



MEMORANDUM

To: School Board Members
From: Natalie Roca, Executive Director *NR*
Date: February 15, 2013
Re: Board Work Session for Charter Schools Applying for Renewal

The review of charter school renewal applications is on the agenda for the February 19, 2013 Board Work Session. Three charter schools with terms ending on June 30, 2013 currently seek renewal: Sarasota Military Academy (SMA), Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences (SSAS) and the Suncoast School for Innovative Studies (SSIS).

As the charter sponsor, renewing charters is the responsibility of the School Board of Sarasota County. As authorized in Florida Statute 1002.33 (8), the sponsor may choose not to renew or may terminate a charter on any of the following grounds:

1. Failure to participate in the state's education accountability system created in F.S. 1008.31, as required in this section, or failure to meet the requirements for student performance stated in the charter.
2. Failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management.
3. Violation of law.
4. Other good cause shown.

The charter renewal process consists of reviews of the following areas of accountability: business operations and fiscal management, student performance, and compliance.

Business Operations and Fiscal Management: The review of this area of accountability primarily consists of examining the annual financial and compliance reports filed by the charter holder with School Board of Sarasota County. The sponsor will evaluate whether the charter holder has filed all of the required reports and whether the reports demonstrate that the charter holder has satisfied generally accepted accounting standards of fiscal management under the applicable statutes and rules.

Student Performance: The review of this area of accountability is primarily based on examining state and Federal accountability ratings that have been issued since the charter school began operating and determining whether the charter holder has satisfied the student performance requirements under the applicable statutes and rules.

Compliance: The review of this area of accountability involves evaluating the charter holder's compliance with the initial charter contract, federal and state requirements, and reporting requirements. This review includes but is not limited to services provided to ESE and ELL

students, health and safety requirements, class size requirements and general services to parents and students at the school. This review also consists of evaluating the information provided in the completed renewal application.

The district's charter renewal review parallels the process used to initially evaluate charter school applicants. To date, the following steps have been taken or are expected in this year's renewal process:

- Each charter school submitted a renewal application by January 7, 2013.
- The district's Charter Review Committee (CRC) met on January 17 and 24, 2013 to review each school's application and to review results of routine annual monitoring conducted by the district and other documented evidence of school compliance with requirements and policies.
- Based on the CRC's review and discussions, some schools were asked to provide clarifying or updated information.
- On February 19, 2013, each charter school's administrator and governing board member(s) will meet with the School Board to present their renewal request. The School Board may ask questions or request additional information from the school or district staff.
- The School Board will vote on each charter's renewal at the March 19 or April 2, 2013 School Board Meeting.
- If the Board approves a charter's renewal, a new charter agreement will be negotiated with the charter school's Governing Board and voted upon by the School Board of Sarasota County at a subsequent meeting. The new term of the charter would take effect on July 1, 2013.

The following charter school renewal information is submitted for your review:

- Charter Review Committee Summary and Background Information
- Charter Review Committee's Clarification Questions and School Responses
- Charter School Renewal Application

Please call me if I can answer any questions about this material or process before the workshop.

cc: Lori White
Katrina Ward

2012-2013 Charter Renewal Application for

Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences

Information Considered to Determine Recommendation for Charter School Renewal

- Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences (SSAS) is seeking a 15 year charter extension.
- SSAS currently serves students in grades 6 - 8. The December 2012 enrollment is at 745 with 32% minority students and 40% on free/reduced lunch.
- SSAS is not planning to add additional grade levels or to expand enrollment beyond the projected student enrollment trends. The student enrollment history and projected enrollment is attached.

School Finances and Financial Viability

The audited financial statements as of June 30, 2012 indicate the unassigned fund balance of Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences, Inc. was \$1,210,414 or 20.56% of total revenues. In addition to the unassigned fund balance a restricted debt service fund balance was \$1,314,536 as required by the bond agreement that was used to rebuild the school. The total gross fund balance was \$2,718,800 as of June 30, 2012. The December 31, 2012 financial statement indicates the unassigned fund Balance to have increased \$27,216 or 20.59% of total revenues and a gross fund balance of \$2,746,016. In summary the financial management of the school is very conservative and one of the best of the charter schools in Sarasota County, allowing the school to have an unassigned fund balance twice the state recommended maximum.

