



Board Agenda Item #	III D: Action Item
Date:	February 11, 2021
To:	Magnolia Public Schools Board of Directors
From:	Alfredo Rubalcava, CEO & Superintendent
Staff Lead:	Alfredo Rubalcava, CEO & Superintendent
RE:	Approval of Resolution for Material Revision to Merge MSA-4 into MSA-6

Proposed Board Motion

I move that the MPS board approve the resolution that authorizes the following: (1) Material revision for MSA-6's Charter Petition and (2) Closure of MSA-4 effective June 30, 2021, and authorize the MPS CEO and Superintendent to take the necessary actions needed to complete the material revision process.

Introduction

This item was initially presented and approved by the board during the 2019-20 school year. After the submission of the MSA-6 material revision MPS leadership made the decision to withdraw the submission and resubmit the following year, 2020-21.

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) allows charter operators to amend their charter petitions if the school wishes to make any substantial changes to their educational program, governance, organizational structure, amongst other changes. After a review of MPS' current enrollment viability it became apparent that the MPS West Los Angeles site, MSA-4, was steadily declining in student enrollment. Many efforts have been made for that campus to increase enrollment but the results have been unsubstantial, causing budget constraints on the school and the organization. Therefore, MPS' leadership team determined that the best solution would be to merge MSA-4 into MSA-6 and go through the Material Revision process with LAUSD.

Background

The Los Angeles Unified School District currently authorizes Magnolia Science Academy 4 and Magnolia Science Academy 6. The resolution being approved addresses the request for a material revision to Magnolia Science Academy 6's charter petition to reflect a merger with Magnolia Science Academy 4, which will make MSA-6 a middle and high school. Over the years, MSA-4 has experienced a decline in enrollment, which has resulted in fewer classrooms for the 100 6-12th graders. Considering the proximity between MSA-4 and MSA-6 being 2.4 miles apart, MPS administrators project little to not travel burdens on the current families due to the merger.

Currently, MSA-6 has three more years in their current charter term before their next renewal during the 2023-24 school year. MSA-6 has consistently maintained a steady level of student enrollment. The school currently occupies a church facility in the Palms neighborhood and in an effort to be proactive, both MSA-6 and MSA-4 submitted an application for additional facilities under Proposition 39 to ensure it has space to accommodate the high school grades at a separate

facility. As of February 1, 2021, MSA-4 received a Prop. 39 offer for MSA-4's current location, Webster Middle School and includes three classrooms, two resource centers, and one admin building.

With the approval of this merger, MSA-6 would inherit grades 9-12 and MSA-4 would close effective June 30, 2021.

Analysis (If applicable)

- NA

Budget Implications

- NA

Exhibits (attachments):

- Resolution: Approval of Resolution for Material Revision to Merge MSA-4 into MSA-6

Resolution of the Board of Directors No. X
of
Magnolia Educational & Research Foundation

Approval of Material Revision to Merge MSA-4 into MSA-6

WHEREAS the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Magnolia Educational & Research Foundation, doing business as Magnolia Public Schools (“MPS”) currently operates four (4) charter schools authorized by the Los Angeles Unified School District (“LAUSD”), including Magnolia Science Academy-4 (“MSA-4”) (grades 6-12), and Magnolia Science Academy-6 (“MSA-6”) (grades 6-8); and

WHEREAS, MSA-4 and MSA-6 are geographically close to one another, operating approximately 2.4 miles apart; and

WHEREAS, many MSA-6 students seek to continue their education at MSA-4 for high school; and

WHEREAS the Board seeks to materially revise the MSA-6 charter to merge MSA-4 into MSA-6, thereby closing MSA-4 effective June 30, 2021, and increasing the grade span of MSA-6 from 6-8 to 6-12 and its enrollment capacity to 300, effective July 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS the Board finds that it is in the best interests of the students of MSA-4 and MSA-6, to operate one school, serving grades 6-12; and

WHEREAS the rationale for this request includes the following:

1. MSA-4 has experienced declining enrollment, resulting in its budget being unsustainable for the 2021-22 school year and beyond;
2. Due to its declining enrollment, MSA-4 has received fewer classrooms and ancillary space from LAUSD at its current location at the Daniel Webster Middle School under Proposition 39 making it impossible to continue to run a successful program at that location (to wit, 5 classrooms, one resource center, and one admin building serving grades 6-12 and a total of 131 students);
3. The Board seeks to continue offering a grades 6-12 span school for students on the Westside of Los Angeles;
4. MSA-6 has been a high-performing school since its first year of operation in 2009, and the Board’s priority is to maintain the quality and fiscal health of all of its schools;
5. The MSA-6 facility is presently located at a church facility in the Palms neighborhood but has submitted an application to LAUSD to secure additional facilities under Proposition 39 and expects to receive sufficient space to accommodate the students from the merged schools;
6. The reconstituted MSA-6 school will have sufficient enrollment and resources to allow it to secure a private facility in the next few years; and

WHEREAS MPS is fully prepared and able to accommodate a high quality 6-12 charter school at MSA-6. The four-year budget forecast, which includes the remaining years of the charter term (Attachment A of the material revision) clearly demonstrates MPS’s ability to operate a 6-12 educational program while maintaining a balanced budget.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that MPS staff is hereby authorized and directed to prepare a material revision of the MSA-6 charter for submission to LAUSD; and

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER that MPS authorizes and directs its Superintendent and Chief

Executive Officer, Alfredo Rubalcava, to sign the request for a material revision, execute the amendment document, and otherwise act on behalf of MPS with respect to the material revision application process; and

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that MPS authorizes and directs Chief Executive Officer Rubalcava and other MPS staff, as needed, to work with LAUSD on the details of the material revision submission, and authorizes and directs Chief Executive Officer Rubalcava and other MPS staff, as needed, to amend the material revision application based on the best interests of MPS; and

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that the nature and scope of the major changes associated with the material revision of the MSA-6 charter are, and such changes are authorized to be included in the material revision:

- Amending the enrollment capacity to 300
- Revising relevant educational program elements to reflect a 6-12 academic program
- Revising the budget forecast to reflect the 6-12 program
- Including current District Required Language
- Updating the charter for any new laws enacted since the MSA-6 charter was last approved, pursuant to Education Code Section 47607(b); and

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that all actions by Chief Executive Officer Rubalcava and other MPS staff taken on behalf of MPS to do all that is necessary to effect and complete the actions authorized in this resolution are hereby ratified and approved.

* * *

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board of Directors has adopted the above resolution by the following vote at a regular Board meeting this 11th day of February 2021.

Board Member	Vote
Mr. Haim Beliak	
Dr. Umit Yapanel	
Dr. Salih Dikbas	
Ms. Sandra Covarrubias	
Ms. Diane Gonzalez	
Mr. Mekan Muhammedov	

AYES:

NOS:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

By: _____
Haim Beliak, Chair