

**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL REFORM COMMISSION**

**FEBRUARY 18, 2015**

A special meeting was held by the School Reform Commission on February 18, 2015 in the Auditorium of the School District of Philadelphia Education Center, 440 North Broad Street.

The meeting was convened at 3:37 p.m. by Chairman Green. He acknowledged and welcomed Dr. Hite, who was attending as Superintendent, but not as party to the Commission's process, deliberations, or decisions.

Michael A. Davis, General Counsel, announced that the School Reform Commission met in Executive Session on February 5, 2015, February 12, 2015, and prior to today's public meeting to discuss quasi-judicial proceedings.

**Members present:** Mr. Green, Ms. Houston, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Simms, Chair Neff – 5

**Members Absent:** 0

Evelyn Sample-Oates, Chief of Family and Community Engagement, provided an overview of the order of the meeting. She stated that a representative from the Deaf-Hearing Communication Center is present to provide sign language interpretation of the proceedings. She stated that representatives from the Office of Family and Community Engagement are stationed in the lobby to help with interpretation services. Ms. Sample-Oates stated that the SRC meeting is being streamed live on the internet and is being recorded by the School District of Philadelphia. She stated that the School District's recordings are protected by the copyright laws of the United States and may not be used in any manner without the express written consent of The School District. Ms. Sample-Oates stated that by participating in the meeting, members of the public acknowledge that the School District may use its recordings for any purpose without obtaining permission or paying any compensation.

Megan Reamer, Charter Schools Office, provided an overview of the new charter application process, which included a review of basic charter terms, PA charter law requirements, and the Philadelphia charter application process. Ms. Reamer stated that 40 applications from 32 operators were received on November 15, 2014. The District recruited local and national expert evaluators in addition to utilizing the expertise of internal District staff. She stated that public hearings in December 2014 included public comments from 145 citizens and presentations from all applicants. Public hearings in January 2015 included presentation of the District's evaluation reports as well as questioning of applicants. Written public comment were accepted through February 16, 2015 and nearly 1,400 letters and emails were received. *A complete copy of Ms. Reamer's powerpoint presentation is on file with the minutes of the School Reform Commission.*

Michael A. Davis, General Counsel, recommended a temporary Speaker's Policy for the School Reform Commission to consider, just for the purpose of this meeting. He stated that for this Special Meeting, at which the SRC is proceeding as a quasi-judicial body voting to grant or deny the submitted new charter application, he recommended that the SRC formally amend the SRC Speaker's Policy under SRC Policy #6. Mr. Davis stated that he is making this recommendation because of the extent of prior public comment and input as the SRC held public hearings on these matters, recorded more than 12 hours of public testimony, and received more than 300 written comments from the public, and to accommodate the high number of stakeholders interested in giving public testimony. Mr. Davis stated that we will first hear from one representative from each of the new charter applicants. Following that, we will hear from 39 speakers who will speak on the topic of their choice. Mr. Davis stated that the speakers were registered in advance on a first-come first-served basis. Every speaker will have three minutes.

Chairman Green introduced a motion to temporarily amend the Speaker's Policy for this Special Meeting.

The vote to amend the Speaker's Policy was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houston, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 5

Nays: 0

The meeting was opened to the public for presentation of statements.

The following individuals presented statements in support of the respective charter applications:

- Barbara Moore Williams, Member of Planning Committee, ACES Business Entrepreneur Academy Charter School
- Jurate Krokys, Chief Executive Officer, American Paradigm Charter School – Oxford Circle
- Michael Karp, Belmont Charter High School
- Cynthia Figueroa, President and CEO, Congresso Academy Charter High School
- David Rossi, CEO, Esperanza Elementary Charter School
- Patrick Field, Franklin Towne Charter Middle School
- James Waller, Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Friendship Public Charter School
- Joseph Budd, Germantown Community Charter School
- David Hardy, Girls' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School
- Naomi Booker, Global Leadership International Academy Charter School
- Stephanie Kindt, President of Overbrook Farms Neighborhood Association, Greenwoods Charter School at Overbrook Farms

- Gloria Shabazz, Independence Charter High School and Independence Charter School West
- Tracy Scott, Innovative Dimensions in Education STEAM Charter School
- Claudia Lyles, CEO, Keystone Preparatory Charter School
- Danielle Freedman, Senior, KIPP DuBois Collegiate Academy, KIPP DuBois Charter School
- Toya Algarin, KIPP North Charter School
- Marc Manella, KIPP West Charter School
- C. Benjamin Lattimore, Leon H. Sullivan Opportunities Charter School
- Michael Marrone, President, Liguori Academy Charter School
- John Swoyer, CEO, MaST Community Charter School – Roosevelt
- Scott Gordon, Mastery Charter School, Gillespie
- Claire Richardson, Mastery Charter School – North Philadelphia
- Paul Stadelberger, Founder and CEO, New Foundations Charter School – Brewerytown
- Ronald Burling, Phase 4 America Charter School
- Darrell Caston, Managing Partner, Redemptive Enterprises, Philadelphia Career & Technical Academy Charter School
- Michael Adler, Board Chairman, Philadelphia Music and Dance Charter School
- Wendy-Anne Roberts-Johnson, PHMC Preparatory Charter School
- Angela Corosante, Founder and CEO, String Theory Charter School – East Falls, Grays Ferry, Port Richmond, and Southeast
- Arlene Holtz, Board President, Sustainable Roots Academy Charter School
- Anthony Harris, TECH Freire Charter School
- Benjamin Persofsky, The Partnership School for Science and Innovation – MaST
- Ayannah Fitzgerald, The Pavillion Charter School for Exceptional Students

The following individuals presented general statements on charter schools:

Carolyn Adams, PCCY, expressed concerns about the funding implications of charter approvals.

Susan Grobeski stated that the District cannot afford charter expansion. She stated that the School District has an obligation to the schools it has now.

Christine Carlson stated that without a fair funding formula, new charters should not be approved.

Richard Migliore stated that all new charter applications should be rejected.

Karen Delguercio expressed support of MaST Charter School.

Tosch Traylor expressed support of MaST Roosevelt Charter School.

Lisa Haver, retired teacher and member of Alliance for Philadelphia Public Schools, stated that charter schools are not better than public schools. She questioned whether members of the SRC are appointed to serve the interest of Harrisburg politicians who consistently voted to cut our education budget, or whether the SRC was appointed to serve the interest of wealthy anonymous donors. Ms. Haver stated that the Alliance for Philadelphia Public Schools filed a lawsuit against the SRC for violation of the Sunshine Act. She stated that we are again witnessing the SRC's refusal to deliberate in public. Ms. Haver stated that the SRC cannot choose to destroy the public school system by voting to add more charter schools. She stated that the SRC must stand up for our children.

Molly Michel expressed support of Southwark Elementary School.

Melissa Wilde stated that the District cannot afford new charters. She recommended that the SRC vote no, as it is financially irresponsible.

Diane Payne recommended that the SRC vote no to new charters.

Deborah Grill recommended that the SRC vote no to new charters.

David Lapp discussed the impact of charters on all students.

Timothy Boil recommended that the SRC vote no on String Theory Charter Schools.

Lauren Summers stated that the District does not need more charters.

Bob Previdi stated that the gift from Philadelphia Schools Partnership to offset costs for expanding charter schools is a distraction from fixing our existing school district.

Michael Churchill recommended that the SRC not approve any new charters.

Tom Sauerman recommended that the SRC not approve String Theory – East Falls.

Karel Kilimnik questioned when did the SRC meet to discuss the new charter applications. She recommended that the SRC not approve any new charters.

Adam Weaver recommended that the SRC not approve any new charters.