Appropriate information and supporting documentation is in place that the school is in compliance with the requirements of financial accounting, including evidence of financial accounting procedures, evidence that monthly financial statements are filed timely with the District, evidence that the annual audit is consistent with GASB 34 requirements and submitted by the required date, evidence 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

SSAS is rated by the Florida Department of Education as an "A" school and has the designation as a High Performing Charter School. Over the past five years student proficiency levels are higher than the district's average in reading, mathematics and

science. The attached charts provide historical achievement data for reading and math for SSAS and the district.

The school participates in all district and state-required assessments and adheres to all school improvement planning and school grades reporting requirements.

Curriculum & Instruction

The educational focus set forth in the application is evident in the school environment. SSAS's curriculum is aligned with the Next Generation Sunshine Standards and the Common Core State Standards. SSAS follows the district's approved reading plan and instructional strategies are differentiated for students reading at and below grade level. SSAS's instructional staff participate in professional development activities that support effective teaching.

Exceptional Student Education (ESE) and ELL Services

Procedures are in place and followed for determining eligibility and placement in the least restrictive environment and the provision of special education and related services to ESE students as set forth in the IDEA guidelines. ESE education and related services are being delivered as indicated on the student's IEP. Service delivery models implemented at the school align with the level of service indicated in the application.

Historically the school's ESOL program follows the district plan and has met all requirements to ensure compliance with the META Consent Decree. ESOL education and related services are being delivered as indicated on the student's ELL Plan. Results of the district's routine 2012 ELL monitoring found that in some cases that the school was not in full compliance with maintaining appropriate documentation and coding, but these discrepancies have been addressed to the satisfaction of district staff and the CRC.

Human Resources

Instructional staff meets the teacher certification and/or the highly qualified requirements. ESOL and ESE endorsed teachers serve the needs of ELL and ESE students, respectively. As per the 2012-13 Opening of School Checklist, a complete list of SSAS employees is on file and all employees have been fingerprinted and have background screenings on record.

Business Operations

SSAS contracts with the district for transportation and food services thereby the school is consistent with these requirements. Evidence of fire, safety and health inspections

are on file and meet facilities 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.

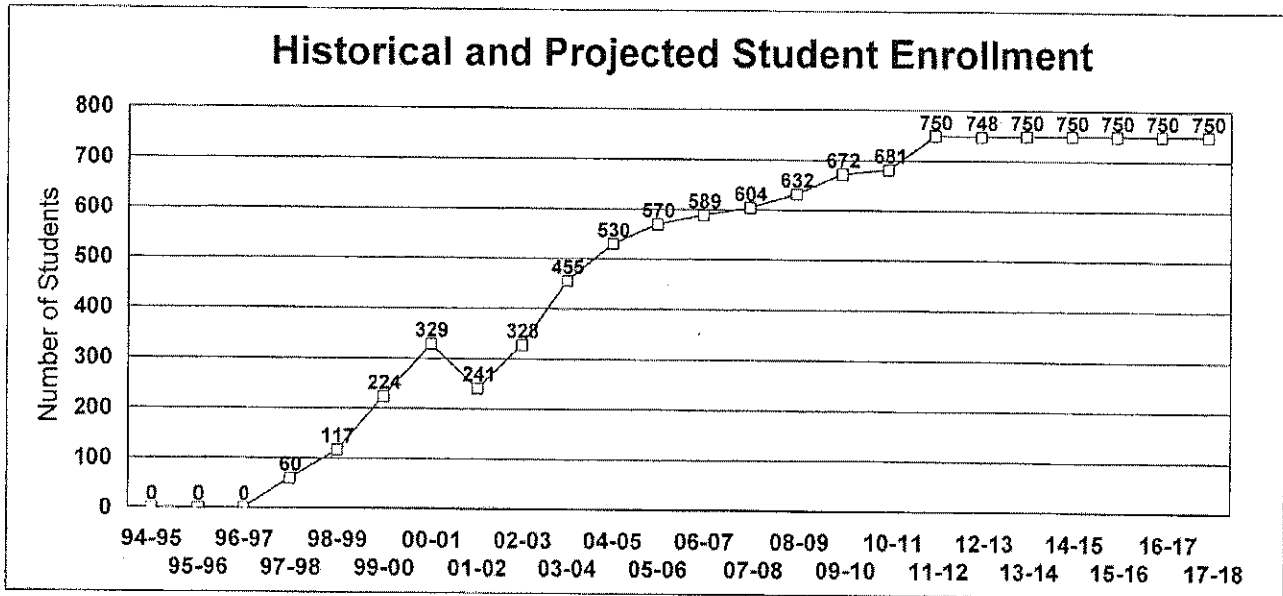
The School Board of Sarasota County, Florida Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences - Charter School

