

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
CHARTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Minutes

May 23, 2012

The Board of Education Charter School Committee met at the James Monroe State Office Building, Jefferson Conference Room, 22nd Floor, Richmond, with the following members present: Mr. Rob Krupicka, chair, Mrs. Betsy Beamer, Mr. Chris Braunlich, Mr. Walter Cross, and Dr. Rick Richardson. Also present were Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Patricia Wright and Board member Mrs. Diane Atkinson.

Mr. Rob Krupicka called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

After opening remarks, Mr. Krupicka described the steps of the review process and reviewed the committee's task of examining the Loudoun Math and IT Academy (LMITA) public charter school application as stipulated in the *Code of Virginia*. The purpose of the meeting was for the committee to discuss the application, meet with the applicant, and decide if the application met the Board's approval criteria.

Mr. Krupicka made note of the supplemental materials that the applicant sent in advance of the meeting and then confirmed that the applicant information was complete; the executive summary provided an overview of the proposed charter school; and the assurances were signed.

Before the examination of the application, Mr. Krupicka introduced the applicant, Dr. Ali Bicak. He, in turn, introduced Ms. Mindy Williams who provided a history of the Loudoun Math and IT Academy. She then recognized the other members of the team: Ms. Sharon Inetas, Dr. Ali Gokce, Mr. Fatih Kandil, Mr. Sinan Yildirim, and Dr. Mustafa Emin Sahin. Dr. Nataliya Blyznyuk was recognized as a founding member but was not in attendance.

Mr. Krupicka gave Dr. Bicak and his team the opportunity to address critical areas in the application. The applicant provided an overview of the main points of the application's components grouped into three areas: Education, Logistical, and Business. After the applicant addressed each area, the committee had the opportunity to ask questions.

A public comment period followed with the following persons addressing the committee:

- Ms. Sharon Inetas, LMITA board
- Mr. Spear Lancaster, Chair and founding board member at Chesapeake Science Point Charter School
- Ms. Michelle Taylor, Board member at Chesapeake Science Point Charter School
- Mr. John Stevens, Former chair of the Loudoun County Public School Board

Following public comment, the committee determined if the Board’s criteria had been met. Consensus was reached on the majority of criteria; however, there were additional discussions on the Statement of Need, Enrollment Process, and Economic Soundness components of the application before taking a vote. The applicant was encouraged to enhance the statement of need in the application to reflect the in-depth overview of need presented at the meeting. In the Enrollment Process, there was a concern about the lack of criteria for admission. Regarding Economic Soundness, fiscal issues were noted, and the applicant was cautioned about the reliance on state funds at a time when those funds have generally declined. There were additional concerns regarding the leasing of the building and site and subsequent negotiations with the lessor throughout the life of the school. In addition, references were made regarding the large number of management staff and concerns about the small percentage of parental representation on the school’s board of directors. The applicant was encouraged to work closely with the Loudoun County Public Schools to produce a sound, realistic budget and to address concerns noted.

After the committee’s discussion on the three components, unanimous agreement was reached that the applicant had met two of the three remaining criteria. For Economic Soundness, the vote was four in agreement that the criteria had been met, with Mr. Braunlich casting the dissenting vote.

The components, criteria, and action by the committee are listed below.

Required Application Components		Met the Criterion
I.	Executive Summary	Yes
II.	Mission Statement	Yes
III.	Goals and Educational Objectives	Yes
IV.	Evidence of Support	Yes
V.	Statement of Need	Yes
VI.	Educational Program	Yes
VII.	Enrollment Process	Yes
VIII.	Economic Soundness	Yes
IX.	Displacement	Yes
X.	Management and Operation	Yes
XI.	Employment Terms and Conditions	Yes
XII.	Liability and Insurance	Yes
XIII.	Transportation	Yes
XIV.	Residential Charter School	N/A
XV.	Disclosures	Yes

Mr. Krupicka explained that a consensus report will be prepared and provided to the applicant within ten business days. The report will be presented to the Board for first review at the June 22, 2012, meeting. The Board will make a determination as to whether the Loudoun Math and IT Academy charter school application meets the approval criteria and take final action at the July 26, 2012, meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Krupicka at 3:15 p.m.