

PEER REVIEW of Application

SSES CHARTER SCHOOL Comments

We appreciate the feedback from the Peer Review Committee and the time spent providing thoughtful comments to help build a solid charter application. We intend to review and address all areas. We have specifically commented on the “does not meet” portions. Thank you.

Comment: D.2 Equity Plan

The Peer Review Committee asked for a broader plan and internal mechanisms to encourage equity and inclusion. The Founding Committee will continue to add to our plan and seek creative ideas on enhancing inclusion. The Peer Review Committee also needed clarification on our needs assessment. One of our new founding committee members is a data analyst. We will work with her to strengthen the plan.

Comment: F.3 Instruction

The Peer Review Committee asked for a proposed schedule for at-risk populations beyond ELL. The Founding Committee will work on strengthening our support of this population and will address truancy.

Comment: C.1 Governing Body

The Peer Review Committee stated that our Governing Body plan did not include a specific plan for data collection. Again, one of our new founding committee members is a data analyst. We will work with her to strengthen and broaden the plan. The Founding Committee will also review and strengthen our criteria for success in overseeing the school's academics, operations and finances.

Comment: D.1 Organizational Chart

The Peer Review Committee noted that our organizational chart was incomplete. The Founding Committee will work on updating and expanding our chart.

Comment: D.2 Job Descriptions

The Peer Review Committee noted that our School Director and Principal have nearly identical responsibilities, and we had mentioned some of the jobs in the application that do not appear in the appendix. The founding committee will review and adjust the job descriptions and update the appendix to reflect all of the jobs mentioned in the application.

Comment: D.3 Staffing needs and plans

The Peer Review Committee noted that staffing plans need more detail along with a better explanation of the role teachers will play. The Founding Committee will add detail and explanation.

Comment: E Employer / Employee terms

The Peer Review Committee stated that no employee handbook / policies were included. The application discusses preparing a handbook. The Founding Committee has begun working on a handbook and will continue to finalize it.

Comment: F.1 Community / Educator / Parent Involvement in Governance Plan

The Peer Review Committee asked for further description of how families can be involved in the governance and operation plans. The Founding Committee will expand our Governance Plan to include family participation, and how we will include educators and community.

Comment: J.2 Food Service Plan

The Peer Review Committee notes that no actions have been taken to form a relationship with a food vendor. The Founding committee will work on building and describing this relationship.

Comment: K.2 Evidence of Researched Facilities / Properties

The Peer Review Committee notes that our preferred facility would need to undergo significant renovations. And notes that the lease payment of the preferred facility is very high. The Founding Committee has been exploring multiple options for a facility. The preferred facility is the newest and safest for students viewed so far. We believe there would not need to be much renovation and we are continuing to negotiate better lease payments with the current owner as well as looking at other options.

Comment: B.2 Appendix G 5 Year Budget Plan

The Peer Review Committee was unclear on what services will be provided based on our Budget submission (B.2). The Founding Committee is continuing to work on detailed estimates on what these expenses would be and options for who we would contract. These include SPED, Title 1, Title 2, and food service expenses. We appreciate the recommendation that we include a licensed school budget person as part of our founding committee moving forward.

Comment: C.2 Staff for Financial Tasks

The Peer Review Committee states that the business manager is listed throughout the whole contract, however, this section does not make it clear how the GC, School Director, School Business Contractor, and Administrative Assistant will all work together to have smooth and compliant financial operations. It was suggested earlier that we include a licensed school budget person as part of our founding committee moving forward. This person will assist in further explaining this process.

CAPACITY INTERVIEW

SSES CHARTER SCHOOL Comments

Question #4

Interviewers asked about our process for finding, selecting and evaluating our school leader. The Founding Committee has been working on a clear job description. We intend to publicize the role, accept applications, and hold a group interview. We are collecting interested stakeholders from the community to be on the interview panel. We have a strong candidate and she has stated she intends to apply.

Question #8

The interviewers asked how we will ensure our policies are effective, helpful and efficient, and up to date. The Governing Council will have their own policies and calendar of activities to ensure timely updates. Regular reviews between GC and school stakeholders can provide feedback on when change is needed.

Question #12

Interviewers asked about our process for finding and recruiting students. We currently have a public survey and are now starting to receive great feedback including interest in enrolling. If approved, we will continue to advertise, publicize and hold informational events.

Question #13

Interviewers asked about our process for adjusting if our enrollment does not meet expectations. The Founding Committee will work on building detailed plans using several scenarios that could occur.

Question #14

Interviewers asked about our detailed plan and timeline to hire and train staff. The Founding Committee will continue to update and expand our planning timeline and actions to meet school opening.

Question #17

Interviewers asked about evidence that families will enroll their students. The Founding Committee has an ongoing survey which we will use to continue to gather data. Our next step will be to gather lists of interested families, provide opportunities to educate them about our school, and enroll them.

Question #18

Interviewers asked about how we will ensure our school is inclusive and equitable. We intend to create an inclusive workplace that acknowledges employee differences and a space where all voices can be heard. We will use one of the many amazing trainings available on inclusion and equity. We will also enforce strict anti-discrimination policies.

Question #19

Interviewers suggested we include a licensed school budget person as part of our Founding Committee. We agree and will pursue this option.