

## Sarasota County Schools

### 2015-2016 Charter Renewal Application Renewal Analysis Summary for

### **SKY Academy Venice**

The charter renewal application process consists of a program review of the following areas of accountability: business operations and fiscal management, personnel and governance, student performance, compliance with federal and state requirements and adherence to the terms of the charter contract. A brief description of the school and summary of the review findings is presented below.

- SKY Academy Venice charter school opened in August 2011; the current charter ends June 30, 2016. The school's Governing Board is seeking a 15 year charter extension.
- SKY currently serves over 270 students in grades 6 – 8. Based on the October 2015 counts, the school's student composition is as follows: 13% minority students (1% Black, 7% Hispanic; 3% Multi-Racial); 1% English Language Learners; 8% Students with Disabilities, 7% ESE-gifted, and 25% on free/reduced priced lunch.
- SKY Academy Venice is not planning to add additional grade levels or to expand enrollment beyond their current capacity of 350. The October student enrollment history and projected enrollment is attached.
- As stated in the charter renewal application's executive summary:

*“SKY Academy Venice is in its fifth year and continues to be a successful, nurturing school that offers a unique focus infusing Health and Wellness in our everyday curriculum for students. All of our students have two Physical Education classes where we are tracking physical data and promoting personal growth. Nutrition and wellness are also infused in our core subjects as well, where students are up and active through hands on learning and kinesthetic classrooms. SKY Academy offers a small environment and hands on approach where we focus on the whole child. Our SKY chef prepares meals that are healthy and nutritious for all students.”*

#### School Finances and Financial Viability

The school opened in August 2011 with a full time equivalent (FTE) student enrollment/earnings of 167.50 in grades 6 and 7. The school expanded one grade level the next year to be a grade 6 – 8 school. The school has a current student FTE of 261. The school has been timely in the submission of their monthly unaudited financial

statements and the required year-end audit. The audited financial statements as of June 30, 2015, indicate the unassigned fund balance of SKY Academy Venice (SKY-Venice), Inc. was \$82,054 or 2.7% of total revenues. The total gross fund balance was \$82,054 as of June 30, 2015. The December 31, 2015 financial statement indicates the unassigned fund balance to be \$34,032.86 or approximately 2.48% of total revenues and a gross fund balance of \$34,032.86. In summary, SKY Academy Venice has maintained an acceptable level of unassigned fund balance during the period of their contract that expires June 30, 2016.

Charter school statutes require that any deteriorating financial condition must be identified in the independent annual audit. There were no disclosures in the notes to the financial statements regarding a deteriorating financial condition in the independent audit report dated October 12, 2015. 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.

Appropriate information and supporting documentation is in place to show that the school is in compliance with the requirements of financial accounting, including evidence of financial accounting procedures, that monthly financial statements are filed timely with the District, that the annual audit is consistent with GASB 34 requirements and submitted by the required date, that capital projects allocations are expended in accordance with an approved plan and the school has an established system of accounting for fixed assets in accordance with Rules of the State Chief Financial Officer.

#### Student Achievement and Accountability

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. The school has high expectations for student achievement and is making progress towards meeting the high performance goals set forth in their annual School Improvement Plan (SIP). The school participates in all district and state-required assessments and adheres to all school improvement planning and accountability reporting requirements.

#### Curriculum & Instruction

The educational design set forth in the application and current charter is evident in the school's learning environment – a strong academic program infused with the principles of wellness and health. SKY Academy Venice's curriculum is aligned with Florida Standards. The school follows the district's approved reading plan and uses

district-developed resources such as the Instructional Focus Guides to support teachers in providing high quality instruction. The school continues to provide the after-school Academic Enrichment Program to support students who are struggling in reading and mathematics. In 2013-14 SKY Academy Venice became one of the south county STEM Smart+ Schools.

### Exceptional Student Education (ESE) and English Language Learners (ELL) Services

Based on the December 2015 onsite review of the school's ESE services there was evidence to support that ESE delivery models implemented at the school align with the level of service indicated in the initial application and current charter. ESE education and related services are being delivered as indicated on the student's IEP. There is documentation of students on an advanced track receiving enrichment services. Findings of non-compliance included lack of documentation showing services reflected on student schedules, issues with following timelines for required IEP reviews, several 504 plans that were not current, and inconsistencies in following district guidelines and procedures. To date all of the ESE review findings have been corrected.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) education and related services are being delivered as indicated on students' ELL Plans. However, results of the district's October and January ELL audit found that the school was not in full compliance with maintaining appropriate documentation and coding, such as ESOL files lacking current ELL plans, missing documentation of ELL Committee meeting, missing documentation in students' ESOL files, Student Information System codes for students without an active plan. These discrepancies have been addressed by the school to the satisfaction of district staff and the Charter Review Committee.

### School-Parent Communications and other Student Support Services

The school has well-developed policies and guidelines in parent-friendly formats that keep parents informed of their students' progress, programs offered and other school-related events. The school recently updated the school website to enhance features and improve communication and access by parents to pertinent information. Health services are managed appropriately at the school site. The school follows the district's Code of Student Conduct and provided evidence that the school adheres to these guidelines.

