

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Item
January 14, 2015

SUBJECT: Consideration of Mandate from District Court of Appeal of the State of Florida Second District, RE: School Board of Polk County v. Renaissance Charter School, Inc., et al.

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Vacate Final Order of May 21, 2012, and deny the appeal of Renaissance Charter School.

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Sections 1002.33, 1002.331, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In August of 2011, Renaissance Charter School applied to open a new K-8 charter school in Polk County School District under the provisions that allow for the operation of a new charter school that substantially replicates an existing high-performing charter school.

Polk County School District denied the application, finding that the proposed charter school did not substantially replicate the existing high-performing charter school, which is a middle school serving grades 6-8.

Renaissance appealed to this Board and in May 2012, the Board issued a Final Order granting the charter school's appeal.

Polk County appealed the order of the State Board of Education to the Second District Court of Appeal. In August of 2014 the Second District issued an opinion overturning the decision of the State Board of Education. The decision is now final, reverses the Board's May 21, 2012, Final Order, and requires the Board to enter an order denying the appeal of Renaissance Charter School.

Supporting Documentation Included: Mandate and Opinion from the Second District Court of Appeal of the State of Florida

Facilitator: Lois S. Tepper, Interim General Counsel