School Principal:	Ms. Tara Tahmosh - Newell	Year School Opened	1997
School Address:	646 Central Ave. Sarasota, FL 34236	Buildings are owned by the charter school	
School Phone	(941) 330-1855	Free / Reduced Lunch Percentage	40.31%
School Web Site	ssas.org	Title One School	No

Student Enrollment for the Period 2010-2011 through 2017-2018

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

Student Enrollment by Grade Level								
Grade Level	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Sixth	244	255	251	250	250	250	250	250
Seventh	232	254	251	250	250	250	250	250
Eighth	205	241	246	250	250	250	250	250
Total by Grade	681	750	748	750	750	750	750	750
Students by Program funded through the Florida Education Finance Program								
Basic Education	528	597	607	609	609	609	609	609
Dropout Prevention								
E.S.O.L.	9	3	12	12	12	12	12	12
ESE Level 1 (After 99-20 K-3)								
Students with Disabilities 4-8	145	149	133	134	134	134	134	134
ESE Level 4								
ESE Level 5		0						
Old ESE Level 255								
ESE before Matrix								
Vocational								
Total Students by Program	681	749	752	754	754	754	754	754



OCTOBER 2012 MEMBERSHIP REPORT MIDDLE SCHOOLS

"Shows the number of students attending their zoned school plus those that have transferred into this school from another attendance zone."

<u>SCHOOL ATTENDING</u>	<u>ZONED SCHOOL</u>	<u>G06</u>	<u>G07</u>	<u>G08</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
SARA. SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCE	Addresses not on the map	38	59	52	149
SARA. SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCE	BOOKER MIDDLE	73	93	74	240
SARA. SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCE	BROOKSIDE MIDDLE	78	45	65	188
SARA. SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCE	HERON CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL	0	1	1	2
SARA. SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCE	LAUREL NOKOMIS K-8	2	2	3	7
SARA. SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCE	MCINTOSH MIDDLE	47	33	46	126
SARA. SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCE	SARASOTA MIDDLE	12	17	4	33
SARA. SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCE	VENICE MIDDLE	1	1	0	2
SARA. SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCE	WOODLAND MIDDLE	0	0	1	1
	TOTAL**				748

*Numbers attending zoned school (Row 3 Enrollment Analysis)

