



Feedback from Green Run Collegiate (GRC) regarding the Virginia Board of Education Committee concerns:

During the committee meeting on February 27th, several concerns were discussed regarding the application for GRC. We have prepared this document to provide the Virginia Board of Education (VBOE) with the following responses resulting from discussions of the questions since the VBOE Committee meeting in February.

Why has Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) elected to establish GRC as a charter school?

The charter application for GRC was developed to be different from current Virginia Beach City Public Schools offerings. Charter legislation in Virginia allows divisions to approve charter contracts that encourage flexibility regarding calendars, schedules, curricular offerings, and the speed to which changes can be adopted based on academic data. All of the flexibility allowable as a charter school will be explored to meet the needs of the youth selected through the lottery. GRC staff will explore and research interventions such as extended school years and days, Saturday classes, contracts defining the roles of parents, students, and teachers, as well as other approaches that are identified to meet the needs of the student population.

How available is the International Baccalaureate (IB) program to military students in the U.S.? How will you collect data with the military population coming in and out of your district so often?

Nearly a third of the students who attend VBCPS Division are military connected. Currently these students are tracked for federal Impact Aid and to address any concerns related to the Military Interstate Compact. The school division cannot reduce the mobility of these students; however programs can be implemented that reduce the potential impact of that mobility. Offering an additional IB School is one of many strategies VBCPS has developed to meet the needs of the children of our service military families. We can only collect data on military connected students while they attend school in our division and adopt programs of instruction that will make transitioning to another school system less stressful.

The IB offers four high quality international education programs to more than one million students in 144 countries. Over the past five years, the total number of IB programs in the US has doubled. There are currently 1,207 IB World Schools in the U.S., 1,100 (91%) of which are public. All of these schools are implementing 1,367 IB programs (given that some schools implement several at once).

The Diploma Program (DP) accounts for more than half of all IB programs in the U.S. The states with the largest number of IB World Schools are California (120), Florida (114), Texas (102), Colorado (79), Virginia (73), New York (63), Georgia (57) and North Carolina (55). More than 55% of all U.S. IB World Schools are located in these eight states. California has the largest number of DP, while Virginia has the most Middle Years Programs (MYP) and Texas has the most Primary Years Programs (PYP). *Virginia, Texas, and California also host the largest populations of military connected youth in the United States.* (International Baccalaureate, 2013)

To what extent do you expect you will be drawing your target population?

GRC will market to the entire VBCPS community. We expect that the demographics of the charter school will reflect the community. If, after the first lottery, the school population does not reflect the diversity we expect, the GRC Governing Board will consider a weighted lottery. The lottery process does not allow for selecting students based on the target population; however we have worked to target our marketing to ensure that all rising 9th grade students are aware of the opportunities at GRC.



Why wouldn't the charter school take on fuel costs for transportation?

The CFO has adjusted the transportation budget line item to more accurately reflect the projected costs associated with transportation.

Have you considered the prospect of drop-outs and how that affects overall enrollment?

We understand that some students may be selected through the lottery and may drop out of the charter school. We have designed academic support to foster success for all students; however, if a student does not feel that GRC is a good academic fit, we will assist the student to transition back into their neighborhood public school.

Is counselor part-time and the other part serves as AVID teacher?

Yes. It is planned at this time to be part time for the first year.

I do not see items in the budget for: substitutes, audit costs, and health insurance?

Funding substitutes -- The CFO has revised the substitute budget line item to more accurately reflect the projected costs.

Audit costs – Audit costs are included in the accounting services budget line item.

Health insurance – Health insurance costs are included in the Employee (Employer Contributions – Health, Social Security, VRS) budget line item.

Contracted service costs seem very low (i.e., custodians).

The CFO has revised the Custodial Service budget line item to more accurately reflect the cost for these services.

Is the Head of Schools a 1/2 time position? All high schools are required by the state to have a full time principal.

The Head of School budget line item has been revised to reflect this position as a full-time position.

Where are you in the application process for IB? AVID?

Applications for both the DP and MYP programs have been sent to International Baccalaureate Organization. In addition, reservations for the requisite training have been placed for the Head of School and instructional staff.

The contract for adding GRC as an AVID school has been completed is awaiting final approval of the charter school by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach for submission. Once that approval is given, reservations for training in AVID instructional strategies and program philosophy will be scheduled.