

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

Charter Actions Requiring a Vote

- Approve a Charter Application
- Approve a Charter Renewal (15 yrs.)
- Approve Charter Continuance (5 or 10 yrs.)
- Approve a Charter Amendment Request
- Approve a Charter Agreement
- Give a Charter Notice of Concern
- Lift the Charter Notice of Concern
- Commence Charter Revocation Proceedings
- Revoke a Charter
- Board Action, Other _____

Non-Voting Board Items

- Public Hearing Item
- Discussion Item
- Read into Record

Policies

- Open a New Policy or Changes to a Policy for Public Comment
- Approve a New Policy
- Approve Revisions to an Existing Policy

PREPARED BY: Teri Quinn, Senior Manager, School Quality and Accountability

SUBJECT: Charter Agreement Amendment: Eagle Academy Public Charter School

- Campus and Facility Locations

DATE: April 22, 2019

The following proposal was opened for public comment on March 12, 2019, and the public comment period will close after a public hearing on April 22, 2019. Pending no public comment against the proposal, a vote will also occur on April 22, 2019. To date, the DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB) has not received any written public comments. The Board will discuss all public comments received prior to its vote, and will postpone the vote if public comment in opposition is received.

Recommendation

DC PCSB staff recommends that the Board approve the charter agreement amendment request of Eagle Academy Public Charter School (Eagle Academy PCS) to update the name and locations for one of its campuses, beginning in school year (SY) 2019-20. Staff also requests that the Board approve DC PCSB Board Chair Rick Cruz to sign the amended agreement on the Board's behalf.

Proposal

On March 8, 2019, Eagle Academy PCS submitted written notification to DC PCSB of its intent to operate in two facilities for its Eagle Academy PCS – Capitol Riverfront

campus, effective for SY 2019-20. The following table outlines each campus and facility the school will operate next school year.

School Year 2019-20

Campus Name (Grades PK3-3)	Location(s)
Eagle Academy PCS - Fairlawn <i>(formerly named Capitol Riverfront)</i>	1017 New Jersey Avenue SE Washington, DC 20003 Ward 6
	2345 R Street SE Washington, DC 20020 Ward 8
Eagle Academy PCS – Congress Heights	3400 Wheeler Road SE Washington, DC 20032 Ward 8

Rationale

While initially under the impression that it must vacate from its New Jersey Avenue facility in Ward 6 at the end of SY 2018-19, Eagle Academy PCS informed its families and stakeholders, and advertised through My School DC, that its Ward 6 campus would relocate to 2345 R Street SE for SY 2019-20 and that it would rename the campus Eagle Academy PCS - Fairlawn. However, on March 1, 2019, after the lottery deadline for My School DC, the school was granted a one-year lease extension to remain at the existing Ward 6 facility through SY 2019-20. Due to the late notice of this lease extension, Eagle Academy PCS would like to operate the Fairlawn campus across two facilities, allowing families to choose the facility most convenient for them.

While some families from the Ward 6 site expressed intent to enroll their students at the R Street location in Ward 8, many existing Eagle Academy PCS families expressed a strong desire for the school to maintain a location in Ward 6 given the limited selection of charter schools in that area. As a result, Eagle Academy PCS accepted the lease extension at 1017 New Jersey Avenue SE in an effort to appease its Ward 6 families that wish to stay enrolled at Eagle Academy PCS.

If approved, Eagle Academy PCS will operate the Fairlawn campus as a single campus with two facilities located at New Jersey Avenue SE (Ward 6) and R Street SE (Ward 8). The school states no new seats will be made available at the Ward 6 facility on New Jersey Avenue SE, thus all seats at the New Jersey Avenue facility will be designated for existing Eagle Academy PCS families. The school will also continue to operate its Congress Heights campus in Ward 8.

Per DC PCSB's [Definition of School, Campus and Facility Policy](#), a multi-campus school may operate multiple campuses in the same or different facilities, but each campus may have only one principal who reports to the head of school and is responsible for its staff. Eagle Academy PCS meets this criterion given each of its campuses has a distinct school leader. Beginning in SY 2019-20, the principal at Eagle Academy PCS – Fairlawn will split his or her time between the campus' two facilities in Wards 6 and 8, to ensure the school adheres to DC PCSB's policy that each campus may have only one principal.

Background

On December 19, 2016, DC PCSB approved Eagle Academy PCS to relocate its Capitol Riverfront campus from New Jersey Ave SE to R Street SE in Ward 8 effective for SY 2018-19, due to the building being put up for sale by its owner.¹ In that same amendment, DC PCSB approved the school to rename the campus to Fairlawn. Prior to the 2018-19 school year, the building owner allowed Eagle Academy PCS its first lease extension to remain in the Ward 6 facility for another school year. The school's charter renewal agreement, executed in 2018, reflected this one year delay in relocation. On March 1, 2019, the building owner extended the school's lease again. Given the open enrollment lottery had already commenced when Eagle Academy PCS learned of its most recent lease extension, the school has been in talks with My School DC to ensure that existing Eagle Academy PCS families who wish to enroll at either the New Jersey Avenue facility or the R Street SE facility will be matched accordingly.

