

ISLA CHARTER SCHOOL: STAFF REPORT

Board of Education Meeting – December 15, 2015
Action Report No. 1



Dr. Kelly King, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services
Robert McEntire, Chief Business & Financial Officer

AGENDA

- **Application Process Timeline**
- **Criteria for Staff Review**
- **Staff Findings**
- **Staff Recommendation**

APPLICATION PROCESS TIMELINE

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

- **October 20, 2015: GUSD Board of Education Formally Accepted the Petition & Reviewed Next Steps**
- **November 3, 2015: GUSD Legal Counsel Presented Requirements for Staff Review**
- **November 17, 2015: Public Hearing was Held**
- **December 15, 2015: Staff Report Presented to Board and a Final Decision to Grant or Deny the Charter Petition Will Be Made**

CRITERIA FOR STAFF REVIEW

16 ELEMENTS OF A CHARTER PETITION

- 1.The educational program
- 2.Measurable student outcomes
- 3.Method for measuring outcomes
- 4.Governance structure
- 5.Employee qualifications
- 6.Health and safety procedures
- 7.Means to achieve racial and ethnic balance
- 8.Admissions requirements

16 ELEMENTS OF A CHARTER PETITION CONTINUED...

9. Annual financial audit processes

10. Suspension and expulsion policies

11. Employee benefits

12. Attendance alternatives

13. Return rights of employees

14. Dispute resolution procedures

15. Employee representation

16. Procedures for closing

FRAMEWORK FOR STAFF ANALYSIS

“The governing board of the school district shall not deny a petition ...unless it makes written factual findings, ...to support one or more of the following findings:

(1) The charter school presents an unsound educational program for the pupils to be enrolled in the charter school.

(2) The petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition.

(3) The petition does not contain the number of signatures required by statute.

(4) The petition does not contain an affirmation of each of the conditions required by statute.

(5) The petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the required elements of a charter petition.”

STAFF FINDINGS

ISLA PETITION MET THESE CRITERIA:

- (3) The number of signatures required by statute.*
- (4) The affirmations of each of the conditions required by statute.*

WRITTEN FACTUAL FINDINGS IN THE STAFF REPORT VERIFY THAT THE PETITION DOES NOT:

- (1) Present a sound educational program*
- (2) Demonstrate that the school is likely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition*
- (5) Contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the required elements of a charter petition*

- (1) Presents an unsound educational program*
- (5) Does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the required elements of a charter petition*

Educational Program

- **Target Population/Enrollment Trends (pg. 5)**
 - **87% of the FLAG Waitlist and 74% of Petition Signatures are from outside District boundaries**

Educational Program

- **Curriculum & Instructional Materials (pg. 6)**
 - **Complex curricular approaches that require extensive planning, integration, training of staff and organization of materials with no explanation as to how they cohere as one unified educational program**

Educational Program

- **Transitional Kindergarten (pg. 7)**
 - **A basic legal requirement for an elementary school, excluded from the application**

Educational Program

- **Staffing (pg. 7)**
 - **Proposed staffing levels are inadequate to implement the proposed academic program and no detailed staffing plan is included in the Petition**

Admissions Requirements

- Enrollment process and preferences do not meet legal requirements (pg. 13)
 - District students must be afforded the highest preference in an admissions lottery, but as a group they are listed after: siblings, children of employees, and children of founders

Other Areas of Concern

- **Vague Student Outcomes (pg. 9)**
- **Inconsistencies in the Petition (pg. 9)**
- **Lack of Information of Proposed Leadership (pg. 10)**
- **Inconsistent Governance Documents (pg. 10)**
- **Conflicting Policies (pg. 10)**
- **Inadequate Support Staff (pg. 12)**
- **Health & Safety: Policies conflict with Ed Code (pg. 12)**

(2) Unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition

Teacher Compensation Analysis (pg. 11)

| | Salary | Benefits | Total |
|---|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| ISLA Proposed Teacher Compensation | \$ 48,500 | \$ 6,000 | \$ 54,500 |
| GUSD Average New Hire Compensation | \$ 62,433 | \$ 16,000 | \$ 78,433 |
| Difference | \$(13,933) | \$(10,000) | \$(23,933) |
| Percentage Difference | -29% | -167% | -44% |

** Average New Hire is Hired at Step 8, Column IV*

Curriculum Adoption Cost Analysis (pg. 16)

| | Annual Allotment | Years Covered | Budgeted Amount | Students Needing Books | \$/Student for ALL books required |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ISLA Projection | \$111,000 | 4 | \$ 444,000 | 1,056 | \$ 420 |
| GUSD Projections | | | \$ 1,381,248 | 1,056 | \$ 1,308 |
| Shortfall in Budget | | | \$ (937,248) | | \$ (888) |

Professional Development Costs Analysis (pg. 17)

| | Budgeted Amount | Teachers Needing Training | \$/Teacher for PD |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| ISLA Projection | \$ 10,000 | 23 | \$ 435 |
| GUSD Projections | \$ 63,250 | 23 | \$ 2,750 |
| Shortfall in Budget | \$ (53,250) | | \$ (2,315) |

Special Education Cost Analysis (pg. 16)

| | Students Needing Services* | \$/Student | Budgeted Amount |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| ISLA Projection | 11 | \$ 15,256 | \$ 160,374 |
| State Average | 46 | | |
| GUSD Projections | 55 | \$ 18,110 | \$ 991,523 |
| Shortfall in Budget | | \$ (2,854) | \$ (831,149) |

* ISLA = 2.4% x 438

* State Average 10.5% x 438

* GUSD Average 12.5% x 438

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

**BASED ON THE FACTUAL FINDINGS, STAFF
RECOMMENDS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Deny the ISLA Charter Petition and
adopt the staff report and factual
findings in support of denial.