Margali Larson stated that the District cannot afford a single new charter without a fair funding formula.

Eileen Brown stated that new charter schools are not the answer.

Hanna Nunez recommended the approval of Global Leadership International Academy Charter School.

Helen Gym expressed support of a moratorium on new charter approvals. She stated that the District should end its participation in the Great Schools Partnership and Philadelphia Schools Partnership. Ms. Gym also recommended no expansion of charters.

Tammy Murphy recommended that the SRC vote no to String Theory – East Falls.

Peggy Savage recommended that the School District and PFT return to the bargaining table, and rethink charter expansion.

Kendra Brooks stated that there should be fair choices and options. She expressed support of Community Schools.

Sheila Armstrong recommended that the SRC not approve any new charters.

Bridget Walsh expressed support of ACES Business Entrepreneur Academy Charter School.

Laurada Byers expressed support for pro-public education. She stated that she is not for or against charter or district schools, but is in favor of great schools.

Jana Muhammad stated that we should invest in excellent schools and allow them to expand.

Aaron Bass expressed support of the three KIPP charter applications.

Joseph Butler stated that he is disappointed with the bickering amongst adults. He stated that all underperforming schools should be closed and that there is no accountability for charter and District schools. Mr. Butler stated that we should support a school that is getting it done, be it a charter or District school.

John Tremble recommended that the SRC withhold approval on any new charters until a fair funding formula is in place.

Chairman Green offered the following remarks, describing the process that went into these votes. He stated that last September, the state passed Act 131, the bill allocating increased city cigarette tax revenues to District schools. The act effectively charged the SRC with considering new applications for traditional charter schools in Philadelphia. He stated that this is not a one-time event. The SRC will now be considering new applications annually as part of our regular work as a charter authorizer. Chairman Green stated that despite the tumultuous and at times gravely inappropriate political environment of the past few months, the SRC has conducted a thorough, high-quality process. He stated that Charter law directed the SRC to consider closely: the quality and comprehensiveness of each applicant's proposed academic curriculum; proof of sustainable public support; the financial soundness of the school plan; and the viability of the school's governance structure. Chairman Green stated that the deliberations over these and other relevant issues resulted in: more than 12 hours of open public testimony; more than 100 hours of open public hearings; hundreds of emails and letters from the public; and published reports of all of the findings. He stated that anyone who looks at this record will see that, contrary to fears of various stakeholders, the review was driven neither by political or economic priorities, but entirely by whether each applicant was prepared to open a successful school. Chairman Green stated that the SRC has not accepted new charter school applications since 2009, but has supported expansion of the best charter models and schools. He stated that since 2010, the District has converted 20 schools to Renaissance charters, which serve local neighborhoods, often exceptionally well. He stated that the SRC has also allowed existing charters to expand and even add new campuses. With this growth, the city's charter population has more than doubled since 2007, from just over 30,000 students to 62,000 students today. In 2009, the District paid \$240 million to support charters. Today it pays \$765 million. Chairman Green stated that the need for the SRC to act as a quality authorizer has never been greater. He stated that many city charters are outstanding, but some struggle and a few fail entirely. He stated that the weakness in those schools could have been identified at the start with careful authorizing. Chairman Green stated that tonight the Commission members will cast votes for applicants they believe offer unique and exceptional opportunities for Philadelphia students. Chairman Green thanked: the 31 applicant groups who worked diligently under a demanding timeframe to propose opportunities for Philadelphia children; the families and community members who have reached out to us in the hundreds to express both support and opposition to these applications; the expert volunteers who helped the SRC look at these applications through diverse lenses; and to the District and charter team who have worked endless hours allowing us to run this process in the rigorous manner our students and city deserve. Chairman Green extended a special thank you to Liz Gutman, Counsel, Megan Reamer, Program Manager, Allison Petersen, Hearing Officer, and Superintendent Hite and his outstanding team.

The following resolutions were presented for formal action by the School Reform Commission:

Prior to the vote on each resolution, Megan Reamer, Charter School Office, provided a brief overview of each proposed charter, which included: grade range; total enrollment; location; mission/focus; and proposed opening date. *A complete copy of Ms. Reamer's powerpoint presentation is on file with the minutes of the School Reform Commission.*

Michael A. Davis, General Counsel, announced that he had been advised by Commissioners that they would be abstaining from voting on the following resolutions due to personal conflicts of interest: Commissioner Jimenez – Mastery, KIPP, Girls Latin, and Global Leadership Academy International Charter School; Commissioner Simms –

PHMC Preparatory Charter School; and Chairman Green – Global Leadership Academy International Charter School, String Theory – East Falls, String Theory – Greys Ferry, String Theory Port Richmond, and String Theory – Southeast. Mr. Davis also stated that when voting, the Commissioners would be asked to state whether they are voting to “grant” or “deny” the charter.

## **I. SCHOOL REFORM COMMISSION**

### **SRC-1**

#### **Proposed Charter Action – ACES Business Entrepreneur Academy Charter School**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for ACES Business Entrepreneur Academy Charter School ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades 6-12 starting in the 2015-2016 school year with a maximum enrollment of 500 students in grades 6-10 in the Year 5 of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houston, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 5

Nays: 0

### **SRC-2**

#### **Proposed Charter Action – American Paradigm Charter School (Oxford Circle)**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for American Paradigm Charter School- Oxford Circle ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-8 starting in the 2016-2017 school year with a maximum enrollment of 900 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houston, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 5

Nays: 0

### **SRC-3**

#### **Proposed Charter Action – American Paradigm Charter School at Port Richmond**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for American Paradigm Charter School - Port Richmond ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-4 starting in the 2016-2017 school year with a maximum enrollment of 500 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houston, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms – 4

Nays: Chairman Green – 1

**SRC-4**

**Proposed Charter Action – ASPIRA Ramon E. Betances Charter School**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for ASPIRA Ramon E. Betances Charter School ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-8 starting in the 2015-2016 school year with a maximum enrollment of 550 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houston, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 5

Nays: 0

**SRC-5**

**Proposed Charter Action – Belmont Charter High School**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for Belmont Charter High School ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades 9-12 starting in the 2015-2016 school year with a maximum enrollment of 500 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houston, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms – 3

Nays: Ms. Jimenez, Chairman Green – 2

**SRC-6**

**Proposed Charter Action – Congresso Academy Charter High School**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for Congresso Academy Charter High School ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades 9-12 starting in the 2016-2017 school year with a maximum enrollment of 600 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houston, Ms. Neff, Chairman Green – 3

Nays: Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Simms – 2

**SRC-7**

**Proposed Charter Action – Esperanza Elementary Charter School**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for Esperanza Elementary Charter School ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-5 starting in the 2015-2016 school year with a maximum enrollment of 800 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houston, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 4

Nays: Ms. Jimenez – 1

**SRC-8**

**Proposed Charter Action – Franklin Towne Charter Middle School**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for Franklin Towne Charter Middle School ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades 5-8 starting in the 2015-2016 school year with a maximum enrollment of 600 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houston, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 5

Nays: 0

**SRC-9**

**Proposed Charter Action – Friendship Public Charter School**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for Friendship Public Charter School ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-8 starting in the 2016-2017 school year with a maximum enrollment of 776 students in K-6 in the Year 5 of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houston, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 5

Nays: 0

#### **SRC-10**

##### **Proposed Charter Action – Germantown Community Charter School**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for Germantown Community Charter School ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades 6-12 starting in the 2016-2017 school year with a maximum enrollment of 1050 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houston, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Chairman Green – 4

Nays: Ms. Simms – 1

#### **SRC-11**

##### **Proposed Charter Action – Girls' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for Girls' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades 6-12 starting in the 2015-2016 school year with a maximum enrollment of 1450 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houston, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 4

