



(REVISED)

M E M O R A N D U M

March 17, 2022

To: Members of the Charter Schools Committee

From: Joseph W. Belluck, Chair, Charter Schools Committee

Subject: Approval of the Application for Charter Renewal of New Roots Charter School (Ithaca)

Action Requested

The proposed resolution authorizes the approval of a three-year charter renewal with conditions for New Roots Charter School pursuant to New York Education Law § 2851(4).

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 Subdivision 2851(4)(e), has considered, prior to approval of the application for charter renewal of New Roots Charter School (the "Education Corporation"), 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 State University of New York Charter Schools Institute (the "Institute") on behalf of the Board of Trustees; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Education Corporation's application for charter renewal, be, and hereby is, approved to the extent, and as limited and restricted herein, for a term of three years through and including July 31, 2025, subject to the following conditions beginning in the 2022/23 school year:

- Each school year as part of annual reporting the Education Corporation shall report to the Institute regarding the resources developed by one or more unique staff positions, together with associated data, metrics and measures the Education Board shall establish that result in increased oversight of curriculum development, instructional delivery, and teacher coaching and professional development;
- The Education Corporation shall engage an external consultant to conduct an annual evaluation of the charter's educational program using the benchmarks described in the SUNY Renewal Policies (defined below) (or an alternative framework approved by the Institute) and report findings by July 31 each year to the Education Corporation board and the Institute;
- Each school year, the Education Corporation shall maintain a minimum enrollment of no less than 80% of the enrollment set forth in the charter agreement; and,
- The Education Corporation shall report to the Institute each school year as part of annual reporting: data on alumni post-secondary activities and outcomes as outlined in the accountability plan to be set forth in the charter agreement; a description of the resources and staff dedicated to supporting alumni and tracking outcome data; and, a description of responsive program adjustments intended to improve outcomes each year;

and, be it further

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

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

Background

The New York Charter Schools Act of 1998 (as amended) permits the Board of Trustees to renew the charters of education corporations it has authorized and to renew such corporations' authority to operate charter schools. Pursuant to Resolution No. 2012-038, dated June 12, 2012, the Board of Trustees delegated authority to renew charters to the Charter Schools Committee.

Pursuant to the *Policies for the Renewal of Not-for-Profit Charter School Education Corporations and Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York* (the "SUNY Renewal Policies") (last amended September 4, 2013 and available at: <https://www.newyorkcharters.org/wp-content/uploads/SUNY-Renewal-Policies.pdf>), the SUNY Charter Schools Institute (the "Institute") generally 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 the performance of an education corporation's charter over the charter term based on the criteria provided in the renewal benchmarks described in the SUNY Renewal Policies (available at: <https://www.newyorkcharters.org/resource-center/school-leaders/accountability/renewal-regulations-benchmarks/>). 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.suny.edu/about/leadership/board-of-trustees/meetings/meetingNotices.cfm>. Copies of applications for charter renewal are on file in the Albany office of the Institute.

As set forth in the Institute's Renewal Report for New Roots Charter School (the "Education Corporation"), which was distributed to the Board of Trustees, the Institute, pursuant to the SUNY Renewal Policies, conducted a renewal review of the Education Corporation. This resolution renews the Education Corporation's charter through July 31, 2025.

For the education corporation listed above, the Institute properly notified the school district in which the charter is located regarding the receipt of an application for charter renewal. As of March 17, 2022, no comments were received.