



Date: March 8, 2018

To: Board of Directors

From: Kevin Sved, CEO

Re: Authorization to Submit Charter Petition for Watsonville Prep School

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board authorize the CEO to submit a Charter Petition for Watsonville Prep School in substantially the same form as the draft Watsonville Prep Petition provided to the Board on March 8, 2018.

Background

A Navigator School in Watsonville would make a huge positive impact for low-income students who currently do not have an option for a high-performing public school. In October 2017, the Navigator Schools Board of Directors authorized the Navigator Staff to begin market development in Watsonville with the goal of submitting a charter petition to Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD) in the first quarter of 2018. Since that time, significant progress has been made in developing support for Watsonville Prep School (WPS) and in meeting the Board's established criteria for greenlighting. In the attached presentation, progress to date is measured against the 18-month prelaunch criteria. Key highlights of Navigator's progress include:

- Andrea Hernandez has been selected as the Principal for Watsonville Prep School.
- Watsonville Prep parents submitted 180 intent to enroll forms
- A multi-year grant was secured from the Charter School Growth Fund and Navigator is in the final stages of due diligence with Silicon Schools Fund for start-up support.
- Watsonville Prep Parent Leaders participated in Innovate Public Schools Community Organizer Parent Leader training and are scheduled to speak to Navigator Schools Board of Directors.
- Two potential school sites have been identified.
- A leadership pipeline has been established and formal ways to cultivate leaders are in place. Andrea Hernandez participated in Relay Graduate School of Education in Fall 2017, Innovate Public Schools Principal Fellowship in 2017-18, and is in the final round of being considered for the Accelerate Institute's Ryan Fellowship. This fellowship will support her work as a new principal for three years.

While staff is recommending moving forward with submission of the WPS charter petition based on progress made against the greenlighting criteria, staff is also aware that there is still important work ahead to realize WPS charter approval and ultimately deliver a high-quality Navigator School in Watsonville. Areas where substantial progress has been made with more work ahead include:

- Facilities: Two potential school sites have been identified but more work needs to be done to determine feasibility. Additionally, since committing to real estate investment so far in advance of opening is not economically viable at this time, two additional site options for the first 2 years of operation should be identified.
- Support Office Thriving: The Support Office team worked diligently to strengthen trust and accountability. Significant progress has been made, and with a shared commitment to continuous improvement, we are on a path to become a high-functioning team.

- A High-Quality Charter Petition: The latest charter petition is attached and is currently being reviewed by California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) and Young, Minney, & Corr (YMC). Staff improved the renewal petitions by fine-tuning the academic model in Element 1. CCSA and YMC are helping to ensure that the charter petition will meet the rigor of the State Board of Education in the event that the petition is denied at the local and county levels. Staff will incorporate the suggested changes of CCSA and YMC and, with delegated approval by the Navigator Board of Directors, submit the charter petition to the Pajaro Valley Unified School District by the end of March 2018.

Summary

Staff seeks Board approval to submit the Charter Petition for Watsonville Prep School in substantially the same form as the draft Watsonville Prep Petition provided to the Board on March 8, 2018.