Nays: 0

Abstention: Ms. Jimenez – 1

#### **SRC-12**

##### **Proposed Charter Action – Global Leadership Academy International Charter School**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for Global Leadership Academy International Charter School ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-12 starting in the 2015-2016 school year with a maximum enrollment of 1000 students in grades K-5 and 9-12 in Year 5 of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houstoun, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms – 3

Nays: 0

Abstentions: Ms. Jimenez, Chairman Green – 2

### **SRC-13**

#### **Proposed Charter Action – Green Woods Charter School a Overbrook Farms**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for Green Woods Charter School at Overbrook Farms ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-8 starting in the 2016-2017 school year with a maximum enrollment of 723 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houstoun, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 4

Nays: Ms. Jimenez – 1

### **SRC-14**

#### **Proposed Charter Action – Independence Charter High School**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for Independence Charter High School ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades 9-12 starting in the 2016-2017 school year with a maximum enrollment of 800 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houstoun, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 4

Nays: 0

Abstention: Ms. Jimenez – 1

### **SRC-15**

#### **Proposed Charter Action – Independence Charter School West**

WHEREAS, on or before November 15, 2014, the applicant for Independence Charter School West ("ICSW" or "Charter School") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school; now be it

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by ICSW and made during the public hearings by representatives for ICSW, the School Reform Commission hereby grants a Charter to "Independence Charter School West" to operate a public charter school with grades K-4 for a three-year period commencing on July 1, 2016 and ending on June 30, 2019, provided that ICSW submits the following documentation ("Required Documentation") to the Charter Schools Office no later than May 31, 2015:



1. The executed lease or sublease or executed intent to lease or sublease related to the Charter School's use of the facilities at 6750 Lindbergh Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19142 or another location in West Philadelphia south of Baltimore Avenue between 52<sup>nd</sup> Street and 70<sup>th</sup> Street mutually agreeable to the Charter School and the Charter Schools Office for Year 1 of the Charter. The Charter School and the Charter Schools Office shall identify a mutually agreeable facility for the Charter School for Years 2 and 3 of the Charter;
2. The contract between the Charter School and the Charter School's management company, Independence Charter School, that accurately reflects all of the duties, services, obligations and liabilities of each party to the other with respect to the operation of the Charter School or services to be provided to the Charter School, including specific provisions on management fees, which shall be approved by the respective governing boards of each entity, in a form that is acceptable to the Charter Schools Office;
3. An Admissions Policy and Process which complies with the Public School Code and Charter School Law and which includes provisions on application deadlines, recruitment communications, including details on methods to be used to recruit students Citywide or in an applicable attendance zone, lottery dates, and results, in a form that is acceptable to the Charter Schools Office. The Admissions Policy and Process shall provide that if seats open during the school year for grades K-8 or between school years for grades 1-8, the Charter School shall accept new students from the waiting list in appropriate order for particular grades or new applicants if there are no applicants for that grade on the waiting list. The Admissions Policy and Process also shall provide that the Charter School shall provide a copy of its current waiting list at any time during the Term of the Charter within ten (10) business days after requested by the Charter Schools Office;
4. Bylaws adopted by the board and a list of the names and addresses of the board members of the Charter School which demonstrate that none of the board members of the Charter School serve on the board of Independence Charter School, the management company, and which demonstrate proper governance considerations for a public charter school that is also subject to the Sunshine Act;
5. A locally developed curriculum establishing alignment with Pennsylvania standards for all grade levels to be served. Such curriculum shall include specific provisions for English as Second Language students;
6. A plan for ESL programming which complies with 22 Pa. Code Chapter 4 standards;
7. Budget documents which demonstrate that the Charter School has performed adequate financial planning for the opening and operation of the Charter School;
8. A certificate of insurance evidencing that insurance coverage has been obtained by the Charter School in the amounts and categories as deemed acceptable by the Charter Schools Office; and
9. Plan documents for any 403(b) deferred compensation retirement plan for the Charter School, outlining the terms, conditions and benefits of the plan, including an employer contribution; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Charter shall contain the following terms and conditions:

1. The Charter School shall be authorized to operate only as a grade K-4 charter school starting in the 2016-2017 school year with a maximum enrollment of 300 students in that year, 400 students in the 2017-2018 school year and 500 students in the 2018-2019 school year during the term of the Charter and any renewal thereof, unless the parties agree in writing to other terms. Under no circumstances will the Charter School request payment from the School District or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for more students than set forth herein nor enroll students in different grades, without SRC approval by resolution;
2. The Charter School and the Charter Schools Office shall negotiate a mutually agreeable attendance zone for the Charter School for new students enrolled for Years 1, 2 and 3 of the Charter;
3. The Charter School shall participate in the School District's charter school performance framework and monitoring system as set forth in the School District charter school policies and procedures and any amendments thereto. The charter school performance framework will include annual assessments of the Charter School's academic, financial, and organizational performance. The Charter School agrees to submit to the School District all student level academic information required for assessment of academic performance as part of the charter school performance framework and monitoring system;
4. For each year during the term of the Charter, the Charter School shall seek to achieve (i) a School Performance Profile ("SPP") score of 70 or better, (ii) the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System ("PVAAS") growth measure, and (iii) the Average Growth Index ("AGI") growth measure, consistent with the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Accountability System pursuant to NCLB;
5. If the Charter School achieves a ranking in the bottom two levels on the School District's charter school performance framework and monitoring system during any year of the term of the Charter, the School District shall require that the Charter School meet certain specific student achievement targets and participate in ongoing progress reporting. If the Charter School consistently achieves a ranking in the bottom two levels on the School District's charter school performance framework and monitoring system for two consecutive years during the Term of the Charter, the School District may recommend that the SRC commence revocation or nonrenewal proceedings against the Charter School;
6. The Board of Trustees shall ensure that all trustees, officers, administrators, and relatives of trustees, officers and administrators of the Charter School comply with the Pennsylvania Public Official and Employee Ethics

Act and the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Act. The Board of Trustees shall adopt a Conflicts of Interest policy that complies with the Pennsylvania Public Official and Employee Ethics Act and the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Act;

7. The Board of Trustees shall submit to the School District by August 1st of each year during the Term of the Charter as part of the Charter School's Annual Report, or separately if not included in the Charter School's Annual Report, evidence that 75% of the Charter School's professional staff are certified in accordance with the Charter School Law;

8. The Board of Trustees shall submit to the School District by August 1st of each year during the Term of the Charter as part of the Charter School's Annual Report, or separately if not included in the Charter School's Annual Report, evidence that 100% of the Charter School's teachers with primary responsibility for direct instruction in one or more of No Child Left Behind's core academic subjects demonstrate that they satisfy the definition of a "Highly Qualified Teacher";

9. The Board of Trustees shall ensure that all employees have required federal and state criminal and child abuse background checks during the term of the Charter. The Board of Trustees shall submit a signed affidavit to the School District annually, pursuant to guidelines established by the Charter Schools Office, as evidence that the Charter School has complied with this requirement; and

10. The Board of Trustees shall submit to the School District signed Statements of Financial Interests as required by the Public Official and Employee Ethics Act and the Charter School Law annually, pursuant to guidelines established by the Charter Schools Office; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the written Charter shall be issued upon the Charter Schools Office's receipt of satisfactory Required Documentation as set forth above. Failure of the Charter School to submit satisfactory Required Documentation by May 31, 2015, or by the end of any extension period granted by the SRC Chief of Staff, shall void this Resolution and shall cause the SRC to re-vote on the Application within thirty (30) days after the expiration of May 31, 2015, or any extension period. The SRC hereby delegates authority to determine compliance with the requirements of this Resolution to the Chief of Staff of the SRC. Notice of voiding this Resolution for failure to submit the Required Documentation shall be issued by the Chairman of the SRC. Notwithstanding these provisions, the Charter granted herein will not take effect until the written Charter has been issued and signed by the Chairman of the SRC and the Chair of the Charter School's Board of Trustees, or another duly designated member of the Board.