**True membership (Row 10 Enrollment Analysis)

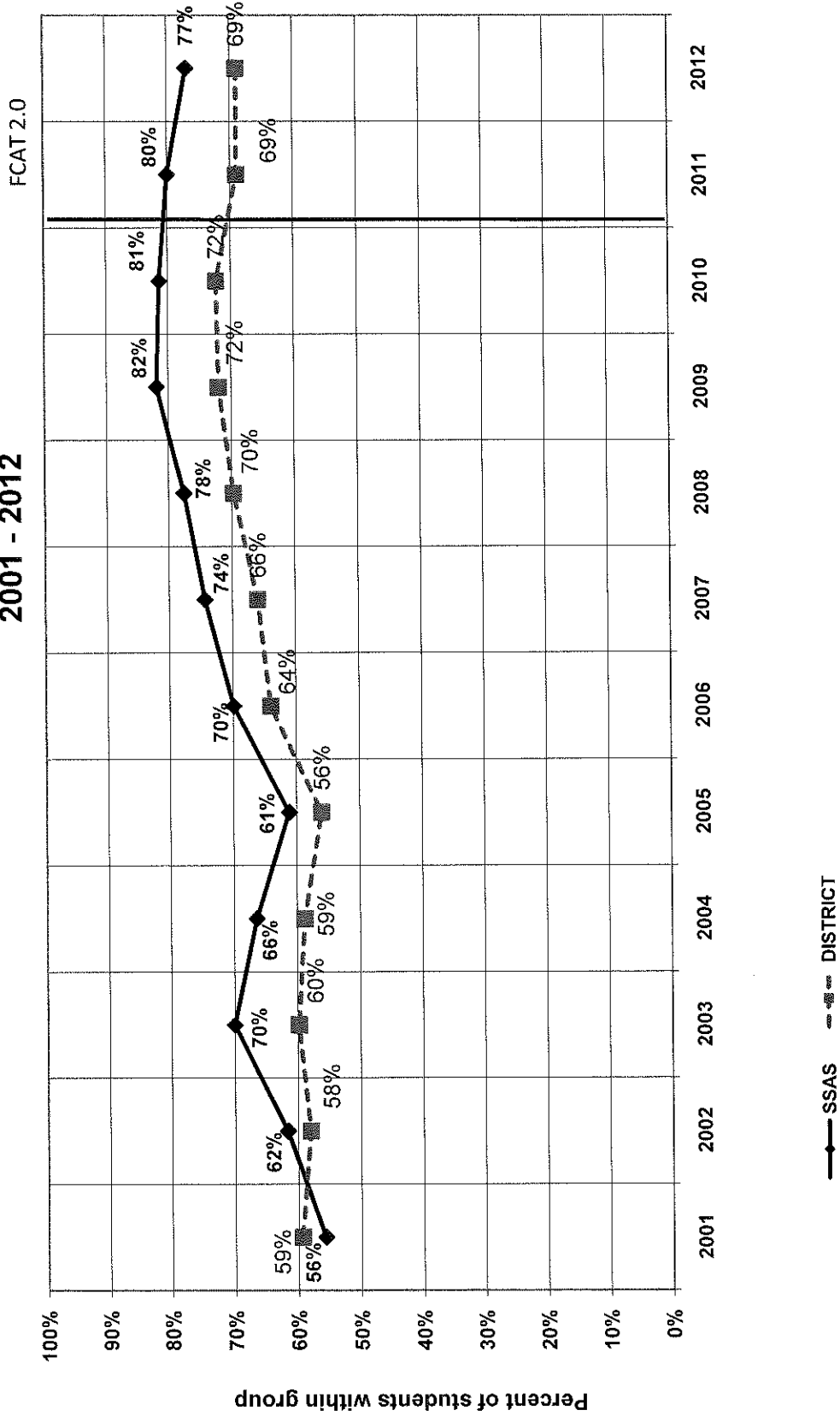
**SARSOTA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL GRADES REPORT
1999-2012**

School Number	School Name		2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
0021	Pine View	COMBO	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
0293	Oak Park School	COMBO	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1211	Laurel Nokomis School	COMBO	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	C
1281	Phoenix Academy	COMBO	NG	NG	D	C	C	C	C	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1311	Oak Park South	COMBO	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
0012	Alta Vista Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	C	C	C
0301	Ashton Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B
1241	Atwater Elementary	E	A	A	C	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
0071	Bay Haven Basics Plus	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B
0101	Brentwood Elementary	E	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	A
1271	Cranberry Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	NA	NA	NA	NA
0501	Emma E. Booker Elementary	E	C	C	C	B	C	B	B	C	B	B	C	C	D
0121	Englewood Elementary	E	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B
0131	Fruitville Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	A
0381	Garden Elementary	E	A	B	B	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A
0461	Glenallen Elementary	E	A	A	B	A	A	A	B	B	B	A	A	C	A
0261	Gocio Elementary	E	B	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	C	C	B	A
0271	Gulf Gate Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A
0471	Lakeview Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
1341	Lamarque Elementary	E	A	B	A	A	A	A	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
0171	Phillippi Shores Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	C	C
0191	Southside Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A
1282	Tatum Ridge Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
0491	Taylor Ranch Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C
1231	Toledo Blade Elementary	E	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	C	A
0201	Tuttle Elementary	E	B	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	A	C	C
0211	Venice Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B
0291	Wilkinson Elementary	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	C
0085	Booker High	H	B	B	A	D	C	D	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
1251	North Port High School	H	A	B	B	C	B	C	C	C	C	C	NA	NA	NA
0181	Riverview High	H	A	B	B	B	A	B	A	B	A	A	A	A	C
1391	Suncoast Polytechnical	H	A	A	B	A									
0051	Sarasota High	H	A	B	B	C	C	B	B	B	C	B	B	A	C
0221	Venice High	H	B	B	A	C	A	B	A	C	B	B	A	C	C
0084	Booker Middle	M	C	B	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	C	B	C	C
0111	Brookside Middle	M	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	A	A	A	B	C
1261	Heron Creek Middle	M	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	B	NA	NA	NA	NA

