

**Sarasota County Public Schools
2015-2016 Charter Renewal Application**

Charter Review Committee Findings/Questions and School Responses

SKY Academy Venice Charter School

SKY Academy Venice opened in 2011 as a grades 6 – 8 middle school. The current term of the charter ends June 30, 2016. The SKY Academy Governing Board is seeking a 15-year charter renewal. On January 4, 2016 SKY submitted a renewal application. The district’s Charter Review Committee (CRC) reviewed the information and documentation submitted in the charter renewal application as well as other evidence gathered from monitoring to determine the extent to which the school is in compliance with charter school requirements and policies. Information about services provided, governance, student achievement history, teacher qualifications and proposed changes or plans for the future was considered in the review. Based on the CRC’s January 25, 2016 review, the school was asked to provide clarifying or updated information, which was submitted to the district on February 3, 2016.

Section I. Current Information about the Charter School

- School’s mission and vision.
- Description of the students served.
- 5-year enrollment counts by grade level and by gender/ethnicity based on the last survey period.
- Number of ESE and ELL students, and total number as of the last survey period.
- Ethnicity and socioeconomic status composition of the school for the current year.
- Services provided to the students that might be considered unique to the school.
- Future plan to add/change grade levels, projected enrollment and/or enrollment capacity.

Questions or Concerns	Location in Document Page #	Charter School Response
The chart indicates 10 ELL students; however, only 3 students currently receive ESOL services. Does the count of 10 include former ESOL as well as students active in the ESOL program?	Page 6	We currently have 3 active language learners at SKY Academy. We started the year with 7 and 4 were exited from being active for they have completed the proper areas to be reclassified. There are 3 other students that have finished their follow up and have been exited. See below for the current breakdown of our ESOL population based on current ESOL codes.

		<p>*LY: 3 Active: We have three active students that are English Language Learners.</p> <p>*LF: 4: We have four total students that are being followed up for their two- year period after exiting from the ESOL program. These four students started the school year as LY's before being exited.</p> <p>*LZ: 3: Total: We have three students for whom the two-year follow up period has been completed. Once a student completes the two-year post-reclassification monitoring period, they are re-coded LZ and remain so for the remainder of their school years. This code applies to John m McKay Scholarship student who were formerly in an English Language Learners Program.</p>
<p>The proportion of minority students is not reflective of the community or comparable to nearby schools. The school has less than 1% Black students and 6.6% Hispanic students. The percent minority enrollment (13%) at SKY Venice is the lowest of all charter schools.</p>	<p>Page 7</p>	<p>SKY Academy continues to market our school to all students in the surrounding area. Sarasota County provides the 5th grade student roster for the county and SKY Family YMCA sends marketing materials to all students on the list from Osprey to Englewood and the Venice and North Port area. SKY representatives also go to local community events(Little League, Pop Warner, Youth Soccer, Local libraries, etc.) to hand out important school marketing materials to anyone that is interested. SKY will continue to market to all students regardless of ethnicity in the surrounding areas.</p>
<p>Comments and Commendations Noted</p> <p>SKY Academy Venice has followed the school's mission and vision as established in the charter in 2011.</p> <p>The school Governing Board does not plan to add capacity or increase enrollment beyond current capacity.</p>		

Section II. Student Achievement

- Five-year trends in reading, math, science and writing achievement based on state assessments and other relevant data.
- History of school grades.
- Graduation/dropout rates.
- Highlighted areas reflect most significant student achievement accomplishments.
- Discrepancies in goals between the previous year’s School Improvement Plan and test results for current school year.
- If applicable, strategies in place to remediate problems or strengthen achievement.

Questions or Concerns	Location in Document Page #	Charter School Response
<p>Since you have identified “literacy as a focus for improvement” (p. 9 of Renewal Application), please describe a typical schedule for a reading block, including content and activity sections, instructional materials used for each section, approximate time for each section, and diagnostic and progress monitoring tools used.</p>	<p>Page 9</p>	<p>The intensive LA course is divided into three sections: I-Ready, individual lessons, and guided reading. Students work in different centers and rotate throughout the 50 minute class which is blocked with their 50 min Language Arts class. Every student is on I-Ready 20 minutes a day. I-Ready is used for individualized instruction to meet the needs of each student. It also performs a diagnostic and has monthly growth monitoring checks. We use the data from the I-Ready reports to create specific individualized lessons that align with the common core standard that each student is struggling with. We use the Collections series (adopted by Sarasota county) working with the text, class novels aligned to the collections series and the Collections supplemental Close Reader work book. The final center is a small group guided reading. The instructional materials used are the <i>Scholastic Action</i> magazine and online resources provided by Scholastic.</p>
<p>Comments and Commendations Noted</p> <p>SKY Academy Venice earned a school grade of “A” in 2014-15, an increase in performance from the C rating the prior year. The school has shown significant improvements in student performance, especially in mathematics and science.</p>		

Section III. Academic Program

- Educational program design and curriculum. Description of ACCEL and course recovery options.

