



Agenda Item Details

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| Meeting | Jun 15, 2021 - Regular School Board Meeting |
| Category | C. Discussion Agenda |
| Subject | 10.01 Application Denial for Hillsborough County Acceleration Academy (Office of Innovation) |
| Type | Action (Consent), Discussion |
| Recommended Action | Deny the application for Hillsborough County Acceleration Academy |

DESCRIPTION:

Hillsborough County Public Schools received nine applications during the 2021 application review cycle. Five applications have met the statutory requirements for approval. The four remaining applications did not meet the statutory requirements and applicants were informed of the pending recommendation of denial. Two applicant groups elected to withdraw their applications from Hillsborough County in lieu of being recommended for denial before the Board and the remaining two are recommended for denial.

On February 1, 2021, the district received the application for Hillsborough County Acceleration Academy for a 2022-2023 school opening.

The Charter School Application Review Team, made up of staff from a variety of district departments and an external charter school leader, reviewed the application and provided feedback collectively. Feedback was compiled and used to interview the applicant for further understanding of the application.

According to the requirements in F.S. 1002.33(6), charter applications shall:

1. Demonstrate how the school will use the guiding principles and meet the statutorily defined purpose of a charter school.
2. Provide a detailed curriculum plan that illustrates how students will be provided services to attain the Florida Standards.
3. Contain goals and objectives for improving student learning and measuring that improvement.
4. Describe the reading curriculum and differentiated strategies that will be used for students reading at grade level or higher and a separate curriculum and strategy for students who are reading below grade level.
5. Contain an annual financial plan for each year requested by the charter for operation of the school for up to five years.

The application did not meet all statutory requirements in F.S. 1002.33(6). The Florida Charter School Application Evaluation Instrument for Hillsborough County Acceleration Academy is attached.

GAP ANALYSIS:

According to F.S. 1002.33(6)(b):

- The sponsor shall receive and review all applications for a charter school using the evaluation instrument developed by the Department of Education.
- The sponsor shall receive and consider charter school applications received on or before February 1 of each calendar year.
- The sponsor may not refuse to receive a charter school application submitted before February 1 and may receive an application submitted later than February 1 if it chooses.
- The sponsor may not charge an applicant for a charter any fee for the processing or consideration of an application, and a sponsor may not base its consideration or approval of a final application upon the promise of future payment of any kind.

According to F.S. 1002.33(6)(b)3.a:

- A sponsor shall by a majority vote approve or deny an application no later than 90 calendar days after the application is received, unless the sponsor and the applicant mutually agree in writing to temporarily postpone the vote to a specific date, at

which time the sponsor shall by a majority vote approve or deny the application.

- If the sponsor fails to act on the application, an applicant may appeal to the State Board of Education as provided in paragraph (c).

At this time, Hillsborough County Public Schools does not solicit charter school applications through a Request for Proposals process.

PREVIOUS OUTCOMES:

There are no previous outcomes for this applicant as they are not yet operating charter schools in the state of Florida.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

According to F.S. 1002.33(6)(c)1: An applicant may appeal any denial of the applicant's application, or failure to act on an application, to the State board of Education no later than 30 calendar days after the receipt of the sponsor's decision, or failure to act, and shall notify the sponsor of its appeal.

The applicant may reapply to the Sponsor during any future application review cycles.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

- Improve the high school graduation rate
- Improve Student Achievement
- Provide a student-centered learning environment that engages every child
- Develop a culture of respect, trust, collaboration and equity
- Engage and communicate with families and stakeholders
- Continuously improve processes and systems
- Establish a strong foundation of financial stewardship
- Construct and maintain facilities that create an environment conducive to teaching and learning
- Respond to competition

RECOMMENDATION:

Deny the application for Hillsborough County Acceleration Academy. All statutory requirements have not been met as required in F.S. 1002.33(6).

CONTACT:

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FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The estimated district human capital cost for the review of nine charter school applications is approximately \$46,000 based on staff salary and review hours. The review of charter school applications is not covered by the two to five percent administrative fee collected to support the district's oversight of charter schools.

REVIEW COMMENTS:

SUBMITTED BY:

Van Ayres, Chief Innovation Officer, (813) 272-4760

[Agenda Item Attachment.pdf \(315 KB\)](#)

Our adopted rules of Parliamentary Procedure, Robert's Rules, provide for a consent agenda listing several items for approval of the Board by a single motion. Most of the items listed under the consent agenda have gone through Board subcommittee review and recommendation. Documentation concerning these items has been provided to all board members and the public in advance to assure an extensive and thorough review. Items may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of any board member.