### Human Resources

95% of SKY Academy teachers were rated as Effective and Highly Effective in 2014-15. Instructional staff meet the teacher certification and/or the highly qualified requirements with the exception of two teachers, who are in the process of obtaining

proper certification. ESOL and ESE endorsed teachers serve the needs of ELL and ESE students, respectively. SKY Academy teachers take advantage of professional development opportunities offered by the district.

As per the 2015-16 Opening of School Checklist, a complete list of SKY Academy Venice employees is on file and all employees have been fingerprinted and have background screenings on record.

### Governance

Based on a review of SKY Academy Venice Governing Board agendas and meeting minutes, it appears that the governing board has not consistently met the governance requirements of F.S. 1002.33(16)(b), 1002.33(7)(d) and operating in the Sunshine as it relates to recording attendance, approval of minutes, recording of motions, vote tallies and actions taken by the board. The SKY Governing Board is aware of these inconsistencies and will address the matter. The SKY Governing Board is in the process of filling one vacancy of the five member board.

### Business Operations

SKY Academy Venice provides their own transportation and food services. A state review of the school's food services in April 2015 resulted in two findings related to errors in documentation and in meeting minimum quantities of all offered meal components. Corrective action was made in each case and the school's meal service program is now in full compliance. Evidence of fire, safety and health inspections are on file and meet school facility requirements. Insurance policies are on file documenting active coverage for all of the required areas of insurance.

### Contract Compliance

The school has consistently submitted all required documents, manuals, handbooks, as listed on the Opening of School Checklist and all state-required reports in a timely fashion.

The School Board of Sarasota County, Florida

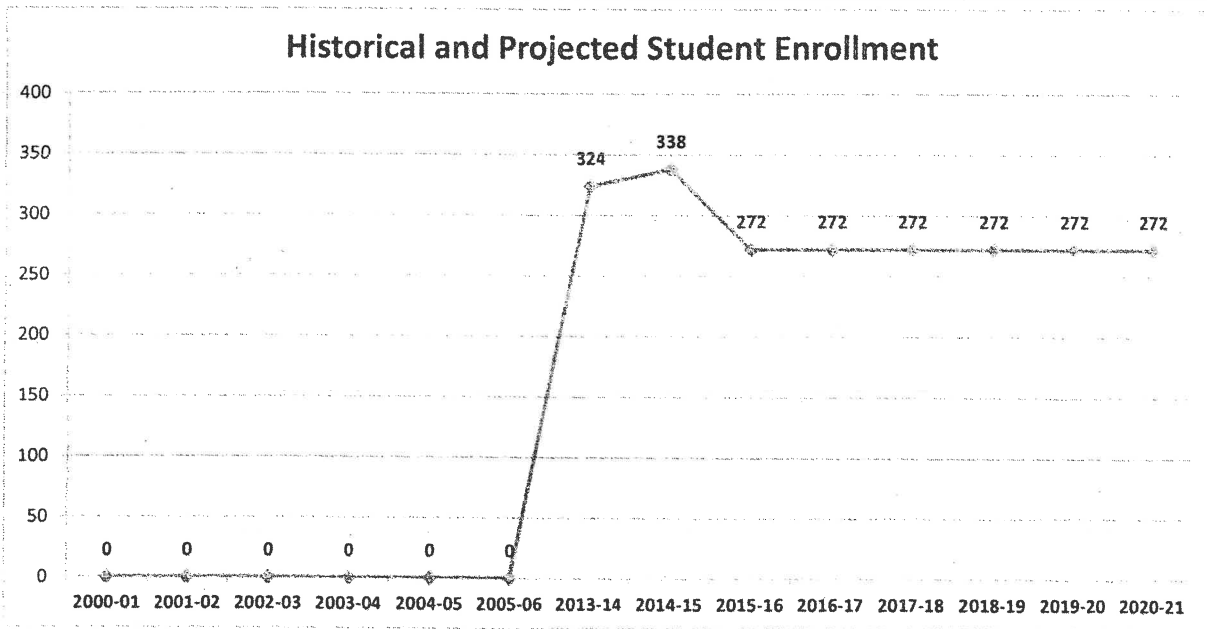
Student Enrollment for the Period 2013-2014 through 2020-2021

Historical Student enrollment by Grade level information (Based upon October of each school year)

Strength in Knowledge at the Venice Y - Charter School

School Principal: Mr. Steve Smith Year School Opened 2011  
 School Address: 701 Center Road Venice FL 34285 Buildings are leased  
 School Phone (941) 492-9622 Free / Reduced Lunch Percentage 25.24%  
 School Web Site Sky at the Y Title One School No

Student Enrollment by Grade Level								
Grade Level	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Sixth	102	135	77	77	77	77	77	77
Seventh	113	93	111	111	111	111	111	111
Eighth	109	110	84	84	84	84	84	84
Ninth								
Tenth								
Eleventh								
Twelfth								
Total by Grade	324	338	272	272	272	272	272	272
Students by Program funded through the Florida Education Finance Program								
Basic Education	279	280	225	225	225	225	225	225
E.S.O.L.	5	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
Students with Disabilities k-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Students with Disabilities 4-8	64	67	74	74	74	74	74	74
Students with Disabilities 9-12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ESE Level 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ESE Level 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Career Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Students by Program	349	350	301	301	301	301	301	301



Principal's Certification

"I have reviewed the above student enrollment projection for the school year 2016-2017"

Signature and Date \_\_\_\_\_

I am in agreement with the 2016-2017 projection Circle One Yes No