



Office of School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools

**MEMORANDUM**

To: School Board Members

From: Natalie Roca, Executive Director

Date: February 12, 2016

Re: Board Work Session for SKY Academy Venice Charter Renewal

The review of the charter renewal application for SKY Academy Venice is on the agenda for the February 16, 2016 Board Work Session. SKY Academy Venice is seeking a 15-year renewal term of their charter. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with an overview of the process, the school's renewal application and the summary information gathered by the district's Charter Review Committee.

As the charter sponsor, renewing charters in the district 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.

A charter school may use the renewal process to request changes to the school's educational design, an expansion of grade levels, and/or a renewal term of up to 15 years.

The charter renewal process consists of a program review of the following areas of accountability: business operations and fiscal management, student performance, compliance with federal and state requirements and adherence to the terms of the charter contract.

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:

- SKY Academy Venice submitted a renewal application on January 4, 2016.
- The district's Charter Review Committee (CRC) met on January 14, 2016 to review the 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, the school was asked to provide clarifying or updated information. The school submitted the additional information on February 3, 2016.
- On February 16, 2016 the charter school's principal and governing board members will meet with the School Board to present their request to renew the charter. The School Board may ask questions or request additional information from the school or district staff.
- The School Board will vote to approve or deny the charter's renewal application at the March 1, 2016 School Board Meeting.
- If the Board approves the charter 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 the May 3, 2016 meeting. The new term of the charter would take effect on July 1, 2016.

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

- Charter Review Committee SKY Academy Venice Renewal Analysis Summary
- Charter Renewal Application Review – CRC Findings/Questions and School Responses
- SKY Academy Venice Renewal Application

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

cc: Lori White, Superintendent of Schools  
Katrina Ward, School Choice Supervisor