



## **Frequently Asked Questions Non-renewals of John B. Stetson Charter School and Olney Charter High School**

### **What will it mean for my school community if the Board of Education votes to non-renew my school's charter?**

In the short term, your school will continue to operate as a charter school. Stetson and Olney would each have the opportunity to appeal their non-renewal decision by the Board to the State Charter School Appeal Board (CAB). If the non-renewals are upheld by CAB, the school will transition to District control. If the non-renewals are overturned, the schools may continue to operate as charter schools.

### **Will Stetson and Olney close?**

No, whatever the outcome of any appeals of possible nonrenewal decisions, there will continue to be operating schools in the Stetson and Olney buildings - either a school managed by the District or a charter school. If the District were to operate Stetson or Olney, the District will manage the staff and programming, and the school locations and student catchments will not change.

### **What will happen to the current staff at Olney and Stetson if the District manages schools at the Olney and Stetson buildings?**

At this point, since both Olney and Stetson will continue to operate as charter schools for the 2019-2020 school year, all staff will continue to be employed by either Olney Charter High School or Stetson Charter School through June 2020. When the schools approach the end of their charters, all Olney and Stetson staff will have the opportunity to apply for employment with the District. If current Olney or Stetson staff become District employees, they will become members of the applicable union (e.g., PFT, CASA, etc.) with associated pay and benefits.

### **Will my student be able to finish the school year at Olney and Stetson?**

Yes. There will be no immediate changes for students enrolled at Olney and Stetson, and all current students may continue as students through June 2020.



### **What options do Olney and Stetson students have for the 2020-2021 school year?**

Current students can choose to select Olney or Stetson as their school for the 2020-2021 school year. Alternatively, students may participate in the District's School Selection Process to seek enrollment in another District school or they may apply to another charter school for the 2020-2021 school year. For more information about the District's School Selection Process, go to <https://www.philasd.org/findyourfit/>. For more information about the charter school application process, go to <https://www.philasd.org/charterschools/portal/process/>.

### **Will families and school community members be involved in the transition to a District school at Olney or Stetson?**

Yes. The District values the strengths and relationships within both school communities and will make preserving them a priority during any transition process. Community feedback and participation will be a routine, important part of the transition.

The transition to a District school at Olney or Stetson will happen in two major phases. In both phases, families, staff and community members will be involved in shaping and carrying out the transition plan.

Phase 1: In the Transition Planning phase, the District will work with each school to understand the key elements of the school's programs, services, and staffing. The District will also assess the condition of the school buildings to determine what work may be needed. The District will seek input from the school communities about school strengths and opportunities for improvement. Information gathered during this phase will be shared with each school community.

Phase 2: In the Transition Execution phase, the District will use what it learned in the Planning phase to design, with the school communities, any changes to school programming, and carry out logistical activities like the transfer of student records, employee transition/hiring, infrastructure projects, and preparing the school for the new school year ahead. Throughout this phase, the District will communicate regularly with parents and staff to solicit their input and keep them informed of progress.

### **When will the transition process start for Olney and Stetson?**

Until the Board votes to non-renew the Olney charter or the Stetson charter and until the District knows whether Olney and Stetson intend to appeal these decisions, the District cannot provide a definitive timeline for the transition. The appeal timeline is not controlled by the District and may take anywhere from 1 to 2 years. During the appeals process, the charter schools will remain open under their existing management structure as an independent charter entity.