



Agenda Item Details

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| Meeting | Dec 06, 2021 - School Board Meeting |
| Category | F. Action Items |
| Subject | 5. ASD Memorandum #025 - Charter School Renewal: Family Partnership Charter School - AS AMENDED |
| Access | Public |
| Type | Action |
| Recommended Action | To renew the Family Partnership Charter School charter for ten years through the 2031-2032 school year with an enrollment cap of 1,850 students. It is further recommended that District leadership, Family Partnership charter School administration, and the APC Board Chair meet at the end of the 2024-2025 school year to review progress in having no charter contract violations. Pending a favorable review, Family Partnership Charter School can request an increase to the enrollment cap, up to 3,000. |

Public Content

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #025 (2021-2022)

December 6, 2021

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: DR. DEENA BISHOP, SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL: FAMILY PARTNERSHIP CHARTER SCHOOL

ASD Core Value: Public education should be responsive to an ever-changing world

AMENDED RECOMMENDATION- APPROVED 12/6/21

To renew the Family Partnership Charter School charter for ten years through the 2031-2032 school year with an enrollment cap of 1,850 students. It is further recommended that District leadership, Family Partnership charter School administration, and the APC Board Chair meet at the end of the 2024-2025 school year to review progress in having no charter contract violations. Pending a favorable review, Family Partnership Charter School can request an increase to the enrollment cap, up to 3,000.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends the renewal of the Family Partnership Charter School charter for five years through the 2026-2027 school year with an enrollment cap of 1,850 students.

It is further recommended that District leadership, Family Partnership Charter School administration, and the APC Board Chair meet at the end of the 2024-2025 school year to review progress in having no charter contract violations. Pending a favorable review, Family Partnership Charter School could again begin the process for a ten year renewal.

PERTINENT FACTS:

State Statute 14.03.2559(c)(11) limits charter school contracts to a term not to exceed ten years.

Anchorage School Board Policy and Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) regulations require charter schools to reapply for approval of their charter within 12 months of the expiration date of their current charter. The Family

Partnership Charter School's charter will expire on June 30, 2022.

The Anchorage School District utilizes the DEED application format for charter school review and application process.

There are currently nine charter schools in the District. Each charter school is governed by an elected board called an Academic Policy Committee (APC). Each APC hires its principal who in turn is the administrator of the school.

The charter school's application to the District will include any requested waivers outside of School Board policy and administrative regulations. If approved by the School Board, these waivers will be included in the school's charter and contract.

Family Partnership Charter School (FPCS) is a correspondence school that was founded in 1996 and was the first charter school established in the District. FPCS currently serves grades K – 12.

The mission of FPCS is to support families in the education of their children. Some unique features of FPCS are:

- The highest educational allotment in Alaska.
- Dual high school and college credit through a variety of college coursework, including reduced tuition costs to some universities.
- 100+ enrichment workshops and clubs for students.
- Free curriculum resource library for families.
- 170+ vendor services for families.
- 20+ parent workshops for families, including College & Career workshops for high school students.
- Free access to online educational programs for Migrant Ed, ELL, Indian Ed, and Tier 3 MTSS students.

FPCS is requesting approval from the Anchorage School Board and DEED for a ten-year renewal of their charter.

The FPCS renewal application was open through Google Docs to the Administrative Review Team ("Team") for two weeks, during which time the Team added their suggestions and feedback for the charter renewal proposers. The Team was made up of representatives from many departments in the District including, but not limited to: ELL, STEM, OEC, Human Resources, Ed Tech, Curriculum, Special Education, Gifted, Finance, Risk Management, Operations, Maintenance, and Elementary and Secondary Education. The Team met with the proposers for an administrative review on September 20, 2021.

FPCS had the opportunity to make any further changes or modifications to their application based on the above-mentioned meeting. This memorandum represents the charter school's reapplication to the School Board.

The current FPCS charter was approved for a student enrollment of 700 students. In 2017, FPCS requested an increase to the enrollment cap from 700 to 750 students. This was approved by ASD Administration. In the spring of 2020, FPCS requested opening their enrollment due to the COVID pandemic and many families seeking alternatives to face-to-face instruction. District Administration permitted an enrollment increase to 1,500 students due to extraordinary circumstances.

