



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 9.4

Meeting Date: April 12, 2012

Subject: Public Hearing and Action on Charter School Renewal Petition – The Met Sacramento 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: To conduct public hearing to consider the level of support for the renewal petition of the Met Sacramento High School, and to conference and take action to approve renewal petition.

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 Met Sacramento High School Petition (Charter renewal date: July 1, 2012). The district received the Met Sacramento High School renewal petition on February 15, 2012. The school waived the 30 days public hearing timeline in favor of a joint public hearing and board action at this April 12, 2012 board meeting. As such, District staff has conducted an extensive review of the petition. The staff report and recommendation are being presented for Board Action on April 12, 2012.

Financial Considerations: The financial considerations are outlined within the executive summary document.

Documents Attached:

1. Charter Petition is located on the District web-site: www.scusd.edu
(under Board of Ed./Board Meetings, April 12th – agenda item)
2. Executive Summary

Estimated Time of Presentation: 15 minutes

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

Approved by: Mary C. Shelton, Chief Accountability Officer

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Public Hearing and Action on Charter School Renewal Petition – Met Sacramento High School

I. Overview of Charter School Renewal Petition:

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 February 15, 2012, SCUSD received a dependent charter renewal petition from the Met Sacramento High School (“The Met”). The District first granted the charter in June 2003. 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 Met.

After reviewing the renewal petition, the District provided The Met with a list of three (3) elements that were identified as needing modification prior to staff recommendation for approval of the renewal petition. In response, The Met provided the District with an updated renewal petition (“Revised Petition”).

The District first granted The Met charter school in June 2003 and granted the first renewal on April 19, 2007. The charter expires on June 30, 2012. The Met Sacramento is known for their personalized curricula for each student. Rather than expecting all students to pursue the same body of knowledge at the same time and rate, Met students have personalized curricula that are indeed designed one student at a time. In addition, The Met offers real world learning opportunities through their internship program.

II. Driving Governance:

The Charter Schools Act of 1992 (“Act”) governs the creation of charter schools in the State of California. The Act includes Education Code section 47605(b) which provides the standards and criteria for petition review, and provides that a school district governing board considering whether to grant a charter petition “shall be guided by the intent of the 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.” (Ed. Code, §47605(b).) In addition, the Act provides that renewals and material revisions of charters are governed by the standards and criteria set forth in Education Code §47605. Specifically, the governing board may not deny a petition for renewal unless it makes written factual findings setting forth for specific facts to support one, or more of five findings:

- 1) The charter school presents an unsound educational program for the pupils to be enrolled in the charter school,

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- 2) The petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition,
- 3) The petition does not contain the number of signatures prescribed by code,
- 4) The petition does not contain an affirmation of each of the conditions prescribed by code and
- 5) The petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of sixteen certain elements in its program and operations.

Newly-adopted State regulations require for the automatic renewal of a charter school petition, if a school district fails to adopt 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).)

In addition, a charter school seeking renewal must also meet at least one of the following criteria as set forth in Education Code §47607:

- 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.
- 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, as well as the academic performance of the schools in the school district in which the charter school is located, taking into account the composition of the pupil population that is served at the charter school.

If one of above standard is met, the governing board may grant the renewal assuming that the renewal petition also complies with the standards and criteria of Education Code §47605, as discussed above. The Met achieved its academic performance index (API) growth target during the prior year (2010-2011). In 2010-2011, The Met's API growth target was seven (7) and its actual growth was forty-seven (47). The school's API score in 2011 was 715.

The Met has met one of the academic achievement standards of Education Code section 47607 and has complied with the standards and criteria of Education Code section 47605. We recommend that the governing board grant The Met's renewal petition.

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III. Results of Petition Review:

The Petition provided the information required by the Charter Schools Act of 1992 (Education Code §47605); however, District Staff recommended some revisions to improve the petition in three areas: 1) Element A, Education Program as it relates to English Language Learners; 2) Element D, Governance Structure Pertaining to Parent Involvement; and 3) Element M, Description of Employee Rights.

