

DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1

RESOLUTION OF CONDITIONAL APPROVAL

Conditional Approval of the Charter Application of

Ascent Classical Academy-Douglas County

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2017, the Board of Education (“School Board”) of the Douglas County School District RE-1 (the “School District”) received a charter school application from the founders of Ascent Classical Academy-Douglas County—a proposed Colorado nonprofit K-12 charter school, (“Applicant”)—for the establishment of Ascent Classical Academy-Douglas County (“ACAD”) as a district charter school;

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2017, the Board granted approval of the ACAD application for ACAD to begin operations as a district charter school in the fall of 2018 for the 2018-2019 school year, and to operate for a term of five (5) years, subject to and pending satisfaction of several conditions outlined below; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the demand for and the value of choice school offerings in Douglas County School District RE-1, and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges the hard work on the part of the organizers of ACAD, and seeks to promote a healthy balance among expanding choice options, a focus on the best interest of students, and required fiscal soundness and accountability.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that the charter school application submitted by ACAD is conditionally approved, subject to and pending satisfaction of the following conditions, as well as all other terms and conditions as may be required by law:

1. ACAD will submit to DCSD staff a draft contract between itself and Ascent Classical Academies for DCSD review and comment by July 21, 2017. That contract will address and resolve DCSD staff concerns in good faith, including the Applicant’s relationship with an Education Service Provider or an alternative proposed governance structure;
2. By October 1, 2017, the Applicant shall provide evidence to the district of a minimum of 600 written expressions of intent to enroll encompassing grades K-10, including information as to those students’ current schools of attendance;
3. By January 5, 2018, the Applicant shall have a minimum of 484 full-time equivalent students (Student FTEs) committed to the various grade levels proposed in the charter school application to be served the first year, as validated by the School District’s open enrollment process, and enrolled in ACAD as soon as practicable;

4. ACAD shall present a detailed budget for fiscal year 2018-2019, as well as a projected budget for the fiscal years of 2018-2023 to be approved by the School District's Chief Financial Officer on or before April 1, 2018, and will provide audited financial statements for "year zero" (2017-2018) no later than October 17, 2018;
5. In order to avoid confusion and uncertainty around the timing of a new charter opening—as experience has shown that a failed opening attempt has a significant negative impact on students and on existing schools, both charter and neighborhood—the Applicant shall meet one of the following criteria:
 - a. For a new-build facility: purchase or lease a site and submit evidence of appropriate approved permits issued by the local jurisdiction(s), with a final construction schedule approved by the building contractor no later than September 15 of the year prior to the planned opening year; or
 - b. For an existing facility: submit a Letter of Intent or site lease to lease an existing facility no later than February 15 of the planned opening year.
6. ACAD will hire a school leader/principal on or before February 1, 2018.

Unless otherwise stated above or subsequently agreed by the School Board, in the event that Conditions 1 through 6 above have not been satisfied by the dates indicated, this conditional approval will be withdrawn and the application will be deemed denied. In no event shall denial for failure of any condition or withdrawal of conditional approval be construed as a revocation of the purported ACAD charter or school contract.

In the event that Condition 1 is met, the ACAD board shall sign a charter school contract, acceptable to the DCSD Board, on or before September 19, 2017, unless the applicant and the School Board agree to extend that date. The contract shall reflect an agreement regarding the above issues, as well as all other required and recommended terms negotiated with School District representatives. In the event the School Board determines that an acceptable contract has not been executed by September 19, 2017—or such date as may have been extended as provided herein—the charter school application shall be deemed denied by the School Board on the date of such determination. In no event shall the School Board action described herein be construed as a revocation of a purported charter or school contract.

Approved this 20th day of June, 2017.

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By: Meghann Silveo
President, Board of Education

Attest:

By: Nona Nickelberger
Secretary, Board of Education