In the past three years FPCS has had four significant violations to ASD Policy, Administrative Regulations (AR), and its contract:

- On September 10, 2018 the FPCS APC voted to bypass the principal in the curriculum approval process and allow teachers to make decisions on what curriculum would be approved for school and family use without administrative oversight. This was a significant change to their charter and contract without School Board approval and was a violation of FPCS's contract with ASD. This was the main reason for FPCS's second violation of misuse of public dollars mentioned below. (Memo October 26, 2018 attached)
- On January 16, 2019 District Administration held a meeting with FPCS APC Chair, Principal, and several FPCS staff. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss FPCS's noncompliance with federal law, and their contract with the District by the purchase of religious curriculum with public dollars. (Memo January 16, 2019 attached)
- On March 4, 2019 the FPCS APC directly violated ASD AR 6181(h)(5) by allowing two APC board members, who were also FPCS teaching staff, into executive session to discuss the principal's evaluation. [AR 6181(h) attached]
- On May 10, 2021 the FPCS again violated ASD AR 6181(h)(5) by allowing two APC members, who were also FPCS teaching staff, into executive session to discuss the principal's evaluation.

Because of the four aforementioned violations, it is the Administration's recommendation to grant a five-year charter in lieu of the requested ten-year charter. During this time FPCS should be closely monitored for any further violations as well as steps this charter school will take to ensure no violations occur again.

ASD Memorandum #025- Charter School Renewal: Family Partnership Charter School, was discussed and then tabled to a time certain; the December 6, 2021 meeting.

Attachment A -DEED Charter School Renewal Application Form
 B -October 26, 2018 Memo
 C -January 16, 2019 Memo
 D -ASD AR 6181(h)
 E - FPCS Charter Renewal

Prepared by: Chris Barr, Director, Charter Schools

Approved by: Mark Stock, Deputy Superintendent
 Jim Anderson, Chief Financial Officer
 Mike Fleckenstein, Chief Information Officer
 Tom Roth, Chief of Operations
 Kersten Johnson, Senior Director Secondary Education
 Dan Barker, Senior Director Elementary Education
 Dave Whiting, Senior Director Purchasing
 Andy Ratliff, Senior Director Management & Budget

M025a_Recharter Renewal 10-26.pdf (18,312 KB)

M025b_FPCS - 102618 Family Curriculum Approval Memoy.pdf (121 KB)

M025c_ FPCS - 11619 Family PartnershipCurriculumMemo.pdf (124 KB)

M025d_FCPS - AR-6181hpdf.pdf (28 KB)

M025e_FPCS Final Contract.pdf (842 KB)

Administrative Content

Executive Content

Motion & Voting

Amend amendment #1: To modify the last sentence to read "Pending a favorable review, Family Partnership Charter School can request an increase to the enrollment cap, up to 3,000".

Motion by Kelly Lessens, second by Carl Jacobs.

Motion Passes

Yea: Margo Bellamy, Pat Higgins, Carl Jacobs, Kelly Lessens, Dora Wilson

Nay: Andy Holleman

Abstain: Dave Donley

Amendment #1, as amended: I move to amend the recommendation to read "renew the Family Partnership Charter School charter for ten years through the 2031-2032 school year with an enrollment cap of 1,850 students. It is further recommended that District leadership, Family Partnership charter School administration, and the APC Board Chair meet at the end of the 2024-2025 school year to review progress in having no charter contract violations. Pending a favorable review, Family Partnership Charter School can request an increase to the enrollment cap, up to 3,000".

Motion by Kelly Lessens, second by Dave Donley.

Motion Passes

Yea: Margo Bellamy, Carl Jacobs, Kelly Lessens, Dora Wilson

Nay: Pat Higgins, Andy Holleman

Abstain: Dave Donley

Main motion, as amended: To move to amend the recommendation to read "renew the Family Partnership Charter School charter for ten years through the 2031-2032 school year with an enrollment cap of 1,850 students. It is further recommended that District leadership, Family Partnership charter School administration, and the APC Board Chair meet at the end of the 2024-2025 school year to review progress in having no charter contract violations. Pending a favorable review, Family Partnership Charter School can request an increase to the enrollment cap, up to 3,000".

Motion by Andy Holleman, second by Dave Donley.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yea: Margo Bellamy, Pat Higgins, Andy Holleman, Carl Jacobs, Kelly Lessens, Dora Wilson

Abstain: Dave Donley

Last Modified by Katy Grant on December 7, 2021