The Met timely and effectively responded to staff recommendations by submitting the Revised Petition to the District.

1. *Element A, Education Program as it Relates to English Language Learners*

Staff Recommendation: The English Language Learner section needs more detailed description of (1) how the required mandated State law will be met, such as how parents are notified of their students' annual progress from year to year; (2) how teachers will continue to receive professional development to support English language learners.

The Met's Response: The Revised Petition expanded the English Language Learner sections, which provided the comprehensive descriptions that are required for Element A. The Met elaborated on how they will ensure legal compliance pertaining to notification.

The Met notifies all parents of its responsibility for CELDT testing and of CELDT results within thirty days of receiving results from the district office. The Met complies with applicable requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act with regards to EL students. (Revised Petition, page 15)

In response to how teachers will continue to receive professional development to support English learners, The Met makes the following commitment:

To support Met EL students we also provide high quality professional development in ELL strategies and foster parent and community engagement to support EL developments including a home language survey and ELAC meetings a minimum of quarterly... Met teachers receive training in English Learner Strategies from Sacramento City Unified School District as well as from Big Picture Learning. (Revised Petition, page 16)

2. *Element D, Governance Structure Pertaining to Parent Involvement*

Staff Recommendation: The Met's charter petition contained the parent engagement practices; however, Staff recommended that The Met create a school based parent involvement policy and a school compact.

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The Met's Response: In the revised petition, The Met made a commitment to fulfill this recommendation, "a school based family policy and school compact will be in effect by the fall of 2012," (Revised Petition, Page 20)

3. *Element M, Description of Employee Rights*

Staff Recommendation: This element of the charter did not describe sick/vacation leave and the ability to carry it over to and from charter school, did not describe whether staff will continue to earn service credit (tenure) in the district while at charter school, did not show how employees will be paid, did not provide a description of employment benefits, and did not identify whether the charter school will be responsible for the payment of social security.

The Met's Response: The revised petition further addressed employee rights and this element is now reasonably comprehensive. As district employees, faculty and staff at The Met:

- are part of the collective bargaining unit;
- may resume employment within the district if they leave The Met;
- sick/vacation leave carry over;
- continue to earn service credit (tenure) while at the charter school;
- are salaried employees of SCUSD;
- eligible for all SCUSD employee benefits;
- earn tenure per the SCUSD policy;
- are eligible for STRS or PERS per SCUSD policy

(Revised Petition, page 26)

IV. Budget Implications

Even though a negative financial impact to the District cannot be used as criteria to deny a charter school petition, the potential loss of district students does reduce available revenue in General Fund.

The following are estimates based upon known information:

To estimate the Loss of Revenue Limit and Lottery Funds for 290ADA for 2012-2013 school year, offset by a reduction in expenses for teachers and supplies, the potential reduction of funds to the district is approximately \$297,000.

These losses would be offset by any fees paid to the district, including (but not limited to) fees for lease of facility. Also, one percent of the Charter School's state revenues would be paid to the district for oversight.

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V. Conclusion:

The revisions made to the Petition by The Met meet the requirements and recommendations of the District. Staff recommends that the Petition be approved for a five year term of renewal.

VI. Next Steps:

- Upon board approval, District Staff will continue to monitor the development and implementation of The Met's goals and objectives set-forth in the petition.

SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2699

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PETITION TO RENEW THE CHARTER OF
Met Sacramento High School**

WHEREAS, petitioners for Met Sacramento High School (“Petitioners”) submitted to Sacramento City Unified School District (“District”) a charter renewal petition (“Petition”), dated February, 2012, for the Met Sacramento High School (“The Met”); 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 and took board action on April 12, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board has considered the level of public support for The Met 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 the MET for another term.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the term of the charter shall be for five (5) years, beginning on July 1, 2012 and expiring June 30, 2017.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education on this 12th day of April, 2012, by the following vote:

AYES: _____
NOES: _____
ABSTAIN: _____
ABSENT: _____

Diana Rodriguez
President of the Board of Education

ATTESTED TO:

Jonathan Raymond
Secretary of the Board of Education