



TO: Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

FROM: Tess Stovall, Executive Director, Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

DATE: July 13, 2021

SUBJECT: Executive Director Updates and Strategic Planning Updates

Operational Updates

Staffing

- With the passage of the ASD Exit legislation and the General Assembly's FY 2022 budget, the Charter Commission's available salary equity has increased, and the Charter Commission received five additional positions.
- Since the April 2021 meeting, we hired the following individuals:
 - Coordinator of Federal Programs and Special Populations: Kelly Kroneman
 - Special Assistant to the Executive Director: DreJean Cummings
 - Coordinator of Data and Operations: Lawrence Walker (started 7/12)
- We currently have two open positions we are looking to fill:
 - Director of Authorizing
 - Federal Programs Administrator
- We will have five open positions remaining to fill once this hiring is complete. I plan to assess where the Commission is operationally at the end of 2021 to determine what workstreams need additional support and what positions we need to hire. Much of the staffing is dependent on the development of the Charter Commission's strategic plan which is slated to be developed by the end of 2021.

LEA/Authorization Transition

- As of July 1, 2021, the Charter Commission is officially a school district and serves as the authorizer of the four schools that will be open and operating in School Year 2021-22.
- At the School Performance and Accountability Committee meeting, the staff took an in-depth look at the LEA set up and transition process including highlighting the challenges that we have faced.

MOU with the State Board of Education

- Staff worked with the staff of the State Board of Education to execute an MOU that outlines how the two agencies will collaborate on the transition responsibilities including all beginning of year and end of year reporting, closing out Fiscal Year 2021, and 2021 summer programming.

MOU with the Tennessee Department of Education

- Staff has reached out to the Tennessee Department of Education to establish an MOU between the two agencies given the back-office administrative services currently provided by the TDOE for the Charter Commission.



- The Charter Commission's General Counsel and the TDOE's General Counsel are currently discussing the possible terms of the MOU.

New Start Appeal Preparation

- Currently, there are five charter applications currently being considered by districts, and the earliest that the Charter Commission could receive an appeal is early August.
- The Charter Commission will consider its first new start appeals at its October 2021 quarterly meeting, and staff will use time at the Commission's special-called meeting in September to prepare Commissioners to review a record in an appeal.

Strategic Planning Updates

Mission/Vision

- After the April meeting, Commissioners were asked to provide feedback on draft mission statements, and based on that feedback, staff worked with Commissioner Sisnett to draft the following mission statement:

The mission of the Charter Commission is to provide access to public charter schools that result in positive academic and life outcomes for students. We commit to approve and support effective charter schools through oversight, transparency, and accountability.

- Please review this mission statement and provide me any feedback over the next week. Based on any additional feedback, we will work with Commissioner Sisnett and Chair Griscom to finalize the mission statement and present it as Commission Policy 1.000 at an upcoming Commission meeting.

Core Principles/Values

- After the mission statement is established, Commissioners will be asked to provide feedback on draft core values or principles that will guide the Commission's work. Once we have collected this feedback, staff will work with Commissioner Sisnett and Chair Griscom to finalize these values, and they will be shared with the Commission at an upcoming meeting.

Board Self-Evaluation

- Due to the absence of Commissioner Levine at this meeting, the Rules, Policy, and Governance Committee will discuss the board self-evaluation process at its special-called committee meeting which will be scheduled in August or September.
- The purpose of the evaluation is to give feedback to the staff on areas that the Commission members would like to go deeper in or to spend more time on so that you can continue to develop in your role as Commissioners.



Strategic Planning

- After this meeting, I will reach out with a scheduling survey to identify a date in late 2021 that we could do a retreat to discuss a three-year strategic plan.
- Once the mission statement and core values are established, Chase Ingle and Drejean Cummings will work with Commissioner Sisnett on determining the plan for stakeholder, Commissioner, and staff input and feedback to inform the strategic plan.