quality and college preparatory education for all of its students. CCA's mission is aligned with California's priorities for effective schools, which will continue to be the driving force for continuous improvement in teaching and learning.