The vote on the motion to grant with conditions was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houstoun, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 3

Nays: Ms. Neff – 1

Abstention: Ms. Jimenez – 1

#### **SRC-16**

##### **Proposed Charter Action – Innovative Dimensions STEAM Academy**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for Innovative Dimensions STEAM Academy ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades 6-12 starting in the 2016-2017 school year with a maximum enrollment of 810 students in grades 6-11 in Year 5 of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houstoun, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Chairman Green – 4

Nays: Ms. Simms – 1

#### **SRC-17**

##### **Proposed Charter Action – Keystone Preparatory Charter School**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for Keystone Preparatory Charter School ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-12 starting in the 2016-2017 school year with a maximum enrollment of 1300 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houstoun, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 5

Nays: 0

#### **SRC-18**

##### **Proposed Charter Action – KIPP Dubois Charter School**

WHEREAS, on or before November 15, 2014, the applicant for KIPP DuBois Charter School ("KIPP DuBois" or "Charter School") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school; now be it

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by KIPP DuBois and made during the public hearings by representatives for KIPP DuBois, the School Reform Commission hereby grants a Charter to "KIPP DuBois Charter School" to operate a public charter school with grades 9-12 for a three-year period commencing on July 1, 2015 and ending on June 30, 2018, provided that KIPP DuBois submits the following documentation ("Required Documentation") to the Charter Schools Office no later than May 31, 2015:

1. The executed lease or sublease or executed intent to lease or sublease related to the Charter School's use of the facilities at 5070 Parkside Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131, in a form acceptable to the Charter Schools Office;
2. The contract between the Charter School and the Charter School's management company, KIPP Philadelphia Charter School, that accurately reflects all of the duties, services, obligations and liabilities of each party to the other with respect to the operation of the Charter School or services to be provided to the Charter School, including specific provisions on management fees, which shall be approved by the respective governing boards of each entity, in a form that is acceptable to the Charter Schools Office;
3. An Admissions Policy and Process which complies with the Public School Code and Charter School Law and which includes provisions on application deadlines, recruitment communications, including details on methods to be used to recruit students Citywide or in an applicable attendance zone, lottery dates, and results, in a form that is acceptable to the Charter Schools Office. The Admissions Policy and Process shall provide that if seats open during the school year in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, the Charter School shall accept new students from the waiting list in appropriate order for 9<sup>th</sup> grade or new applicants if there are no applicants for 9<sup>th</sup> grade on the waiting list. If seats open in grades other than 9<sup>th</sup> grade, the Charter School shall seek to fill the open seats in the best way feasible. The Admissions Policy and Process also shall provide that the Charter School shall provide a copy of its current waiting list at any time during the Term of the Charter within ten (10) business days after requested by the Charter Schools Office;
4. Bylaws adopted by the board and a list of the names and addresses of the board members of the Charter School which demonstrate that none of the board members of the Charter School serve on the board of KIPP Philadelphia Charter School, the management company, and which demonstrate proper governance considerations for a public charter school that is also subject to the Sunshine Act;
5. A locally developed curriculum establishing alignment with Pennsylvania standards for all grade levels to be served. Such curriculum shall include specific provisions for English as Second Language students;
6. A plan for ESL programming which complies with 22 Pa. Code Chapter 4 standards;
7. Budget documents which demonstrate that the Charter School has performed adequate financial planning for the opening and operation of the Charter School;
8. A certificate of insurance evidencing that insurance coverage has been obtained by the Charter School in the amounts and categories as deemed acceptable by the Charter Schools Office;
9. Plan documents for any 403(b) deferred compensation retirement plan for the Charter School, outlining the terms, conditions and benefits of the plan, including an employer contribution; and
10. KIPP Philadelphia shall submit four originals of the charter agreement between the School District and KIPP Philadelphia Charter School, for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2019, signed by KIPP Philadelphia Charter School and in a form acceptable to the Charter Schools Office; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Charter shall contain the following terms and conditions:

1. The Charter School shall be authorized to operate only as a grade 9-12 charter school starting in the 2015-2016 school year with a maximum enrollment of 280 students in that year, 390 students in the 2016-2017 school year and 500 students in the 2017-2018 school year during the term of the Charter and any renewal thereof, unless

the parties agree in writing to other terms. Under no circumstances will the Charter School request payment from the School District or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for more students than set forth herein nor enroll students in different grades, without SRC approval by resolution;

2. The Charter School, during the term of the Charter, shall give an enrollment preference first for incoming 9th grade students to rising 8th grade students from KIPP Philadelphia Charter School and KIPP West Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School, and then to students residing in the 19131 and 19139 zip codes (the "Attendance Zone"). The Charter School first may fill open enrollment slots with students having sibling or founder preferences, as applicable. If enrollment slots are still available after admitting (i) students having sibling or founder preferences; (ii) all rising 8th grade applicants from KIPP Philadelphia Charter School and KIPP West Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School; and (iii) all students in the Attendance Zone, the Charter School shall fill the remaining slots on a random basis in accordance with Section 17-1723-A. All other provisions of Section 17-1723-A and the Public School Code shall remain in force, and the Charter School may not exclude children on any basis other than that set forth in this paragraph;

3. The Charter School shall participate in the School District's charter school performance framework and monitoring system as set forth in the School District charter school policies and procedures and any amendments thereto. The charter school performance framework will include annual assessments of the Charter School's academic, financial, and organizational performance. The Charter School agrees to submit to the School District all student level academic information required for assessment of academic performance as part of the charter school performance framework and monitoring system;

4. For each year during the term of the Charter, the Charter School shall seek to achieve (i) a School Performance Profile ("SPP") score of 70 or better, (ii) the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System ("PVAAS") growth measure, and (iii) the Average Growth Index ("AGI") growth measure, consistent with the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Accountability System pursuant to NCLB;

5. If the Charter School achieves a ranking in the bottom two levels on the School District's charter school performance framework and monitoring system during any year of the term of the Charter, the School District shall require that the Charter School meet certain specific student achievement targets and participate in ongoing progress reporting. If the Charter School consistently achieves a ranking in the bottom two levels on the School District's charter school performance framework and monitoring system for two consecutive years during the Term of the Charter, the School District may recommend that the SRC commence revocation or nonrenewal proceedings against the Charter School;

6. The Board of Trustees shall ensure that all trustees, officers, administrators, and relatives of trustees, officers and administrators of the Charter School comply with the Pennsylvania Public Official and Employee Ethics Act and the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Act. The Board of Trustees shall adopt a Conflicts of Interest policy that complies with the Pennsylvania Public Official and Employee Ethics Act and the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Act;

7. The Board of Trustees shall submit to the School District by August 1st of each year during the Term of the Charter as part of the Charter School's Annual Report, or separately if not included in the Charter School's Annual Report, evidence that 75% of the Charter School's professional staff are certified in accordance with the Charter School Law;

8. The Board of Trustees shall submit to the School District by August 1st of each year during the Term of the Charter as part of the Charter School's Annual Report, or separately if not included in the Charter School's Annual Report, evidence that 100% of the Charter School's teachers with primary responsibility for direct instruction in one or more of No Child Left Behind's core academic subjects demonstrate that they satisfy the definition of a "Highly Qualified Teacher";