If applicable:

- Proposed changes/modifications to the academic program.
- New instructional approaches.
- Changes in course offerings and their alignment to program of study.
- Plans for new instructional materials/resources to support/align with program changes.

Questions or Concerns	Location in Document Page #	Charter School Response
Name the “online diagnostic programs that have been instrumental in assisting teachers with instruction and progress monitoring.	Page 9	I Ready and Study Island are two of the programs SKY Academy is utilizing to assist teachers with instruction in all core subject areas. SKY Academy students also use these programs in our afterschool program and Academic Enrichment Program.

Comments and Commendations Noted

In 2013-14 SKY Academy Venice became one of the STEM Smart+ Schools in south county, supported by the Gulf Coast Community Foundation.

The school does not plan to change or modify the current educational design or academic program.

Section IV. Services for ESE and ELL Students

- Instructional and program services provided for ESE students.
- Instructional and program services provided for ELL students.
- Changes in the level of services provided for ESE and ELL students and rationale for the proposed changes.
- If applicable, complaints filed in the past 5 years against school regarding ESE and their findings.

Questions or Concerns	Location in Document Page #	Charter School Response
<p>The onsite monitoring visit resulted in findings of non-compliance with several ESOL requirements. Please address corrective measures taken to address the audit findings.</p>		<p>The ESOL findings were rectified quickly by ESOL liaison. All documentation and files were complete but not filed into the proper location: cumulative files. All paper work has been completed with parental meetings and the proper files have been relocated to the appropriate place. The 130 codes for the schedules for two students that have been in the ESOL program for over 6 years have been addressed by our ESOL liaison and registrar. All ESOL plans are properly filed in the correct location and files are complete.</p>
<p>The onsite monitoring visit resulted in findings of non-compliance with several ESE requirements. Please address corrective measures taken to address the audit findings.</p>		<p>The ESE findings have all been corrected by our ESE liaison. All IEP meetings that needed the Transition Summary Assessment, proper goals with objectives, or the Self Advocacy sections addressed have been recreated with new parent meetings that have either been completed or are currently scheduled. Tammy Cassels visited on January 7th and was provided with documentation that address all areas noted. Ms. Cassels was provided with areas addressing MTSS, RTI-B, and processes followed, Tier levels provided to students, completed evidence of all 504 plans, and paperwork showing new processes added to the IEP's that needed to be restructured.</p>
<p>Comments and Commendations Noted</p>		

Section V. Teacher Qualifications

- Information about the current year’s instructional staff.
- If applicable, accommodations for students in grade levels which do not have teachers holding credentials to provide ESE, ELL or specialized Reading services.
- Process for dealing with teachers who are considered “out-of-field.”
- In the past 2 years the percent of instructional staff rated Highly Effective, Effective, Needs Improvement/Developing and Unsatisfactory.
- Plans for changes in staffing.

Questions or Concerns	Location in Document Page #	Charter School Response
Please clarify the discrepancy the between the number of teachers reported as Highly Qualified and/or with appropriate certifications reported on the table (p. 13) compared to staff rosters that show 2 teachers without certifications.	Page 13	We have one teacher that has been teaching with us for three years and did not finish the final course for his permanent certificate. He has been moved to substitute status and will be terminated at the conclusion of the 2015-2016 school year if the appropriate course work is not completed. The other teacher in question is currently teaching with a temporary certificate and considered in field based on certification area. All of the appropriate documentation has been received by Sarasota County and currently being processed by FLDOE.
<p>Comments and Commendations Noted</p> <p>100% of SKY Academy teachers were rated as Effective and Highly Effective in 2014-15.</p>		

Section VI. Admissions Policy

- Student admission policy.
- School's student/parent contract and planned revisions or modification.
- Proposed changes to enrollment preferences and/or limiting enrollment to specific student population.

Questions or Concerns	Location in Document Page #	Charter School Response
None.		
Comments and Commendations Noted		

Section VII. Governance Structure and Procedures

- Current organization chart.
- List of all governing board members and contact information.
- Last six governing board’s meeting minutes.
- Evidence of the public notification of the governing board meetings for the last six meetings.
- If applicable, governing board member who is directly or indirectly receiving financial compensation from the school and the nature of that compensation.
- Changes in governance or board policy in the past 5 years or planned in new term of charter.
- Pending and threatened legal actions.

