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Name	Aron Maberry
Email	aronmaberry@gmail.com
Phone	(931) 218-9445
Organization	Individual
I wish to comment on behalf of	Oxton Academy

Please provide your written comments below

As a newly elected School Board member in District 7 for Clarksville-Montgomery County, I did not have the privilege to vote on these charter schools. However, I feel compelled to come forward and speak publicly in light of recent comments from another School Board member who has recently declared in the media that there would be no support from local school leaders. I am a lifelong resident of Montgomery County, a local pastor who attended CMCSS from Elementary school through graduation and am a parent of three children in the district.

Montgomery County is a rapidly growing area, and our student population is increasing by almost 1,000 students yearly. Last year, I attended a fantastic program, Leadership CMCSS, in which district employees shared a lot of great facts about the district. During a session, it was shared that once the Kirkwood Complex is completed, on the current growth trends we would be at the same overpopulation numbers we had in 2021.

We have portables at schools all across our district as our buildings cannot currently properly house the population of students we currently serve. Though I believe in our community and the district office and their plans for the district, I think we need to be open and creative in our approach to the future to best serve our students and community. Charter Schools could help be part of the solution for public education - providing additional public school choices for students who desire additional options and helping alleviate our building demands and overcrowding issues.

This past year as a parent, I attended almost every school board meeting. I heard firsthand the arguments for and against charter schools in Montgomery County and listened to the results of the CMCSS Charter School Review Committee. I also attended the American Classical Academy Montgomery (ACAM) community meeting, where most in attendance greatly supported charter schools.

As a candidate, I heard from the community and heard tremendous support for charter schools.

From my observation, those against Oxton Academy charter school typically focus on the fact that less funding goes to our current public schools. However, as the funds follow the student, it is a fact that those students attending a charter school would have a portion of their taxpayer dollars follow their child to the charter school. Having a portion of the funds follow the student would be a potential problem if we were a stagnant or declining district. However, we are not a stagnant or declining district, and adding charter schools as another choice for public schools in our community would help with our student overpopulation problem. In addition, it would not affect the district as we will continue to grow each year, and a portion of the funding even remains with the zoned public school even though they no longer have to expend resources to educate that student.

Oxton Academy's total school population would be around an estimated 300 students. The other denied Charter School, ACAM's total school population after seven years would be around an estimated 700 students for their model. We currently grow more than this in a year when you compare both schools' total population combined when they are fully operational.

The families Oxton Academy would serve are those who choose to send their students to the school, and those families would love the choice. It's clear to me they desire this option, and no one is forcing families to send their kids here. It's optional.

I appreciate all the work that went into the Charter School Review Committee and believe a lot of good came from this process. Oxton Academy even stated that this committee helped them amend their packets for the good as they pointed out necessary waivers that would help them in the long run.

With Oxton Academy receiving approval from the Charter Committee and denial with a 4-3 split from the School Board and with the comments made on "why" they decided to deny this charter school that night and since in the media - it seems that for most of those who rejected Oxton Academy was for political reasons and would have never approved ACAM.

I speak on behalf of what I believe to be a substantial majority of the community in support of charter schools and school choice. Therefore, I am asking the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission to vote to allow parents the option to send their children to Oxton Academy.

I submit these comments today on my behalf and not on behalf of the School Board.

Aron Maberry
Clarksville-Montgomery County School Board Member - District 7