9. The Board of Trustees shall ensure that all employees have required federal and state criminal and child abuse background checks during the term of the Charter. The Board of Trustees shall submit a signed affidavit to the School District annually, pursuant to guidelines established by the Charter Schools Office, as evidence that the Charter School has complied with this requirement; and

10. The Board of Trustees shall submit to the School District signed Statements of Financial Interests as required by the Public Official and Employee Ethics Act and the Charter School Law annually, pursuant to guidelines established by the Charter Schools Office; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the written Charter shall be issued upon the Charter Schools Office's receipt of satisfactory Required Documentation as set forth above. Failure of the Charter School to submit satisfactory Required Documentation by May 31, 2015, or by the end of any extension period granted by the SRC Chief of Staff, shall void this Resolution and shall cause the SRC to re-vote on the Application within thirty (30) days after the expiration of May 31, 2015, or any extension period. The SRC hereby delegates authority to determine compliance with the requirements of this Resolution to the Chief of Staff of the SRC. Notice of voiding this Resolution for failure to submit the Required Documentation shall be issued by the Chairman of the SRC. Notwithstanding these provisions, the Charter granted herein will not take effect until the written Charter has been issued and signed by the Chairman of the SRC and the Chair of the Charter School's Board of Trustees, or another duly designated member of the Board.

The vote on the motion to grant with conditions was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houstoun, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 3

Nays: Ms. Neff – 1

Abstention: Ms. Jimenez – 1

**SRC-19**

**Proposed Charter Action – KIPP North Philadelphia Charter School**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for KIPP North Philadelphia Charter School ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-12 starting in the 2015-2016 school year with a maximum enrollment of 1380 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houstoun, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 4

Nays: 0

Abstention: Ms. Jimenez – 1

**SRC-20**

**Proposed Charter Action – KIPP West Charter School**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for KIPP West Philadelphia Charter School ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-12 starting in the 2015-2016 school year with a maximum enrollment of 1380 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houstoun, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 4

Nays: 0

Abstention: Ms. Jimenez – 1

**SRC-21**

**Proposed Charter Action – Leon H. Sullivan Opportunities Charter School**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for Leon H. Sullivan Opportunities Charter School ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-12 starting in the 2015-2016 school year with a maximum enrollment of 1075 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houston, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 5

Nays: 0

### **SRC-22**

#### **Proposed Charter Action – Liguori Academy Charter School**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for Liguori Academy Charter School ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades 9-12 starting in the 2016-2017 school year with a maximum enrollment of 1200 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houston, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 5

Nays: 0

### **SRC-23**

#### **Proposed Charter Action – MaST Community Charter School – Roosevelt Campus**

WHEREAS, on or before November 15, 2014, the applicant for MaST Community Charter School – Roosevelt Campus ("MaST Roosevelt" or "Charter School") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school; now be it

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by MaST Roosevelt and made during the public hearings by representatives for MaST Roosevelt, the School Reform Commission hereby grants a Charter to "MaST Community Charter School – Roosevelt Campus " to operate a public charter school with grades K-5 for a three-year period commencing on July 1, 2016 and ending on June 30, 2019, provided that MaST Roosevelt submits the following documentation ("Required Documentation") to the Charter Schools Office no later than May 31, 2015:

1. An executed lease or sublease or executed intent to lease or sublease related to the Charter School's use of the facilities in a location in the Lower Northeast section of Philadelphia south of Cottman Avenue mutually agreeable to the Charter School and the Charter Schools Office;
2. The contract between the Charter School and the Charter School's management company, MaST Community Charter School, that accurately reflects all of the duties, services, obligations and liabilities of each party to the other with respect to the operation of the Charter School or services to be provided to the Charter School, including specific provisions on management fees, which shall be approved by the respective governing boards of each entity, in a form that is acceptable to the Charter Schools Office;
3. An Admissions Policy and Process which complies with the Public School Code and Charter School Law and which includes provisions on application deadlines, recruitment communications, including details on methods to be used to recruit students Citywide or in an applicable attendance zone, lottery dates, and results, in a form that is acceptable to the Charter Schools Office. The Admissions Policy and Process shall provide that (i) if seats open during the school year for grades K-8 or between school years for grades 1-8, the Charter School shall accept new students from the waiting list in appropriate order for particular grades or new applicants if there are no applicants for that grade on the waiting list; and (ii) if seats open during the school year in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, the Charter School shall accept new students from the waiting list in appropriate order for 9<sup>th</sup> grade or new applicants if there are no applicants for 9<sup>th</sup> grade on the waiting list. If seats open in grades other than 9<sup>th</sup> grade, the Charter School shall seek to fill the open seats in the best way feasible. The Admissions Policy and Process also shall provide that the Charter School shall provide a copy of its current waiting list at any time during the Term of the Charter within ten (10) business days after requested by the Charter Schools Office;
4. Bylaws adopted by the board and a list of the names and addresses of the board members of the Charter School which demonstrate that none of the board members of the Charter School serve on the board of MaST Community Charter School, the management company, and which demonstrate proper governance considerations for a public charter school that is also subject to the Sunshine Act;
5. A locally developed curriculum establishing alignment with Pennsylvania standards for all grade levels to be served. Such curriculum shall include specific provisions for English as Second Language students;

6. A plan for ESL programming which complies with 22 Pa. Code Chapter 4 standards;
7. Budget documents which demonstrate that the Charter School has performed adequate financial planning for the opening and operation of the Charter School;
8. A certificate of insurance evidencing that insurance coverage has been obtained by the Charter School in the amounts and categories as deemed acceptable by the Charter Schools Office;
9. Plan documents for any 403(b) deferred compensation retirement plan for the Charter School, outlining the terms, conditions and benefits of the plan, including an employer contribution; and
10. MaST Community Charter School will submit four originals of the charter agreement between the School District and MaST Community Charter School, for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2019, signed by MaST Community Charter School, in a form acceptable to the Charter Schools Office; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Charter shall contain the following terms and conditions:

