



MEMORANDUM

February 26, 2013

TO: Members of the Charter Schools Committee

FROM: Joseph W. Belluck, Chair

SUBJECT: Approval of the Application for Charter Renewal of Green Dot New York Charter School (Bronx)

Action Requested

The proposed resolution authorizes the approval of a five-year, full-term charter renewal for Green Dot New York Charter School education corporation pursuant to New York Education Law subdivision 2831(4), and authorizes a name change for the education corporation to "University Prep Charter High School."

Resolution

I recommend that the Charter Schools Committee adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the Charter Schools Committee, acting on behalf of the Board of Trustees, as required by Education Law subdivision 2851(4)(e), has considered, prior to approval of the application for charter renewal of Green Dot New York Charter School (the "Education Corporation"), located in the Bronx, the means by which the Education Corporation will meet or exceed the enrollment and retention targets of students with disabilities, English language learners, and students who are eligible applicants for the federal free and reduced price lunch program as set forth in the application, which targets were prescribed by the SUNY Charter Schools Institute (the "Institute") on behalf of the Board; and

Whereas the Education Corporation requested a charter revision to change its name to “University Prep Charter High School” (the “Proposed Revision”); now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Education Corporation’s application for charter renewal, be, and hereby is, approved for a full-term of five years; and be it further

Resolved that the Proposed Revision, be, and hereby is, approved; and be it further

Resolved that: 1) the Education Corporation’s school as described in its application for charter renewal, and the Proposed Revision, meet the requirements of the New York Charter Schools Act of 1998 (as amended) and applicable laws, rules and regulations; 2) the Education Corporation can demonstrate the ability to operate its school in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; and 3) so approving the renewal application and renewing the charter, and so approving the Proposed Revision and amending the charter, are likely to improve student learning and achievement and materially further the purposes set out in subdivision 2850(2) of the Education Law; and be it further

Resolved that the Institute, acting for the Board of Trustees, be, and hereby is, directed to: 1) enter into a proposed renewal charter, and a proposed charter revision, with the Education Corporation in accordance with this resolution, which proposed charter and charter revision shall include such assurances and terms as the Institute shall deem necessary and appropriate; and 2) thereafter to submit the proposed renewal charter and proposed charter revision to the Board of Regents for its review, comment and potential approval.

Background

The New York Charter Schools Act of 1998 permits the Board of Trustees to renew and revise the charters of education corporations it has authorized. Pursuant to Resolution No. 2012-038 dated June 12, 2012, the Board of Trustees delegated authority to renew and revise charters to the Charter Schools Committee. Pursuant to the *Practices, Policies and Procedures for the Renewal of Charter Schools Authorized by the State University Board of Trustees* (the “SUNY Renewal Policies”) (last amended on June 25, 2012 and available at: <http://www.newyorkcharters.org/schoolsRenewOverview.htm>) the SUNY Charter Schools Institute (the “Institute”) conducts a renewal site visit; reviews the information in the renewal application as well as other relevant information, such as assessment data and site visit reports; interviews education corporation trustees and staff; and produces a draft renewal report containing its findings and preliminary recommendation. The draft renewal report also contains an evaluation of an education corporation’s performance over its charter term based on the criteria provided in the renewal benchmarks described in the SUNY Renewal Policies. The education corporation receives a copy of the draft renewal report and is given an opportunity to comment on it before it is finalized. The Institute makes final renewal reports available in its Albany office and at: <http://www.newyorkcharters.org/pubsReportsRenewals.htm>. Copies of applications for renewal are on file in the Albany office of the Institute.

As set forth in the Institute’s Renewal Report for Green Dot New York Charter School (the “Education Corporation”), which was distributed to the Board of Trustees, the Institute conducted a renewal review of the Education Corporation pursuant to the SUNY Renewal Policies. As a result of this review, the Institute recommends that the Education Corporation’s application for initial charter renewal should be granted for a full-term of five years without conditions. If this resolution is approved, the Education Corporation’s charter and its authority to operate the above-referenced school will be renewed through July 31, 2018.

In conjunction with the application for charter renewal, the Education Corporation submitted a request to change its name (effective immediately upon approval) to “University Prep Charter High School.” For this reason, SUNY must approve a separate revision so the name would be changed during the remainder of the current charter term.

For the education corporation listed above, the Institute properly notified the school district in which the education corporation is located regarding the receipt of applications for charter renewal and charter revision. As of February 5, 2013, no comments were received.