Notification

Dating back to February 2018, Eagle Academy PCS has been in consistent communication with the Ward 6 Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC). According to its charter agreement amendment application, the school has not received any pushback regarding its decision to remain in Ward 6 for another year.

On March 12, 2019, DC PCSB staff notified ANC Commissioners Brian K. Thompson (8A03), Robinette Woodland (8C03), and Anna Forgie (6D02) of the school's proposed amendment. DC PCSB also submitted a notice to be published in the DC Register and posted a notice on its website on March 12, 2019, stating it would accept public comment until April 22, 2019. DC PCSB has not received any public comments regarding this proposal. Copies of the public notices in their entirety may be found here: <https://dcpcsb.egnyte.com/fl/W8aqdW8eKC>.

¹ Eagle Academy PCS, Board Vote, New Location and Campus Name Change, December 16, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2CUJjJO>.

Attachments to this Proposal

Attachment A: Eagle Academy PCS Charter Amendment Application (enclosed)

Attachment B: Eagle Academy PCS Board Meeting Minutes (separate attachment)

Attachment C: Eagle Academy PCS Charter Agreement Amendment

Date: _____

PCSB Action: _____Approved _____Approved with Changes _____Rejected

Changes to the Original Proposal:

Signature_____



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

Charter and/or Charter Agreement Amendment Application

Attachment A

Part I: General Information

All applicants must complete this section

SUBMITTED BY: Ronald Hasty, Chair, Eagle Academy PCS

SUBJECT: Charter Amendment Request for: (Mark all that apply)

- Enrollment Ceiling Increase
Program Replication of Grades Served
Grade Level Expansion (Single Grade)
Grade Level Expansion (Grade Band)
Additional Facility or New Location
Goals and Achievement Expectations
Mission or Education Philosophy
Curriculum, Standards or Assessments
Name Change - Campus or Facility
Campus Reconfiguration
LEA Status for Special Education
Special Education Enrollment Preference
Governance Structure
(Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation or Management)
Graduation Requirements
Competency-Based Learning Application

SUBMISSION DATE: 3/8/2019

SCHOOL BACKGROUND

Please address the following questions in their entirety. This information provides helpful background to the DC PCSB Board as it reviews these requests.

Overview of School Performance

- 1. Provide the following information about your Local Education Agency (LEA) by campus:
a) Campus name(s) and location(s): Eagle Academy PCS at Congress Heights, 3400 Wheeler Road SE; Eagle Academy PCS at Capitol Riverfront, 1017 New Jersey Avenue SE; and Eagle Academy PCS at Fairlawn, 2345 R Street SE.
b) Year opened: 2003
c) Grade levels served (Currently and at maturation of charter agreement, if applicable): PreK3 - 3rd Grade
d) Date that charter will be eligible for possible renewal: Charter was just renewed in 2018. Next renewal will be in 2033.

- 2. Please select the performance indicators below that describe the school's current performance*: (Mark all that apply)

- Currently rated Tier 1, or met at least 2/3 of targets on the most recent PK-only PMF or Alternative Accountability Framework.
School is not currently under corrective action.
Has historically met enrollment projections w/in 80% of target.
School has been in operation for 3+ years.
School is currently accredited. By the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools through December 2024

*If the school has multiple campuses or varying PMFs, please describe the academic performance of each campus here: For the 2017-2018SY, Eagle Academy PCS at Capitol Riverfront was rated Tier 2; and Eagle Academy PCS at Congress Heights was rated Tier 3 (by 0.8 of a point, 34.2).

Disclaimer: While processing this application, DC PCSB staff may contact you later to request additional information for the Board's consideration. By submitting this application, you agree to cooperate with DC PCSB staff to ensure your application is processed in a timely manner. For questions, please contact DC PCSB staff person Laterica (Teri) Quinn at (202) 328-2660.

PROPOSAL

Eagle Academy PCS submits to the DC Public Charter School Board this application to amend its charter agreement by changing the item(s) selected above. If approved, this amendment will be effective on _____, 20____ (leave blank if this has not been determined).

1. Please provide details on the selected amendment(s) above and describe the requested change(s), including the school's rationale for the proposed changes. Describe any planning that is already underway to prepare for the proposed amendment.

Eagle Academy PCS will continue to operate two campuses (Congress Heights and Fairlawn), one of them (Fairlawn) in two locations: 2345 R Street SE and 1017 New Jersey Avenue SE.