1. The Charter School shall be authorized to operate as a grade K-5 charter school starting in the 2016-2017 school year with a maximum enrollment of 400 students in that year, 500 students in the 2017-2018 school year and 600 students in the 2018-2019 school year during the term of the Charter and any renewal thereof, unless the parties agree in writing to other terms. Under no circumstances will the Charter School request payment from the School District or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for more students than set forth herein nor enroll students in different grades, without SRC approval by resolution;
2. The Charter School shall have a City-wide application and enrollment process;
3. The Charter School shall participate in the School District's charter school performance framework and monitoring system as set forth in the School District charter school policies and procedures and any amendments thereto. The charter school performance framework will include annual assessments of the Charter School's academic, financial, and organizational performance. The Charter School agrees to submit to the School District all student level academic information required for assessment of academic performance as part of the charter school performance framework and monitoring system;
4. For each year during the term of the Charter, the Charter School shall seek to achieve (i) a School Performance Profile ("SPP") score of 70 or better, (ii) the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System ("PVAAS") growth measure, and (iii) the Average Growth Index ("AGI") growth measure, consistent with the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Accountability System pursuant to NCLB;
5. If the Charter School achieves a ranking in the bottom two levels on the School District's charter school performance framework and monitoring system during any year of the term of the Charter, the School District shall require that the Charter School meet certain specific student achievement targets and participate in ongoing progress reporting. If the Charter School consistently achieves a ranking in the bottom two levels on the School District's charter school performance framework and monitoring system for two consecutive years during the Term of the Charter, the School District may recommend that the SRC commence revocation or nonrenewal proceedings against the Charter School;
6. The Board of Trustees shall ensure that all trustees, officers, administrators, and relatives of trustees, officers and administrators of the Charter School comply with the Pennsylvania Public Official and Employee Ethics Act and the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Act. The Board of Trustees shall adopt a Conflicts of Interest policy that complies with the Pennsylvania Public Official and Employee Ethics Act and the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Act;
7. The Board of Trustees shall submit to the School District by August 1st of each year during the Term of the Charter as part of the Charter School's Annual Report, or separately if not included in the Charter School's Annual Report, evidence that 75% of the Charter School's professional staff are certified in accordance with the Charter School Law;
8. The Board of Trustees shall submit to the School District by August 1st of each year during the Term of the Charter as part of the Charter School's Annual Report, or separately if not included in the Charter School's Annual Report, evidence that 100% of the Charter School's teachers with primary responsibility for direct instruction in one or more of No Child Left Behind's core academic subjects demonstrate that they satisfy the definition of a "Highly Qualified Teacher";
9. The Board of Trustees shall ensure that all employees have required federal and state criminal and child abuse background checks during the term of the Charter. The Board of Trustees shall submit a signed affidavit to the School District annually, pursuant to guidelines established by the Charter Schools Office, as evidence that the Charter School has complied with this requirement;
10. The Board of Trustees shall submit to the School District signed Statements of Financial Interests as required by the Public Official and Employee Ethics Act and the Charter School Law annually, pursuant to guidelines established by the Charter Schools Office; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the written Charter shall be issued upon the Charter Schools Office's receipt of satisfactory Required Documentation as set forth above. Failure of the Charter School to submit satisfactory Required Documentation by May 31, 2015, or by the end of any extension period granted by the SRC Chief of Staff, shall void this Resolution and shall cause the SRC to re-vote on the Application within thirty (30) days after the expiration of May 31, 2015, or any extension period. The SRC hereby delegates authority to determine compliance

with the requirements of this Resolution to the Chief of Staff of the SRC. Notice of voiding this Resolution for failure to submit the Required Documentation shall be issued by the Chairman of the SRC. Notwithstanding these provisions, the Charter granted herein will not take effect until the written Charter has been issued and signed by the Chairman of the SRC and the Chair of the Charter School's Board of Trustees, or another duly designated member of the Board.

The vote on the motion to grant with conditions was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houstoun, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 4

Nays: Ms. Neff – 1

#### **SRC-24**

##### **Proposed Charter Action – Mastery Charter School – Gillespie Campus**

WHEREAS, on or before November 15, 2014, the applicant for Mastery Charter School – Gillespie Campus Mastery Charter School – Gillespie Campus ("Mastery Gillespie" or "Charter School") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school; now be it

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Mastery Gillespie and made during the public hearings by representatives for Mastery Gillespie, the School Reform Commission hereby grants a Charter to "Mastery Charter School – Gillespie Campus" to operate a public charter school with grades K-5 for a three-year period commencing on July 1, 2016 and ending on June 30, 2019, provided that Mastery Gillespie submits the following documentation ("Required Documentation") to the Charter Schools Office no later than May 31, 2015:

1. The executed lease or sublease or executed intent to lease or sublease between Mastery Charter School Foundation and the Charter School related to the Charter School's use of the former Gillespie Middle School, 3901-3961 N. 18th St., Philadelphia, PA 19140, in a form acceptable to the Charter Schools Office;
2. The contract between the Charter School and the Charter School's management company, Mastery Charter High School, that accurately reflects all of the duties, services, obligations and liabilities of each party to the other with respect to the operation of the Charter School or services to be provided to the Charter School, including specific provisions on management fees, which shall be approved by the respective governing boards of each entity, in a form that is acceptable to the Charter Schools Office;
3. An Admissions Policy and Process which complies with the Public School Code and Charter School Law and which includes provisions on application deadlines, recruitment communications, including details on methods to be used to recruit students Citywide or in an applicable attendance zone, lottery dates, and results, in a form that is acceptable to the Charter Schools Office. The Admissions Policy and Process shall provide that if seats open during the school year for grades K-5 or between school years for grades 1-5, the Charter School shall accept new students from the waiting list in appropriate order for particular grades or new applicants if there are no applicants for that grade on the waiting list. The Admissions Policy and Process also shall provide that the Charter School shall provide a copy of its current waiting list at any time during the Term of the Charter within ten (10) business days after requested by the Charter Schools Office;
4. Bylaws adopted by the board and a list of the names and addresses of the board members of the Charter School which demonstrate that none of the board members of the Charter School serve on the board of Mastery Charter High School, the management company, and which demonstrate proper governance considerations for a public charter school that is also subject to the Sunshine Act;
5. A locally developed curriculum establishing alignment with Pennsylvania standards for all grade levels to be served. Such curriculum shall include specific provisions for English as Second Language students;
6. A plan for ESL programming which complies with 22 Pa. Code Chapter 4 standards;
7. Budget documents which demonstrate that the Charter School has performed adequate financial planning for the opening and operation of the Charter School;
8. A certificate of insurance evidencing that insurance coverage has been obtained by the Charter School in the amounts and categories as deemed acceptable by the Charter Schools Office;
9. Plan documents for any 403(b) deferred compensation retirement plan for the Charter School, outlining the terms, conditions and benefits of the plan, including an employer contribution;
10. A resolution duly approved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter School resolving that the Board agrees that if the SRC grants a charter to Mastery Charter Schools or a related Mastery entity to operate a Renaissance charter school opening in the 2016-2017 school year or if Mastery Charter Schools or a Mastery entity becomes the operator of an existing Renaissance charter school prior to March 1, 2016, the Board agrees that it will forfeit and surrender this Charter granted to Mastery Gillespie and agrees to waive its rights to any appeals to the Charter School Appeal Board, to any administrative agency or to any court, or to the commencement of any court actions, related to the forfeiture and surrender of the Mastery Gillespie Charter; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Charter shall contain the following terms and conditions:



1. The Charter School shall be authorized to operate only as a grade K-5 charter school starting in the 2016-2017 school year with a maximum enrollment of 336 students in that year, 392 students in the 2017-2018 school year and 504 students in the 2018-2019 school year during the term of the Charter and any renewal thereof, unless the parties agree in writing to other terms. Under no circumstances will the Charter School request payment from the School District or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for more students than set forth herein nor enroll students in different grades, without SRC approval by resolution;

2. The Charter School, during the term of the Charter, shall have an enrollment preference for students residing in the Mastery Charter School Clymer Elementary and Mastery Charter School Cleveland Elementary attendance zones (the "Attendance Zone"). The Charter School first may fill open enrollment slots with students having sibling or founder preferences, as applicable. If enrollment slots are still available after admitting (i) students having sibling or founder preferences; and (ii) all applicants attending the schools in the Attendance Zone, the Charter School shall fill the remaining slots on a random basis in accordance with Section 17-1723-A. All other provisions of Section 17-1723-A and the Public School Code shall remain in force, and the Charter School may not exclude children on any basis other than that set forth in this paragraph;

3. The Charter School shall participate in the School District's charter school performance framework and monitoring system as set forth in the School District charter school policies and procedures and any amendments thereto. The charter school performance framework will include annual assessments of the Charter School's academic, financial, and organizational performance. The Charter School agrees to submit to the School District all student level academic information required for assessment of academic performance as part of the charter school performance framework and monitoring system;

4. For each year during the term of the Charter, the Charter School shall seek to achieve (i) a School Performance Profile ("SPP") score of 70 or better, (ii) the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System ("PVAAS") growth measure, and (iii) the Average Growth Index ("AGI") growth measure, consistent with the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Accountability System pursuant to NCLB;

