
Charter Agreement for Rocketship Nashville #3

The Background:

The State Board approved the amended application of Rocketship Nashville #3 on November 15, 2019. In accordance with T.C.A. § 49-13-142(b)(3), the local school district and the sponsor were allowed thirty days to agree that the charter school would be overseen by the local school district. In this case, Metro Nashville Public Schools did not vote to approve the amended application and authorize the school; therefore, the State Board remained the authorizer of Rocketship Nashville #3.

State Board staff worked with representatives of Rocketship Nashville #3 to draft this charter agreement, which complies with State Board policy 6.400 – Charter Agreements. That policy states that the State Board:

“[E]xecutes a charter agreement with each charter school in its portfolio that articulates the rights and responsibilities of each party regarding school autonomy, funding, administration and oversight, outcomes, measures for evaluating success or failure, performance consequences, and other material terms. The charter agreement is an essential document, separate from the charter application, that establishes the legally binding agreement and terms under which the school will operate and be renewed.”

The following documents are exhibits to the charter agreement:

- Exhibit 1. Approved Charter Application
- Exhibit 2. Performance Frameworks
- Exhibit 3. Pre-Opening Checklist/Protocol
- Exhibit 4. Waivers

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-142(h), on July 1, 2021 all charter agreements for which the State Board is the authorizer shall be transferred, for the remainder of the unexpired term of the charter agreement, to the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission (the Commission). Rocketship Nashville #3 will open at the start of the 2021-22 school year under the authorization of the Commission. The State Board will be responsible for supporting the school through the pre-opening process before transferring authority to the Commission on June 30, 2021.

The Recommendation:

SBE staff recommends approval of this item on final reading.