2. How will the proposed amendment(s) support or enhance the school's mission?

Eagle Academy Public Charter School's mission is to build the foundation for a promising future for all students in a rich, robust learning environment that fosters creativity, problem-solving abilities, emphasizing cognitive, social and emotional growth by engaging children as active learners, in an inclusive learning environment. Since its establishment in 2003, Eagle Academy PCS has kept true to its mission, as outlined in its charter application, to serve students during their early childhood years (PreK3 - Grade 3), and to serve the communities where it was first established as well as those from where many of its students come from. Consequently, Eagle seeks to continue to have a presence in both Ward 6 and Ward 8.

3. While considering this amendment request, DC PCSB staff may review the school's history of board actions, DC PCSB audits, community complaints, enrollment trends, and any relevant data used by DC PCSB to monitor equity in schools. Please describe any DC PCSB audits, notices of concern or other board actions issued against your school in the past 3 years. What was the outcome? Please explain what steps, if any, you've taken to address the concerns that prompted a DC PCSB audit, board action, or community complaint.

On December 19, 2016, the DC PCSB Board approved Eagle Academy's request to relocate its existing Capitol Riverfront campus from 1017 New Jersey Avenue, SE in Ward 6, to a new location at 2345 R Street, SE in Ward 8 - an action that is being hereby amended. On April 24, 2017, DC PCSB issued a Notice of Concern to Eagle Academy PCS at Congress Heights for passing the truancy threshold by 3.7%. On May 22, 2017, we received a letter from DC PCSB indicating that the Notice of Concern has been lifted because we met all of the requirements. Specifically, we demonstrated a significant improvement in: (1) the percentage of in-seat attendance for the whole school; (2) the attendance for the majority of students who were defined as chronically truant in the baseline period; and (3) maintaining a chronic truancy rate lower than 30% excluding those already counted as chronically truant in the baseline period. In the summer of 2017, DC PCSB asked Eagle Academy to submit monthly financial statements because the end-of-year (2015-2016) balance was too low. Eagle was able to achieve a strong financial position in FY2017 by closely monitoring all cash inflows and outflows and increasing Eagle's revenues through grants. The CEO of Eagle implemented a weekly monitoring system for all cash flows. This was key to restoring Eagle to a strong financial position. In FY 2017, Eagle financials were improved and now Eagle Academy PCS is back to submitting quarterly reports. Finally, on December 18, 2017, the DC PCSB Board voted to renew Eagle Academy's charter, and on July 1, 2018, a renewed 15-year Charter Agreement became effective.

4. DC PCSB will review the school's Financial Audit Reviews (FAR) and current financials to determine the fiscal health of the organization. If applicable, describe how the proposed amendment will impact the school's finances. Explain any anticipated expenses for the proposed changes and how the school will finance them. *[EXCLUDES the following amendments: Governance, Goals, Mission, Curriculum, Name Changes and Graduation Requirements. If not applicable, write N/A.]*

Note: If applicable, in addition to your narrative please attach a proposed [5-year Operating Budget](#).
See Attached

5. How has the school informed its external stakeholders (e.g. local ANC commissioners, neighbors) and internal stakeholders (e.g. staff, parents) of the proposed amendment(s)? Please attach any written communication (e.g., meeting minutes). Describe any notable support for or opposition to the proposed amendment(s). If concerns have been brought to your attention, how do you plan to address them? *[EXCLUDES the following amendments: Governance, Goals, Mission, Curriculum, Graduation Requirements and Competency-Based Learning Credits. If not applicable, write N/A.]*

Parents, several of them residents of Ward 6, and members of the Ward 6 ANC6D, including its former Chair Meredith Fascett, have asked Eagle Academy to remain in Ward 6 because Eagle has been a member of the Capitol Riverfront community since 2003, and because there are not enough schools serving the area. Eagle Academy PCS's Board of Trustees also requested that Dr. Smith, CEO, try to find a way for Eagle to stay in Ward 6. There have been no reports of opposition to Eagle remaining in Ward 6. (See attachments)

6. When did your school's board approve the proposed amendment(s)? Please attach minutes from the meeting and vote results.

Eagle Academy's Board of Trustees has been discussing the need to remain in Ward 6 since early 2016. Eagle Academy learned in September 2016 that the building located at 1017 New Jersey Avenue SE was being sold, and that Eagle was expected to vacate the building by August 2017. Eagle had been searching for a suitable property in this area of Ward 6 since 2015. Because of the new waterfront development, properties near the river in the SW were being held for development. The Waterfront in the SE also came under development at the same time so that all potential properties were tied up. Because Eagle could not find a property – even the building we were in was priced at \$14,000,000, Eagle Academy's Board of Trustees approved the relocation of the Eagle Academy PCS at Capitol Riverfront campus to a property recently acquired at 2345 R Street SE (Fairlawn). Eagle received a lease extension at Capitol Riverfront from the new owner March 1, 2019. Consequently, we were able to remain at the Ward 6 location this year plus a new extension was granted for next year. Eagle will continue to seek a location for a small school in Ward 6. Eagle is NOT seeking an increase in enrollment. See attachments of Board Minutes.