5. If the Charter School achieves a ranking in the bottom two levels on the School District's charter school performance framework and monitoring system during any year of the term of the Charter, the School District shall require that the Charter School meet certain specific student achievement targets and participate in ongoing progress reporting. If the Charter School consistently achieves a ranking in the bottom two levels on the School District's charter school performance framework and monitoring system for two consecutive years during the Term of the Charter, the School District may recommend that the SRC commence revocation or nonrenewal proceedings against the Charter School;

6. The Board of Trustees shall ensure that all trustees, officers, administrators, and relatives of trustees, officers and administrators of the Charter School comply with the Pennsylvania Public Official and Employee Ethics Act and the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Act. The Board of Trustees shall adopt a Conflicts of Interest policy that complies with the Pennsylvania Public Official and Employee Ethics Act and the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Act;

7. The Board of Trustees shall submit to the School District by August 1st of each year during the Term of the Charter as part of the Charter School's Annual Report, or separately if not included in the Charter School's Annual Report, evidence that 75% of the Charter School's professional staff are certified in accordance with the Charter School Law;

8. The Board of Trustees shall submit to the School District by August 1st of each year during the Term of the Charter as part of the Charter School's Annual Report, or separately if not included in the Charter School's Annual Report, evidence that 100% of the Charter School's teachers with primary responsibility for direct instruction in one or more of No Child Left Behind's core academic subjects demonstrate that they satisfy the definition of a "Highly Qualified Teacher";

9. The Board of Trustees shall ensure that all employees have required federal and state criminal and child abuse background checks during the term of the Charter. The Board of Trustees shall submit a signed affidavit to the School District annually, pursuant to guidelines established by the Charter Schools Office, as evidence that the Charter School has complied with this requirement; and

10. The Board of Trustees shall submit to the School District signed Statements of Financial Interests as required by the Public Official and Employee Ethics Act and the Charter School Law annually, pursuant to guidelines established by the Charter Schools Office; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the written Charter shall be issued upon the Charter Schools Office's receipt of satisfactory Required Documentation as set forth above. Failure of the Charter School to submit satisfactory Required Documentation by May 31, 2015, or by the end of any extension period granted by the SRC Chief of Staff, shall void this Resolution and shall cause the SRC to re-vote on the Application within thirty (30) days after the expiration of May 31, 2015, or any extension period. The SRC hereby delegates authority to determine compliance with the requirements of this Resolution to the Chief of Staff of the SRC. Notice of voiding this Resolution for failure to submit the Required Documentation shall be issued by the Chairman of the SRC. Notwithstanding these provisions, the Charter granted herein will not take effect until the written Charter has been issued and signed by the Chairman of the SRC and the Chair of the Charter School's Board of Trustees, or another duly designated member of the Board.

The vote on the motion to grant with conditions was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houstoun, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 3

Nays: Ms. Neff – 1

Abstention: Ms. Jimenez – 1

**SRC-25**

**Proposed Charter Action – Mastery Charter School North Philadelphia Campus**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for Mastery Charter School North Philadelphia Campus ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-8 starting in the 2016-2017 school year with a maximum enrollment of 756 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houston, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 4

Nays: 0

Abstention: Ms. Jimenez – 1

**SRC-26**

**Proposed Charter Action – New Foundations Charter School Brewerytown**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for New Foundations Charter School Brewerytown ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-12 starting in the 2016-2017 school year with a maximum enrollment of 1075 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houston, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 5

Nays: 0

**SRC-27**

**Proposed Charter Action – PHASE 4 America Charter School** WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for PHASE 4 America Charter School ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-8 starting in the 2015-2016 school year with a maximum enrollment of 675 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houston, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 5

Nays: 0

**SRC-28**

**Proposed Charter Action – Philadelphia Career and Technical Academy**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for Philadelphia Career and Technical Academy ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades 9-12 starting in the 2016-2017 school year with a maximum enrollment of 600 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houston, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 5

Nays: 0

**SRC-29**

**Proposed Charter Action – Philadelphia Music and Dance Charter School**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for Philadelphia Music and Dance Charter School ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-12 starting in the [2015-2016] school year with a maximum enrollment of 925 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houston, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 5

Nays: 0

**SRC-30**

**Proposed Charter Action – PHMC Preparatory Charter School**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for PHMC Preparatory Charter School ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-12 starting in the 2015-2016 school year with a maximum enrollment of 1000 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Chairman Green – 3

Nays: Ms. Houston – 1

Abstention: Ms. Simms – 1

**SRC-31**

**Proposed Charter Action – String Theory Charter School – East Falls**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for String Theory Charter School – East Falls ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-12 starting in the 2015-2016 school year with a maximum enrollment of 1000 students in K-9 in Year 5 of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houston, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms – 4

Nays: 0

Abstention: Chairman Green – 1

**SRC-32**

**Proposed Charter Action – String Theory Charter School – Greys Ferry**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for String Theory Charter School – Grays Ferry ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-12 starting in the 2015-2016 school year with a maximum enrollment of 1000 students in K-9 in Year 5 of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houston, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms – 4

Nays: 0

Abstention: Chairman Green – 1

**SRC-33**

**Proposed Charter Action – String Theory Charter School – Port Richmond**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for String Theory Charter School – Port Richmond ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-12 starting in the 2015-2016 school year with a maximum enrollment of 1000 students in K-9 in Year 5 of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houstoun, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms – 4

Nays: 0

Abstention: Chairman Green – 1

#### **SRC-34**

##### **Proposed Charter Action – String Theory Charter School – Southeast**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for String Theory Charter School – Southeast ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-12 starting in the 2015-2016 school year with a maximum enrollment of 1000 students in K-9 in Year 5 of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houstoun, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms – 4

Nays: 0

Abstention: Chairman Green – 1

#### **SRC-35**

##### **Proposed Charter Action – Sustainable Roots Academy Charter School**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for Sustainable Roots Academy Charter School ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-12 starting in the 2016-2017 school year with a maximum enrollment of 1300 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houstoun, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 5

Nays: 0

#### **SRC-36**

##### **Proposed Charter Action – TECH Freire Charter School**

WHEREAS, on or before November 15, 2014, the applicant for TECH Freire Charter School ("TECH Freire" or "Charter School") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school; now be it

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by TECH Freire and made during the public hearings by representatives for TECH Freire, the School Reform Commission hereby grants a Charter to "TECH Freire Charter School" to operate a public charter school with grades 9-12 for a three-year period commencing on July 1, 2016 and ending on June 30, 2019, provided that TECH Freire submits the following documentation ("Required Documentation") to the Charter Schools Office no later than May 31, 2015:

1. The executed lease or sublease or executed intent to lease or sublease related to the Charter School's use of the facilities at the Donegal Building, 2221-2225 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19132, in a form acceptable to the Charter Schools Office;
2. The contract between the Charter School and the Charter School's management company, Build the Future, that accurately reflects all of the duties, services, obligations and liabilities of each party to the other with respect to the operation of the Charter School or services to be provided to the Charter School, including specific provisions on management fees, which shall be approved by the respective governing boards of each entity, in a form that is acceptable to the Charter Schools Office;
3. An Admissions Policy and Process which complies with the Public School Code and Charter School Law and which includes provisions on application deadlines, recruitment communications, including details on methods to be used to recruit students Citywide or in an applicable attendance zone, lottery dates, and results, in a form that is acceptable to the Charter Schools Office. The Admissions Policy and Process shall provide that if seats open during the school year in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, the Charter School shall accept new students from the waiting list in appropriate order for 9<sup>th</sup> grade or new applicants if there are no applicants for 9<sup>th</sup> grade on the waiting list. If seats open in grades other than 9<sup>th</sup> grade, the Charter School shall seek to fill the open seats in the best way feasible. The Admissions Policy and Process also shall provide that the Charter School shall provide a copy of its current waiting list at any time during the Term of the Charter within ten (10) business days after requested by the Charter Schools Office;
4. Bylaws adopted by the board and a list of the names and addresses of the board members of the Charter School which demonstrate that none of the board members of the Charter School serve on the board of Build the Future, the management company, and which demonstrate proper governance considerations for a public charter school that is also subject to the Sunshine Act;
5. A locally developed curriculum for English as Second Language students establishing alignment with Pennsylvania standards for all grade levels to be served;
6. A plan for ESL programming which complies with 22 Pa. Code Chapter 4 standards;
7. Budget documents which demonstrate that the Charter School has performed adequate financial planning for the opening and operation of the Charter School;
8. A certificate of insurance evidencing that insurance coverage has been obtained by the Charter School in the amounts and categories as deemed acceptable by the Charter Schools Office;
9. Plan documents for any 403(b) deferred compensation retirement plan for the Charter School, outlining the terms, conditions and benefits of the plan, including an employer contribution; and
10. A retention plan to provide supports and to implement other measures to ensure that the Charter School will have a 9<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade retention rate which is at least equivalent to the Philadelphia charter school high school average; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Charter shall contain the following terms and conditions:

1. The Charter School shall be authorized to operate only as a grade 9-12 charter school starting in the 2016-2017 school year with a maximum enrollment of 300 students in that year, 450 students in the 2017-2018 school year and 580 students in the 2018-2019 school year during the term of the Charter and any renewal thereof, unless the parties agree in writing to other terms. Under no circumstances will the Charter School request payment from the School District or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for more students than set forth herein nor enroll students in different grades, without SRC approval by resolution;
2. The Charter School, during the term of the Charter, shall have an enrollment preference for students residing within walking distance of the Charter School's facility (the "Attendance Zone"). The Charter School first may fill open enrollment slots with students having sibling or founder preferences, as applicable. If enrollment slots are still available after admitting (i) students having sibling or founder preferences; and (ii) all applicants attending the schools in the Attendance Zone, the Charter School shall fill the remaining slots on a random basis in accordance with Section 17-1723-A. All other provisions of Section 17-1723-A and the Public School Code shall remain in force, and the Charter School may not exclude children on any basis other than that set forth in this paragraph;
3. The Charter School shall participate in the School District's charter school performance framework and monitoring system as set forth in the School District charter school policies and procedures and any amendments thereto. The charter school performance framework will include annual assessments of the Charter School's academic, financial, and organizational performance. The Charter School agrees to submit to the School District all student level academic information required for assessment of academic performance as part of the charter school performance framework and monitoring system;
4. For each year during the term of the Charter, the Charter School shall seek to achieve (i) a School Performance Profile ("SPP") score of 70 or better, (ii) the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System ("PVAAS") growth measure, and (iii) the Average Growth Index ("AGI") growth measure, consistent with the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Accountability System pursuant to NCLB;
5. If the Charter School achieves a ranking in the bottom two levels on the School District's charter school performance framework and monitoring system during any year of the term of the Charter, the School District shall require that the Charter School meet certain specific student achievement targets and participate in ongoing progress reporting. If the Charter School consistently achieves a ranking in the bottom two levels on the School District's

charter school performance framework and monitoring system for two consecutive years during the Term of the Charter, the School District may recommend that the SRC commence revocation or nonrenewal proceedings against the Charter School;

6. The Board of Trustees shall ensure that all trustees, officers, administrators, and relatives of trustees, officers and administrators of the Charter School comply with the Pennsylvania Public Official and Employee Ethics Act and the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Act. The Board of Trustees shall adopt a Conflicts of Interest policy that complies with the Pennsylvania Public Official and Employee Ethics Act and the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Act;

7. The Board of Trustees shall submit to the School District by August 1st of each year during the Term of the Charter as part of the Charter School's Annual Report, or separately if not included in the Charter School's Annual Report, evidence that 75% of the Charter School's professional staff are certified in accordance with the Charter School Law;

8. The Board of Trustees shall submit to the School District by August 1st of each year during the Term of the Charter as part of the Charter School's Annual Report, or separately if not included in the Charter School's Annual Report, evidence that 100% of the Charter School's teachers with primary responsibility for direct instruction in one or more of No Child Left Behind's core academic subjects demonstrate that they satisfy the definition of a "Highly Qualified Teacher";

9. The Board of Trustees shall ensure that all employees have required federal and state criminal and child abuse background checks during the term of the Charter. The Board of Trustees shall submit a signed affidavit to the School District annually, pursuant to guidelines established by the Charter Schools Office, as evidence that the Charter School has complied with this requirement; and

10. The Board of Trustees shall submit to the School District signed Statements of Financial Interests as required by the Public Official and Employee Ethics Act and the Charter School Law annually, pursuant to guidelines established by the Charter Schools Office; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the written Charter shall be issued upon the Charter Schools Office's receipt of satisfactory Required Documentation as set forth above. Failure of the Charter School to submit satisfactory Required Documentation by May 31, 2015, or by the end of any extension period granted by the SRC Chief of Staff, shall void this Resolution and shall cause the SRC to re-vote on the Application within thirty (30) days after the expiration of May 31, 2015, or any extension period. The SRC hereby delegates authority to determine compliance with the requirements of this Resolution to the Chief of Staff of the SRC. Notice of voiding this Resolution for failure to submit the Required Documentation shall be issued by the Chairman of the SRC. Notwithstanding these provisions, the Charter granted herein will not take effect until the written Charter has been issued and signed by the Chairman of the SRC and the Chair of the Charter School's Board of Trustees, or another duly designated member of the Board.

The vote on the motion to grant with conditions was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houstoun, Ms. Jimenez, Chairman Green – 3

Nays: Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms – 2

#### **SRC-37**

#### **Proposed Charter Action – The Partnership School for Science and Innovation – MaST Community Charter School**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for The Partnership School for Science and Innovation – MaST Community Charter School ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades K-12 starting in the 2016-2017 school year with a maximum enrollment of 1500 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houstoun, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 4

Nays: Ms. Jimenez – 1

**SRC-38**

**Proposed Charter Action – The Pavilion Charter School for Exceptional Students**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for The Pavilion Charter School for Exceptional Students ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades Pre-K-5 starting in the 2015-2016 school year with a maximum enrollment of 600 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houstoun, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 5

Nays: 0

**SRC-39**

**Proposed Charter Action – Urban STEM Academy**

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2014, the applicant for Urban STEM Academy ("Applicant") submitted an application to the Charter Schools Office of The School District of Philadelphia ("School District") to start a charter school;

WHEREAS, Applicant is seeking a charter from the School Reform Commission ("SRC") to operate as a school with grades 5-12 starting in the 2015-2016 school year with a maximum enrollment of 1000 students in the final year of the charter;

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the representations, statements and materials contained in the charter school application submitted by Applicant and made during the public hearings by representatives for Applicant, a Charter is hereby DENIED; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SRC adopts the attached Adjudication as the reasons for its decision; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant may appeal or take other action with respect to this decision in accordance with the procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A(f)-(i).

The vote on the motion to deny was as follows:

Yeas: Ms. Houstoun, Ms. Jimenez, Ms. Neff, Ms. Simms, Chairman Green – 5

Nays: 0

Chairman Green stated that one of the conditions of the approved charters is that we have until My 31, 2015 to agree on mutual conditions.

**II. EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES**

*None Submitted*

**III. EDUCATION SERVICES**

*None Submitted*

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

William J. Green  
School Reform Commission Chairman

William R. Hite, Jr.  
Superintendent