



MEMORANDUM

December 15, 2022

To: Members of the Charter Schools Committee

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

Subject: Approval of Planning Years for Brooklyn Ascend Charter School 6

Action Requested

The proposed resolution approves an additional planning year for Brooklyn Ascend Charter School 6, a school operated by Ascend Charter Schools, a not-for-profit, charter school education corporation with the authority to operate more than one charter, pursuant to section 3.1 of the education corporation's charter agreement.

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, approved planning years on December 9, 2021 as requested by Ascend Charter Schools (the "Education Corporation") for Brooklyn Ascend Charter School 6 (the "School") allowing the School to extend the date to commence instruction to the beginning of the 2023/24 school year (Committee Resolution No. 39-2021); and

Whereas the State University of New York Charter Schools Institute (the "Institute") reviewed the Education Corporation's request for three additional planning years; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Education Corporation's request to extend the date to commence instruction for the School be, and hereby is, approved, which will require the School to open by September of the 2026/27 school year on a date determined in accordance with section 3.1 of the Charter Agreement between the Board of Trustees and the Education Corporation, subject to the following condition:

- If the Education Corporation is unable to open the School by September of the 2026/27 school year, the Education Corporation shall cooperate with the Trustees and take reasonable actions to revise the charter to convey the authority to operate the School to another SUNY authorized education corporation or proposed education corporation, as the case may be and arise.

Background

Pursuant to Resolution No. 2012-038, dated June 12, 2012, the Board of Trustees delegated authority to extend a charter for a period of greater than two school years to the Charter Schools Committee.

This resolution provides for the extension of the date by which an education corporation must open a charter school. The SUNY charter agreement, not state statute, requires each charter to open its school by a date certain, which may be extended by the SUNY Charter Schools Institute for up to two years. Thereafter, a Board of Trustees' delegation requires the Charter Schools Committee to approve additional planning years. Extra time to open may be needed when facilities, staffing, leadership, or other elements key to the successful launch of a school are not in place during the planning period permissible under the SUNY charter agreement.

Ascend Charter Schools (the "Education Corporation") previously delayed the opening of Brooklyn Ascend Charter School 6 (the "School"), which was originally approved to open in the 2020/21 school year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Education Corporation is requesting a further delay to focus on learning loss and other impacts of the pandemic on students at its currently operating charters and to allow sufficient time to build out an identified facility.

If the resolution is approved, the School will receive three additional planning years.