

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ O. _____

Date: _____ June 22, 2005 _____

Topic: Report from the Board of Education's Charter School Application Review Committee on a Proposed Public Charter School Application

Presenter: Mrs. Eleanor Saslaw, Board of Education Member and Chair of the Charter School Application Review Committee

Origin:

_____ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

Board review required by

State or federal law or regulation

_____ Board of Education regulation

_____ Other: _____

_____ Action requested at this meeting _____ Action requested at future meeting: _____

Previous Review/Action:

No previous board review/action

_____ Previous review/action

date _____

action _____

Background Information: Section 22.1-212.9 of the *Code of Virginia* provides that a public charter school applicant may submit its proposed charter application to the Board of Education for review and comment. The law stipulates that the board shall examine the application for feasibility, curriculum, and financial soundness. At its July 21, 2004, meeting, the Board of Education adopted a process and approved criteria for examining charter school applications. As part of the process, a committee was established to evaluate applications based on the established criteria. The committee is required to submit a report to the Board of Education.

Summary of Major Elements: The Charter School Application Review Committee met on May 24, 2005, to examine the public charter school application submitted by the Blue Hills Foundation for the establishment of the Loudoun Science Academy Public Charter School in Loudoun, Virginia. The committee reviewed the application based on the criteria established by the board and stipulated in the law. Attachment A contains the summary report prepared by the committee.

Superintendent's Recommendation: N/A

Impact on Resources: There is a minimum impact on resources. The agency's existing resources can absorb costs at this time.

Timetable for Further Review/Action: Following the Board of Education's receipt of the summary report, a full report will be transmitted to the Blue Hills Foundation for the Loudoun Science Academy.

**Virginia Board of Education's
Charter School Application Review Committee**

**Summary Report for Application Submitted by the
Blue Hills Foundation for the Loudoun Science Academy
Loudoun, Virginia**

June 22, 2005

The Charter School Application Review Committee met on May 24, 2005, to examine the public charter school application submitted by Blue Hills Foundation for the Loudoun Science Academy in Loudoun, Virginia. The committee reviewed the application for the following criteria established by the Board of Education and stipulated in the *Code of Virginia*: 1) feasibility, 2) curriculum, and 3) financial soundness. A summary report of the committee's findings is submitted below.

Area 1: Feasibility

Under the area of feasibility, the applicant addressed the four required topics. These topics were: 1) mission statement; 2) goals and educational objectives that meet or exceed the Standards of Learning; 3) evidence of support from parents, teachers, pupils, and residents of the school division in support of the formation of the charter school; and 4) statement of need. The committee made suggestions for the applicant in each of these areas.

Area 2: Curriculum

Under the area of curriculum, the applicant addressed the four required topics. These topics were: 1) the public charter school's educational program; 2) pupil performance standards; 3) pupil evaluation including assessments, timeline, and corrective action; and 4) a timeline for the achievement of the stated standards and goals and a procedure for corrective action if student performance falls below the stated standards and goals. The committee made suggestions for the applicant in each of these areas.

Area 3: Financial Soundness

Under the area of financial soundness, the applicant addressed the one required topic: a financial plan that included evidence of economical soundness, a proposed budget, and an annual audit. The committee made suggestions for the applicant in this area.