**SARASOTA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL GRADES REPORT
1999-2012**

School Number	School Name		2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
0141	McIntosh Middle	M	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	A	C
0031	Sarasota Middle	M	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C
0451	Venice Middle	M	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	C	C
1291	Woodland Middle	M	A	A	A	A									
	Charter Schools														
0074	Sarasota Military Academy	H	A	B	A	C	B	B	B	B	C	NA	NA	NA	NA
0110	Sky Academy	M	A	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
0081	Suncoast School for Innovative Studies	COMBO	B	A	C	A	B	B	C	B	C	NA	NA	NA	NA
0083	Sarasota School for Arts and Sciences	M	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	B	NA
0090	Island Village Montessori	COMBO	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
0100	Sarasota Suncoast Academy	E	A	A	A	A	A	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
0102	Student Leadership Academy	M	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	C	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
0103	Imagine at North Port	COMBO	A	A	A	C	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
0106	Imagine at Palmer Ranch	COMBO	A	B	B	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

SARASOTA SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES
FCAT READING
Percent of Students Level 3 and Above
Grades 6-8
2001 - 2012



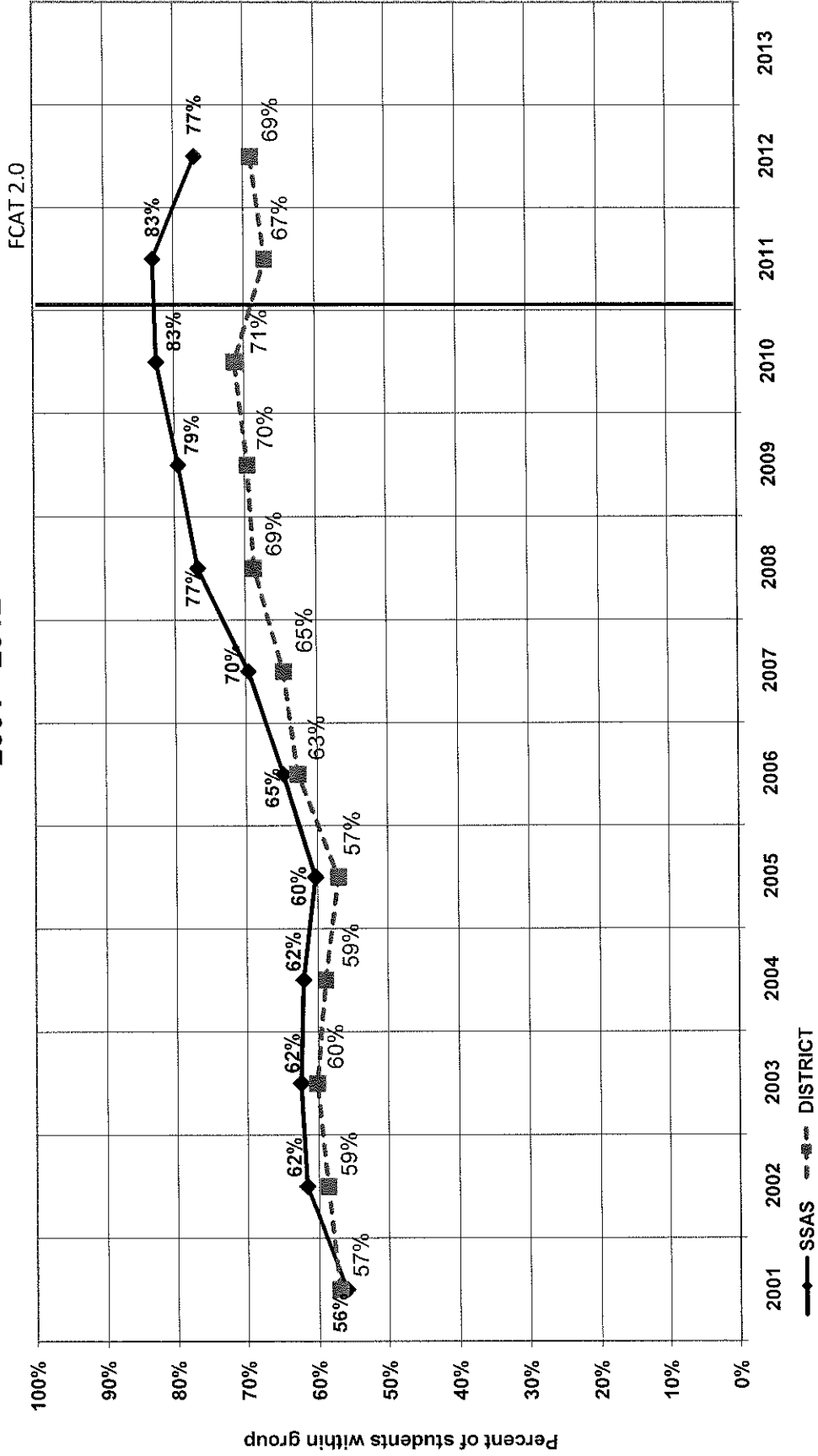
SARASOTA SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