Questions or Concerns	Location in Document Page #	Charter School Response
Please clarify the role and relationship of the YMCA CEO and the SKY Board (i.e. the floating box on the Organization Chart).	Page 37, App D	The CEO of the YMCA serves as the liaison between the YMCA and the SKY Board. SKY Academy is located on the YMCA property and share facilities and staff with the YMCA.
<p>The CRC is concerned that the SKY Academy Venice Governing Board is not in full compliance with F.S. 1002.33.b.2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance must be noted on each set of board meeting minutes. • Parent Involvement Representative must attend all board meetings. • There must be one Parent Involvement Representative for each school under a board’s direction. 	Pages 40-61	Attendance is taken and accounted for but has not been consistently recorded. We have recently hired a new administrative assistant to record notes appropriately. Former administrative assistant was terminated due to her ineffectiveness of properly recording effective minutes and overall performance. We do have a Parent Involvement Representative and she has historically attended meetings when there was a specific parent issue or input that needed to be discussed. Moving forward our Parent Involvement Representative will be in attendance at all meetings.
<p>Governing Board meetings do not always follow Robert’s Rules, e.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must approve previous meeting’s minutes at each board meeting. • Must show motion, second, and vote tally for all new business/ approvals/ votes. 	Pages 40-61	SKY Academy will improve in our documentation process and follow Robert’s Rules more intently. We will continue to refine and improve on having it appropriately reflected in our SKY Board minutes. Motions, voting and all procedural protocol will be more accurately transcribed and accessible through our website.
To operate in the Sunshine, all votes must be under President of the Board – New Business – in agenda and in the minutes.	Pages 40-61	The appropriate format will be updated and changed to reflect areas that require a vote to be in the New Business section on the SKY Board agenda and in the SKY Board minutes. .

<p>There is no evidence in Board agenda and/or minutes that the Board presented and approved the school's budget, audit, accountability report, school improvement plan, A+ money disbursement plan, new board members and best and brightest scholarship recipients.</p>	<p>Pages 40-61</p>	<p>These items have been voted on and approved however many of the items listed are voted upon at our SAC meeting and then presented to the SKY Board. SKY Academy will be more thorough and consistent in recording our SKY Board minutes in regard to approving plans/ policies. All items listed have been discussed with SKY Board members. SKY Academy will submit a copy of SAC agenda and minutes.</p>
<p>It does not appear that the school's website provides all required information, e.g., it must show parent involvement rep, board minutes, agendas, budget, and audit at all times.</p>	<p>Pages 40-61</p>	<p>SKY Academy created a new website in the 2015-2016 school year to reflect all items that are listed. All items can be accessed currently through our website sky@they.com .</p>
<p>Comments and Commendations Noted</p>		

Section VIII. Financial Sustainability

- If applicable, school's Financial Recovery Plan.
- Anticipated significant changes in school revenue or expenditures during the next five years, including grants and other external funding, enrollment changes and capital needs.
- If applicable, detailed plan for a change in the school's current site or a plan to move to another site, including a description of the manner in which those changes would be financed.

Questions or Concerns	Location in Document Page #	Charter School Response
None.		

Comments and Commendations Noted

The current charter provides that the South County Family YMCA, Inc., takes responsibility for the school's financial viability and will cover any school expenses should the school encounter any financial difficulties. The school is financially viable and maintains an adequate cash flow as well as adequate fund balance.

Section IX. Facilities

- Floor plan of facility, including square footage of the building(s) and grounds.
- Findings or concerns, if any, related to latest facility health and safety reports, including fire inspections.
- Description of technology, access to the internet and any other resources used for administrative and instructional purposes.
- Plan for changes in the facility including expansions, upgrades, moves or changes in use of various parts of the facility or grounds.

Questions or Concerns	Location in Document Page #	Charter School Response
None.		

Comments and Commendations Noted

Section X. Provision of Services Assurances - Certification document signed by Charter Board Chair for:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Education • ELL Assurance/504 Assurance 		
Questions or Concerns	Location in Document Page #	Charter School Response
None.		
Comments and Commendations Noted		

Section XI. Certificate of Acknowledgement		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Certificate of Acknowledgement to indicate that the majority of the governing board signed to acknowledge having reviewed the completed renewal application and authorized its submission during an open meeting. 		
Questions or Concerns	Location in Document Page #	Charter School Response
None.		
Comments and Commendations Noted		
All SKY Academy Governing Board members acknowledged the application for charter renewal.		