

May 4, 2021, Regular Board Meeting

Title

15. CHARTER APPLICATION FOR JACKSONVILLE CLASSICAL ACADEMY, INC., TO OPEN JACKSONVILLE CLASSICAL ACADEMY EAST

Recommendation

- 1. That the Duval County School Board approve the application submitted by Jacksonville Classical Academy, Inc., to open Jacksonville Classical Academy East, a charter school, in the 2022-2023 school year; and,**
- 2. That the Duval County School Board approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to negotiate a five-year contract with the school.**

Description

Jacksonville Classical Academy, Inc., submitted a proposal on February 1, 2021 to open a charter school, Jacksonville Classical Academy East for the 2022-2023 school year using the Standard Model Charter School Application. The applicant proposed to open with Kindergarten through fifth grades with a projected enrollment of up to 366 students. During the fifth year of operation, the proposed school would serve grades Kindergarten through ninth with a projected enrollment of up to 781 students. Jacksonville Classical Academy, Inc., currently operates Jacksonville Classical Academy, which is in its first year of operation. In the proposal for Jacksonville Classical Academy East, the applicant stated, "that a site is not yet acquired." The applicant continues by stating, "The school will be located in the Arlington area at 5900 Fort Caroline Road, Jacksonville, FL 32277."

The mission of Jacksonville Classical Academy East is, "...to train the minds and improve the hearts of young people through a content-rich classical education in the liberal arts and sciences, with instruction in the principles of moral character and civic virtue." (Application, page 1)

The projected enrollment is as follows:

- Year 1, Grades K-5, up to 366
- Year 2, Grades K-6, up to 450
- Year 3, Grades K-7, up to 534
- Year 4, Grades K-8, up to 684
- Year 5, Grades K-9, up to 781

The Founding Board for Jacksonville Classical Academy East is as follows:

Mr. John Rood - Board Chair

Dr. J. Allison DeFoor - Board Vice-Chair - Canon to the Ordinary of the Bishop, Diocese of Florida - Jacksonville, FL

Ms. Colleen Haley - Board Secretary - Senior Vice President and Corporate Secretary, Black Knight, Inc. - Jacksonville, FL

Mr. Cleve Warren - Board Treasurer - Chief Investment Officer, Florida State College at

Jacksonville - Jacksonville, FL

Ms. Shantel Davis - Board Member - Vice-President and Group Manager Sales for the Southeastern Region, Greenbrier Companies - Jacksonville, FL

The application to open a charter school is divided into three major components:

- (1) the Educational Plan;
- (2) the Organizational Plan; and
- (3) the Business Plan.

In order for an application to be recommended for approval, an applicant should “Meet the Standard” on all twenty-two (22) sections of the application. However, when an application does not “Meet the Standard” in all of the 22 sections, an application can be approved if the deficiencies for those areas “Partially Meeting the Standard” can be reasonably addressed through contract negotiations.

The application for Jacksonville Classical Academy East was reviewed by the Technical Review Committee (TRC), then evaluated by the Application Review Committee (ARC). The application met the standard on fifteen (15) sections, partially met the standard on seven (7) sections, and did not meet the standard on zero (0) sections. The Initial Evaluation Instrument is attached and incorporated by this reference in the agenda item.

The areas that were noted as "Partially Meeting the Standard" are as follows:

Section 5 - Student Performance, Assessment and Evaluation

Section 6 - Exceptional Students

Section 7 - English Language Learners

Section 8 - School Culture and Discipline

Section 17 - Transportation

Section 20 - Budget

Section 22 - Start-Up Plan

Gap Analysis

Below is a list of schools in the surrounding area of the proposed site for Jacksonville Classical Academy, including school grades and building utilization:

School	Grades				School Utilization				
	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
Lake Lucina ES	C	B	C	N/A	92%	76%	70%	66%	65%
Parkwood Heights ES	C	B	C	N/A	82%	72%	74%	64%	59%
Arlington	D	C	B	N/A	88%	82%	73%	71%	62%

Heights ES									
Fort Caroline ES	C	C	B	N/A	96%	90%	79%	87%	78%
Arlington ES	C	C	D	N/A	74%	72%	70%	72%	65%
Merril Road ES	-	-	-	N/A	68%	69%	74%	70%	61%
Don Brewer ES	B	C	C	N/A	78%	78%	73%	68%	58%
Arlington MS	D	D	C	N/A	86%	79%	75%	77%	78%
Landmark MS	C	B	B	N/A	85%	92%	85%	80%	68%
Terry Parker HS	B	C	C	N/A	93%	85%	86%	85%	82%

Previous Outcomes

Jacksonville Classical Academy East will be governed by Jacksonville Classical Academy, Inc. This organization currently operates one other charter school in Duval county:

- Jacksonville Classical Academy (first year of operation)

Expected Outcomes

Charter schools are expected to:

- improve student learning and academic achievement;
- increase learning opportunities for all students, with special emphasis on low-performing students and reading; and
- provide parents with sufficient information on whether the child gains at least a year's worth of growth for every year spent in the charter school.

Strategic Plan Goals and Principles

DCPS will provide a culture and climate that improves academic, social, and emotional development.

Financial Impact

	Fund	Function Area	Commitment Item
2520 Assistant Superintendent	10000 General Operating	5100 Basic Education	393 & 394 Distribution to Charter (FEFP &

During the application review stage, there is no financial impact to the District.

If approved, the Florida Educational Finance Program funds allocated for the students attending the charter school would follow the student. The district would withhold an administrative fee equal to 5% of the FEFP allocated to the first 250 students.

Once eligible, the proportionate allocation of capital outlay funding and sales tax collections would be allotted to the charter school. The funds would not be subject to the administrative holdback.

Contact

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Attachments

1. Jacksonville Classical Academy East Initial Evaluation Instrument