FCAT MATH

Percent of Students Level 3 and Above

Grades 6-8

2001 - 2012



Sarasota County Public Schools

2012-2013 Charter School Renewal Application Review

The following questions and/or request for additional information is based upon the review of the Charter Renewal Application submitted by the school as well as the current Charter Agreement, results of routine annual monitoring conducted by the district, and other evidence of documentation that the school is in compliance with requirements and policies. Please respond to the Charter Review Committee’s questions and submit any additional information or documentation requested.

Name of Charter School: **Sarasota Schools of Arts and Sciences (SSAS)**

Date: 2/8/13

Question or Concern	Location in Renewal Document Or source of information	Additional Information or Documents Requested
Student enrollment counts and classrooms	Pp 5 in app	Please provide correct counts Or explain the “x’s” under “number of classrooms.”
Does SSAS have any plans to increase enrollment and/or expand grade levels? If so, please provide projections.		Student enrollment projections, if planning expansion.
What are percentages of teachers (unduplicated) that are highly qualified and not highly qualified?	Pp 14 in app	Please provide percents overall (unduplicated).
Please clarify how many teachers with ELL endorsement are there per grade level and overall for the school. The data on the 12-13 SIP plan differs from that on page 14 of the application.	Pp 14 in app	
2012-13 Governing Board Is the teacher representative a voting or non-voting member of the Board? Please clarify.	P 10 in app	
ELL Requirements In some cases the school is not in full compliance with 3-year re-evaluation and post-reclassification ELL monitoring requirements.	District ELL monitoring findings August 2012	Please contact your ELL school contact for additional details and to obtain assistance to remedy the discrepancies. Please provide a brief description of the school’s plan to address these concerns.

You may respond directly on this Word document or provide a separate document that will be amended to your application. Please respond by February 15, 2013. Please contact Dr. Natalie Roca, Executive Director, Integrated Instructional Services, if you have any questions or need additional time to respond. Dr. Roca may be reached at 941-927-9000, ext. 32250.

Question or Concern	Location in Renewal Document Or source of information	Additional Information or Documents Requested
Student enrollment counts and classrooms	Pp 5 in app	Please provide correct counts Or explain the “x’s” under “number of classrooms.”

