

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
OF CHARTIERS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT DENYING
THE CHARTER APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY
DOGWOOD CHARTER SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors of Chartiers Valley School District has received and reviewed an application for a charter school submitted by Dogwood Charter School pursuant to Section 1717-A(c) of the Charter School Law; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed and considered the information, evidence and testimony presented by the Dogwood Charter School and by the District's Application Review Team; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed and considered public comment submitted with regard to the application.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of School Directors of Chartiers Valley School District denies the application for a charter school submitted by Dogwood Charter School.

Based upon the criteria set forth in Section 1717-A(e)(2) of the Charter School Law and the other reasons set forth herein, the application is denied for deficiencies and exceptions including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1) It does not include evidence of demonstrated sustainable support, including but limited to not including evidence of demonstrated sustainable support by teachers, parents, other community members, and students.
- 2) It does not demonstrate the capability of the applicant, in terms of support and planning, to provide comprehensive learning experiences to students pursuant to the charter.
- 3) It does not consider and include all the information requested in Section 1719-A of the Charter School Law and it does not conform to the legislative intent outlined in Section 1702-A of the Charter School Law, as noted in the Application Review Team's findings and as is further set forth herein.
- 4) It does not exhibit adequate standards for school improvement planning; it models the Gillingham Charter School which has been in school improvement with the Commonwealth since 2016 for areas including lack of academic growth per PDE guidelines for multiple years consecutively and for student attendance rates not meeting state requirements.
- 5) It does not provide expanded choices beyond the types of education opportunities currently being offered and provided within the Chartiers Valley School District.
- 6) It fails to describe a complete and comprehensive curriculum that is aligned to state standards.
- 7) It fails to provide a continuum of services to meet the needs of all students, including students with disabilities, English language learners and at-risk students.
- 8) It fails to describe and provide an appropriate admissions policy or appropriate criteria for evaluating the admission of students in accordance with law;
- 9) It does not include a student code of conduct and fails to provide a description of the process for student suspensions and expulsion.

- 10) The proposed governance structure does not require the Sunshine Act be followed at all meetings, does not require that the Right to Know Law be followed, and does not require that the trustees file an annual Statement of Financial Interest as required under the Ethics Act.
- 11) It fails to provide for a comprehensive and equitable food service plan.
- 12) It fails to provide an adequate transportation plan.
- 13) It does not provide for appropriate operations management requirements, including but not limited to emergency preparedness, safety and security training and planning, and incident reporting.
- 14) It fails to adequately describe the mission and education goals of the school and to adequately describe and provide appropriate methods of assessing whether students are meeting educational goals.
- 15) The proposed charter is not financially viable.
- 16) It does not demonstrate that the charter can serve as a model for other public school districts.
- 17) It fails to provide information on the manner in which community groups will be involved in the charter school planning process and on procedures to review complaints of parents regarding the operation of the charter school.
- 18) It fails to provide the financial plan for the charter school and the provisions which will be made for auditing the school under Section 437 and fails to provide proposed faculty and a professional development plan for faculty of the charter school.
- 19) It fails to indicate whether any agreements have been entered into or plans developed with the local school district regarding participation of the charter school students in extracurricular activities within the district.
- 20) It fails to satisfy requirements concerning provision of reports of criminal history record information for all individuals who will have direct contact with students, fails to satisfy requirements concerning provision of official clearance statements as required by 23 Pa.C.S. Chapter 63 sub-Chapter (c)(2) for all individuals who will have direct contact with students, and fails to explain how the charter school will provide adequate liability and other appropriate insurance for the school, its employees and the board.

The application is denied for failing to conform to the legislative intent as set forth in Section 1702-A of the Charter School Law, including, but not limited to, a failure to:

- 1) Improve pupil learning.
- 2) Increase learning opportunities for all pupils.
- 3) Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods.
- 4) Provide parents and pupils with expanded choices in the types of educational opportunities that are available within the public school system.
- 5) Hold the school accountable for meeting measurable standards and provide the school with a method to establish accountability systems.

The application is denied for failing to meet the requirements set forth in Section 1715-A of the Charter School Law including, but not limited to the following:

- 1) A charter school shall be nonsectarian in all operations.

- 2) A charter school shall not provide any religious instruction, nor shall it display religious objects and symbols on the premises of the charter school.

The application is denied for failing to conform to the requirements of Section 1719-A, including, but not limited to, a failure to include a description and address of the legal facility in which the charter school will be located and the ownership thereof and any lease arrangements, that is in compliance with legal requirements applicable to the property. The location proposed is a single-family home in a residential neighborhood that is not zoned for use as a school and the home is not designed nor configured to meet applicable requirements for the operation of a school.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administration is hereby directed to provide written notice of the School Board's action to the applicant, the Department of Education, and the State Charter School Appeal Board consistent with Section 1717-A(e)(5) of the Charter School Law.

Duly adopted at a meeting held on the 23rd day of February, 2021.

ATTEST:

CHARTIERS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kimberly Borza
Board Secretary

Darren G. Mariano
Board President