



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 9.1

Meeting Date: February 2, 2012

Subject: Public Hearing on Charter School Renewal Petition – George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science, a Waldorf-Inspired High School

- 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 the renewal petition of the George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science.

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 the George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science Petition (Charter renewal date: July 1, 2012).

Financial Considerations: A report on the financial considerations will be made when the 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, February 2nd 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

Board of Education Executive Summary

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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 nine “independent” charter schools.

On January 17, 2012 SCUSD received a dependent charter renewal petition from the George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science. The District first granted the charter in June 2003 as America’s Choice High School. Upon renewal in April 2007, material revision was approved to become George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science, a Waldorf-inspired high school. This charter petition is seeking a five-year renewal term for their 9-12th grade program. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider the level of support for the George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science.

II. Driving Governance:

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 extend the charter. At least 30 calendar days before the expiration date, the Board shall either grant or deny the request for renewal.

The newly-adopted regulations allow for the automatic renewal of a charter school petition, 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. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, §11966.4(c).)

III. Budget:

The budget for the George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science is detailed within the charter petition and staff will conduct a full review of the proposed budgets.

IV. Goals, Objectives and Measures:

The goal of the Public Hearing is for the Board to consider the level of support for the George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science petition.

District staff will conduct a comprehensive review of the charter school’s petition and provide the Board finding of facts and recommendations for approval or denial at the March 1, 2012 Board Meeting.

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V. Major Initiatives:

As outlined by the petitioners, the George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science offers “Waldorf methods as our besting practices. Teaching and Learning is a process that engages the head (the intellect and academic content) the heart (students must feel excited and in relationship to what they are learning), and hands (students transform what they have learned and how they felt about it into a product). We integrate creativity, critical thinking and creative problem solving in all our lessons. Students write across the curriculum and engage in discussion of ideas, theories and findings in all their subjects.”

VI. Lessons Learned/Next Steps:

- Hear the petitioners’ presentation of their petition for renewal and testimonies
- Conduct a thorough and comprehensive review of the renewal charter petition
- Present to the board staff findings of facts and recommendations of acceptance or denial of the charter school renewal petition at the March 1, 2012 Board Meeting