



MEMORANDUM

To: School Board Members

From: Natalie Roca, Executive Director

Date: February 14, 2014

Re: Board Work Session for Imagine School at Palmer Ranch Charter Renewal

The review of the charter renewal application for Imagine School Palmer Ranch is on the agenda for the February 18, 2014 Board Work Session. Imagine School Palmer Ranch 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 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 a review 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 the 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:

- Imagine School Palmer Ranch submitted a renewal application on January 10, 2014.
- The district's Charter Review Committee (CRC) met on January 16 and 23, 2014 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.
- On February 18, 2014, the 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 to approve or deny the charter's renewal application at the March 4, 2014 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 a subsequent meeting. The new term of the charter would take effect on July 1, 2014.

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

- Charter Review Committee Renewal Analysis Summary
- Charter School Renewal Application Review - CRC Findings/Questions and School Responses
- Imagine School Palmer Ranch Charter School 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