Number of Students per grade level – October 2012 Survey		
GRADE LEVEL	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	NUMBER OF CLASSROOMS
Sixth	251	9
Seventh	250	8
Eighth	246	10
Multigrade		15
Total	747	42

Response from SSA+S:

Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences has many classrooms and teachers that serve multiple grades of students; the information has been updated in the chart above to show a more accurate reflection of our number of classrooms.

Question or Concern	Location in Renewal Document Or source of information	Additional Information or Documents Requested
Does SSAS have any plans to increase enrollment and/or expand grade levels? If so, please provide projections.		Student enrollment projections, if planning expansion.

Response from SSA+S:

Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences has no plans to expand our campus; we just completed our new three-story building and gymnasium for an educational facility of 53,000 square feet. We will not change our grade level offerings, nor our enrollment. We expect the normal fluctuations that occur with any school; however, our intent is to remain a middle school, serving populations of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students never exceeding 750 total students, during a school year, for the duration of our next contract with the school board.

Question or Concern	Location in Renewal Document Or source of information	Additional Information or Documents Requested
What are percentages of teachers (unduplicated) that are highly qualified and not highly qualified?	Pp 14 in app	Please provide percents overall (unduplicated).
Please clarify how many teachers with ELL endorsement are there per grade level and overall for the school. The data on the 12-13 SIP plan differs from that on page 14 of the application.	Pp 14 in app	

Teacher Qualifications

GRADE LEVEL	Number of Highly Qualified Teachers*	Number of Teachers Out-of-Field	Number of Teachers with ESE Endorsement	Number of Teachers with ELL Endorsement	Number of Teachers with Reading Endorsement	Number of Teachers with Gifted Endorsement
Sixth	88% (15)	12% (2)	5	6	1	1
Seventh	95% (17)	5% (1)	4	6	1	1
Eighth	93% (15)	6% (1)	5	6	1	2
School Total	94% (33)	6% (2)	6	8	1	2

*Many teachers are assigned 2 or more grade levels making the grade level numbers appear inflated hence the inclusion of a school total.

Response from SSA+S:

- The chart has been modified, above, to clarify the number of highly qualified teachers and those considered out-of-field. Percentages have been added and counts are denoted within parenthesis.
- Our school improvement plan was completed in September 2012; one additional teacher completed the requirements for her ELL Endorsement since the time of submission. In addition, the principal was included in the total number of those with ELL Endorsement. Although certified to teach ESOL, she is no longer considered a teacher and therefore the total number of teachers that are ELL Endorsed has been modified to eight.

Question or Concern	Location in Renewal Document Or source of information	Additional Information or Documents Requested
2012-13 Governing Board Is the teacher representative a voting or non-voting member of the Board? Please clarify.	P 10 in app	

Response from SSA+S:

Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences original charter application and the bylaws of the board of directors include a teacher representative on the board. Previously, this position was a voting position excluding instances that are considered to have a conflict of interest. However, in light of this question and our board's recent governance training seminar, the teacher representative position will be non-voting. We have sought a legal opinion in reference to the legality of a voting position for the teacher representative on our board of directors. Said opinion will be documented and included before the new charter is completed for July 1, 2013.

Question or Concern	Location in Renewal Document Or source of information	Additional Information or Documents Requested
<p>ELL Requirements In some cases the school is not in full compliance with 3-year re-evaluation and post-reclassification ELL monitoring requirements.</p>	<p>District ELL monitoring findings August 2012</p>	<p>Please contact your ELL school contact for additional details and to obtain assistance to remedy the discrepancies. Please provide a brief description of the school's plan to address these concerns.</p>

Response from SSA+S:

Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences has communicated with the ESOL department at the district office many times about concerns within our compliance. The principal then changed the position to a new ESOL Liaison for the 2012-13 school year to assist with the department's concerns. Although inexperienced, our new liaison is making every effort to learn from the department, attend all trainings, and maintain compliance with the ample and appreciated assistance of Jamie Rodriguez. Although not pertinent to this application, as all errors within the district's ELL monitoring findings are corrected in a timely manner. If said corrections are not made, administrative contact is requested to ensure compliance.