

3. Charter Petition: <http://www.scusd.edu/charter-petitions>
4. Amendment 1 to the Petition: <http://www.scusd.edu/charter-petitions>

Estimated Time of Presentation: 10 minutes
Submitted by: Al Rogers, Ed. D., Chief Strategy Officer and
Jack L. Kraemer, Innovative Schools and Charter
Oversight, Director
Approved by: José L. Banda, Superintendent



I. OVERVIEW / HISTORY

Action Proposed:

District Staff recommends approval of the initial charter petition for Growth Public Schools (GPS) for five (5) years beginning July 1, 2017 until June 30, 2022.

History:

The Petition proposes to establish a charter school to serve 112 students in kindergarten through first grade in the 2017-2018 school year, and expand over the subsequent eight (8) years to serve a total of 619 students kindergarten through eighth grade by the 2024-2025 school year (Petition, p. 26.). Petitioner intends is to create “one of the most innovative schools in the country,” by utilizing a mix of personalized learning, project based learning, and off-campus “expeditions” (Petition, p. 8; Appx. (J).). Petitioner does not currently operate any charter schools in the District.

On May 16, 2016, the Sacramento City Unified School District (“District”) received a charter petition (“Petition”) from Growth Public Schools, Inc., a California nonprofit public benefit corporation (“Petitioner”). The Petition proposes the creation of the Growth Public Schools Charter School (“Charter School”) for a term of five years, from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2022. The District held a public hearing on June 2, 2016 so that the District’s Governing Board (“Board”) could consider the “level of support for the petition by teachers employed by the district, other employees of the district, and parents” (Ed. Code, § 47605, subd. (b).). Board Action on August 18, 2016 extended the timeline for staff’s findings and recommendation to September 1, 2016. Sacramento City Unified School District received Amendment 1 to the Petition from Petitioner on August 19, 2016.

II. DRIVING GOVERNANCE

The Charter Schools Act of 1992 (“Act”) governs the creation of charter schools in the State of California. The Act includes Education Code section 47605, subdivision (b), which provides the standards and criteria for petition review, and provides that a school district governing board considering whether to grant a charter petition “shall be guided by the intent of the Legislature that charter schools are and should become an integral part of the California educational system and that establishment of charter schools should be encouraged” (Ed. Code, § 47605, subd. (b).). Specifically, the governing board may not deny a petition unless it makes written factual findings setting forth for specific facts to support one, or more of six findings:

Board of Education Executive Summary

Office of the Superintendent

Approve Resolution No. 2900: Initial Charter Petition for Growth Public Schools

September 1, 2016



- 1) The charter school presents an unsound educational program for the students to be enrolled in the charter school;
- 2) The Petitioner is demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the Petition;
- 3) The Petition does not contain the number of signatures prescribed by Education Code section 47605, subdivisions (a)(1)(A) or (a)(1)(B);
- 4) The Petition does not contain an affirmation of each of the conditions set forth in Education Code section 47605, subdivision (d), including that the charter school: (1) will be nonsectarian in its admission policies, employment practices and all other operations; (2) will not charge tuition; and (3) will not discriminate against any student on the basis of the characteristics set forth in Education Code section 220;
- 5) The Petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of fifteen certain elements in its program and operations as set forth in Education Code section 47605, subdivision (b)(5) (A-O), which describes fifteen separate elements that must be addressed in every petition to establish a charter school. These elements include a description of the School's governance structure, admissions policy, health and safety and student discipline policies; or
- 6) The Petition does not contain a declaration of whether or not the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public employer of the employees of the charter school for purpose of Chapter 10.7 of Division 4 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

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V.

**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2900
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE INITIAL CHARTER PETITION OF
GROWTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, petitioners for Growth Public Schools, Inc. ("Petitioners") submitted to Sacramento City Unified School District;

WHEREAS, the District's Governing Board held a public hearing on the Petition on September 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board has considered the level of public support for the Petition, reviewed the Petition, including all supporting documentation; and

WHEREAS, in reviewing the Petition, the Governing Board has concluded that the Sacramento Legislature that charter schools are and should become an integral part of the public education system; that establishment of charter schools should be encouraged; and

WHEREAS, after analysis of the Petition, and related supplemental information, the District staff have recommended approval of the Petition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sacramento City Unified School District hereby approves the Petition of Growth Public Schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the term of the charter shall be for a period of six years, expiring June 30, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Petition approval is conditional upon the District's Understanding for Operations and Special Education by Petitioners, dated September 1, 2016.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Sacramento City Unified School District on September 1, 2016, by the following vote:

AYES: _____
NOES: _____
ABSTAIN: _____
ABSENT: _____
ATTESTED TO:

José L. Banda
Secretary of the Board of Education

Christina P
President of the Board of Education