

**Virginia Board of Education
Charter School Committee**

Consensus Report

**Application Submitted by the
Philadelphia Charter Academy**

Campbell County, Virginia

May 5, 2015

The *Code of Virginia*, [Section 22.1-212.9](#), requires that public charter school applications be submitted to the Board prior to being submitted to the local school board. Legislation amended by the 2013 General Assembly in [Section 22.1-212.9](#) provides that charter school applications that are initiated by one or more local school boards are not subject to review by the Board of Education. The Philadelphia Charter Academy charter school is subject to the review by the Board.

Applications presented to the Board must adhere to the format prescribed by the Board and address the application elements stated in the *Code of Virginia*, [Section 22.1-212.8](#). The Board is required to render a decision on whether the application meets its approval criteria. A decision by the Board that an application meets its approval criteria does not guarantee that the local school board will approve a request for a charter.

To meet the intent of the legislation, the Board of Education established a Charter School Committee. The ten-member committee met at the Virginia Department of Education on April 21, 2015, to discuss the charter school application submitted by Philadelphia Charter Academy and to meet with the applicant.

A [Video](#) of the meeting recorded the dialogue between the committee and applicant. Among the actions that the committee asked the applicant to pursue were to:

- Clarify the reasons for focusing on African American male youth in Campbell County;
- Explain how students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) would be included in the lottery process;
- Clarify language in the application that Philadelphia Charter Academy would follow state and federal law;
- Explain how the applicant intended to make a summer program a full-year curriculum with an academic setting;
- Include in the budget line items for the purchase of three buses or to clarify that the buses are already in place for transportation;
- Clarify the insurance coverage for employees and students in the facilities as well as on the school buses;

- Define how the accounting will be handled;
- Describe a clear delineation between the non-profit Piedmont Impact Organization, Inc. and Philadelphia Charter Academy business structures, financials, accounts, governance, etc., to avoid all real or appearances of conflicts of interest, mismanagement, diversion of taxpayer funds, etc.
- Describe what collateral would be used if a loan was necessary;
- Describe other planned fundraising efforts, keeping in mind that federal grant awards are competitive in nature and not guaranteed;
- Define how the governing council would be established;
- Explain in the budget the food service program, facility, equipment, teacher salaries, and information technology being reduced or at no cost;
- Provide additional detail in the budget; and
- Clarify how the school will work with Campbell County Public Schools, including describing how the curriculum will be different than what the division has presently in place.

The consensus report is based on the Board’s criteria found in **Attachment A**. The components and consensus determination are outlined below.

Required Application Components		Met the Criterion	Yes	No	Consensus Met Components Yes/No
I.	Executive Summary	Yes	10		
II.	Mission Statement	Yes	10		
III.	Goals and Educational Objectives	Yes	10		
IV.	Evidence of Support	No	2	8	
V.	Statement of Need	No	1	9	
VI.	Educational Program	No		10	
VII.	Enrollment Process	Yes	10		
VIII.	Displacement	Yes	8	2	
IX.	Transportation	Yes	10		
X.	Residential Charter School	N/A			
XI.	Economic Soundness	No	4	6	
XII.	Management and Operation	No		10	
XIII.	Employment Terms and Conditions	No	1	9	
XIV.	Liability and Insurance	No	4	6	
XV.	Disclosures	Yes	10		
Overall Consensus					No

The seven application components that met the criterion were:

I.	Executive Summary
II.	Mission Statement
III.	Goals and Educational Objectives
VII.	Enrollment Process
VIII.	Displacement
IX.	Transportation
XV.	Disclosures

The seven application components that did not meet the criterion were:

IV.	Evidence of Support
V.	Statement of Need
VI.	Educational Program
XI.	Economic Soundness
XII.	Management and Operation
XIII.	Employment Terms and Conditions
XIV.	Liability and Insurance

The committee reached unanimous consensus that the application overall did not meet the Board's approval criteria.

Based on the consensus report, the Philadelphia Charter has ten days from its receipt to notify the Department of Education whether the decision is to:

- 1) Withdraw the application with the option of resubmitting it at a later time; or
- 2) Present the report to the Board of Education
 - First review on May 28, 2015
 - Applicant will be requested to attend to answer questions and make comments; and
 - the Board will make an initial determination as to whether the Philadelphia Charter Academy application overall meets the approval criteria.
 - Final action on June 25, 2015
 - Action I: The Board will accept the Charter School Committee's recommendation that the application meets all the Board's approval criteria; or
 - Action 2: The Board will accept the Charter School Committee's recommendations that the application does not meet all of the Board's approval criteria.