APPROVED

Libertas Academy Charter School

Minutes

Special Meeting

Charter Renewal App & Annual Report Approval

Date and Time
Wednesday July 21, 2021 at 5:00 PM

Location
Zoom Meeting
https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5069946767?pwd=QXEvbzlHb0tYZWE4VHl6MCtrVFlGUT09
Meeting ID: 506 994 6767
Password: 12345

Trustees Present
A. Surrette (remote), D. Barrows (remote), H. Zavala (remote), K. Diamond Kayiatos (remote), L. Davis (remote), N. Barker (remote), T. Curtis (remote)

Trustees Absent
A. Seymour, L. Flynn, S. Williams

Trustees who left before the meeting adjourned
T. Curtis

Ex Officio Members Present
M. Montero (remote)

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

L. Davis called a meeting of the board of trustees of Libertas Academy Charter School to order on Wednesday Jul 21, 2021 at 5:04 PM.

II. Voting Items

A. Annual Report

MM reminded Trustees that the Annual Report is a doc created every year and submitted to DESE. Its an opportunity for charter schools to provide an update on the work that has been done this past year based on promises in the charter.

MM noted that a finial scrub for grammatical errors, granular details etc. needs to take place thus is asking for conditional approval with a final doc - fully scrubbed - to be emailed by EOD Tuesday 7/27. FYI - Sue Walsh has also reviewed these documents.

MM noted this report differs from Annual Reports in past years in two ways: 1) the impact COVID has had on our program and 2) Accountability Plan - community service & reading diagnostics - couldn't do full program as these elements had to take place in person. This explanation noted on the document.

NB: Has DESE indicated how they are going to evaluate us this year ? MM - not directly although they've discussed in general terms.

DB : Did COVID impact reading progress negatively? MM - yes, our students certainly read less this year vs. past years due to limitations being remote. Hired a director of literacy for upcoming year to close the gap.

Hector: Motion to conditionally approve the annual report and charter application. With the understanding that the management team is doing a final scrub for grammar and formatting before 7/30 submission. (Final Draft to trustees by 5 pm Tuesday. Questions from Trustees by 5 pm Thursday . Document submitted Friday 7/30.
T. Curtis left at 5:19 PM.

B. Charter Renewal Application

MM reviewed to the group that the Charter Renewal App is a similar but longer document in comparison to Annual Report. Charter Apps talks through the last 4 years vs. last year (as in Annual report). As a school, we submit this doc to inform DESE that we want to be renewed. In Fall DESE will do an onsite visit with various focus groups etc. This document sets up that visit.

MM noted that a finial scrub for grammatical errors, granular details etc. needs to take place thus is asking for conditional approval with a final doc - fully scrubbed - to be emailed by EOD Tuesday 7/27.
FYI - Sue Walsh has also reviewed these documents.

MM highlights from the Charter App & review of past 4 years = Governance and Financial Mgt. continue to be a strong point.
MM : Biggest threat to the work we are doing - 1) student achievement (tricky bc we only have 2 real years worth of MCAs data. Unclear how DESE will handle this) 2) Access and Equity - we have been "dinged" on this at past site visits, specifically :

a) Discipline numbers from year 1 (suspensions rates were too high)
b) attendance rates in past years .

Hectors : "Suspensions rates have gone down but still higher than state average".
MM: we've hired onsite counselors , suspension rates are an absolute last resort , and have put other systems in place to rectify and continue to improve these percentages.

Tony asked from a reminder on the 4 levels of renewal :
MM : 1) Clean renewal (schools in a strong place), 2) Conditional approval (doings pretty good but here are the things you need to work on), 3) Renewal with Probation (renewing you but here are some serious concerns , with timelines) 4) Non-renewal

Hector: Motion to conditionally approve the annual report and charter application. With the understanding that the management team is doing a final scrub for grammar and formatting before 7/30 submission. (Final Draft to trustees by 5 pm Tuesday. Questions from Trustees by 5 pm Thursday . Document submitted Friday 7/30.
K. Diamond Kayiatos made a motion to Conditionally approve the annual report and charter application with the understanding that the management team is doing a final scrub fro grammar and formatting before 7/30 submission.
A. Surrette seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
H. Zavala	Aye
D. Barrows	Aye
L. Davis	Aye
L. Flynn	Absent
A. Surrette	Aye
N. Barker	Aye
A. Seymour	Absent
T. Curtis	Absent
K. Diamond Kayiatos	Aye
S. Williams	Absent

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
H. Zavala