



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 9.1

Meeting Date: August 4, 2011

Subject: Public Hearing on Charter School Petition –Oak Park Preparatory School (St. Hope Public Schools)

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

Division: Accountability Office

Recommendation: Conduct public hearing to consider the level of support for Oak Park Preparatory School Petition.

Background/Rationale: The Governing Board will hold a public hearing in accordance with Education Code section 47605 (b) to consider the level of support for the proposed Oak Park Preparatory with opening date Fall of 2012.

Financial Considerations: A report on the financial considerations will be made when district staff has completed their review of the petition.

Documents Attached:

1. Charter Petition is located on the District web-site www.scusd.edu (under Board of Ed./Board Meetings, August 4, 2011 Board Meeting – agenda item)
2. Executive Summary

Estimated Time of Presentation: 10 minutes

Submitted by: Chiem-Seng Yaangh, Ph.D., Coordinator

Approved by: Mary C. Shelton, Chief Accountability Officer

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I. Overview/History of Department or Program

Sacramento City Unified School District authorized the 18th charter school in California, Bowling Green Elementary in 1993. Since that time SCUSD has approved six “dependent” charter schools and eight “independent” charter schools.

Upon receipt of a new or renewal charter school petition, the Board of Education has 30 calendar days to hold a Public Hearing to determine the level of community support for the establishment of the charter school. The board has 60 calendar days to take action to either grant or deny the charter petition.

On July 6, 2011 SCUSD received a new independent charter petition, Oak Park Preparatory School from St. Hope Public Schools. This charter petition is seeking a five-year term for their 7th-8th grade program with proposed opening for 2012-2013. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to consider the level of support for Oak Park Preparatory School.

II. Driving Governance:

The charter school petition and renewal process is guided by Education Code 47605 (b), which states, “In reviewing petitions...the chartering authority shall be guided by the intent of the Legislature that charter schools are and should become an integral part of the California education system and that establishment of charter schools should be encouraged.” The Education Code 47605 (b) further states, “No later than thirty days after receiving a petition, ...the governing board of the school district shall hold a public hearing on the provisions of the charter, at which time the governing board of the school district shall consider the level of support for the petition by teachers employed by the district, other employees of the district, and parents.”

In addition, the Education Code 47605 (b) also states, “Following review of the petition and the public hearing, the governing board of the school district shall either grant or deny the charter within 60 days of receipt of the petition, provided, however, that the date may be extended by an additional 30 days if both parties agree to the extension.”

III. Budget:

The budget for Oak Park Preparatory School is detailed within the charter petitions and staff will do a full review of the proposed budgets.

IV. Goals, Objectives and Measures:

The District’s BP and AR 0420.4 set forth the goals and objectives of authorizing charter schools, including criteria for approval and denial of charter petitions. All new charter petitions are to be submitted between September 1 and March 1 of the prior school year unless petitioners are proposing

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to operate the school the following school year. The goal of the Public Hearing is for the Board to consider the level of support for the petition.

V. Major Initiatives:

As outlined by the petitioners of Oak Park Preparatory School (grades 7th and 8th), the program is “intentionally and strategically designed to prepare students for college by catching them up where they are not on grade level. Oak Park Prep begins its enrollment at this critical educational stage for students with a rigorous academic program focused on literacy intervention, remediation and acceleration. A seventh grade start will allow us to strengthen academic weaknesses earlier in the development of our students and ensure a successful transition of our students to high school. We do this in large part by maintaining a relentless focus on developing literacy skills.”

VI. Lessons Learned/Next Steps:

- Hear the petitioners review of charter proposal and testimony
- Conduct a thorough and comprehensive review of the charter petition
- Present the review of findings and recommendations of acceptance or denial of the charter school petition at the September 1, 2011 Board Meeting.