Section C1.

New Campus Location or Additional Facility

***ONLY complete this section if applying to amend a Facility or New Location.**

Any school that is planning to operate a new campus in an existing (or new) location or relocate an existing campus, whether temporarily or permanently, and even if it is taking over an existing campus of another public charter school, must notify DC PCSB of the change and amend its charter agreement to include the new address.

DC PCSB will generally approve a campus addition or relocation amendment, if the school has made documented and meaningful effort to engage the community, including the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC), and has made an effort to address their concerns, if any. The school must show proof that it has taken into consideration the current families attending the school and their transportation needs, at least for the first year of operation in the new location.

1. Please check the reason below that best describes your proposed change.

- Entire campus or school is relocating from current location to a new location.
- A single campus is both staying in its current location AND expanding into a second location (e.g. some grades in one facility and some in a second facility to allow more space, or until a permanent larger facility is found).
- School is creating a new campus being housed in a new facility (Note: Please complete [Section A2: Program Replication](#))

2. List all the facilities and addresses the school currently operates, along with the new facility(ies) the LEA plans to operate if approved. Include the campus(es) located in each facility, highlighting any changes from what is currently written in the school's charter agreement.

For 2019 Eagle has two campuses:

Eagle Academy PCS at Congress Heights at 3400 Wheeler Road SE; and Eagle Academy PCS at Capitol Riverfront at 1017 New Jersey Avenue SE.

For 2020 Eagle will keep Congress Heights and add Eagle Academy PCS at Fairlawn at 2 locations:

1) 2345 R Street SE will be Eagle Academy PCS at Fairlawn; 2)1017 New Jersey Avenue SE will be known as Eagle Academy PCS at Fairlawn, Capitol Riverfront.

Is the proposed new facility a property that you plan to purchase or lease? How many square feet is this space? Which grade level(s) will be at this location? If you have already purchased or leased the property, provide specific dates of when the property was acquired.

Eagle Academy PCS has had a campus at the 1017 New Jersey Avenue SE location since 2009, serving students in grades PreK3 – 3rd grade. This location has been leased from two different owners and has 12,000 square feet of space. Eagle Academy seeks to continue to have a location in Ward 6 by having its Fairlawn campus in two locations at 1017 New Jersey Avenue SE and 2345 R Street SE. The R Street property is wholly owned by Eagle Academy PCS.

3. If the school is planning to move a current campus into a new location, please answer the following:

- a. How will the change in location impact students who currently attend this campus, and how will you ensure that students will re-enroll?

Eagle Academy PCS has been operating at the Ward 6 location in the Capitol Riverfront neighborhood since 2009. This location has been oversubscribed for several years.

- b. Given that students are expected to move; how will you support families that need transportation?

N/A

4. Describe the neighborhood of the proposed location (e.g. residential, commercial, metro-accessibility). What value will you bring to this community? In your response, list traditional and public charter schools in close proximity to the new location, identifying schools that serve the same grade span as you will serve at full capacity at this location. Describe how the academic performance, demographics, and mission of your school compare to these schools.

Eagle Academy PCS has been operating at the Ward 6 location in the Capitol Riverfront neighborhood since 2010. Three years ago, DCPS re-opened Van Ness Elementary School which serves grades PreK through Grade 2 with a projection to go to Grade 5. Historically, Eagle Academy has been the only early childhood school available for families in the area. The rapid change in population has only increased the number of families wanting to access Eagle's Capitol Riverfront campus. Both schools are filled and with waiting lists.

5. Describe how you have engaged your school's community in the decision to relocate, expand, or divide into this new location. Submit documentation of your communications with your staff and families regarding this new location. Please explain any potential concerns raised by the school's internal community, including students, teachers, etc.

Eagle Academy PCS has been operating at the Ward 6 location in the Capitol Riverfront neighborhood since 2010.

6. Describe all community outreach that has been done in the local community of the new school location. Submit documentation of communications with nearby principals, neighbors, ANC representatives, Councilmembers, and others, notifying them of your plans.

Eagle Academy has been operating at the Ward 6 location in the Capitol Riverfront neighborhood since 2010.

7. Will there be newly-created slots for additional students? If so, discuss student recruitment efforts in the new school community.

Eagle Academy PCS will maintain its current enrollment ceiling of 920 students across all three locations. No new slots will be created at the Ward 6 location. In fact, Eagle Academy plans to reduce the current enrollment there of 153 students to 110.

8. What is the occupancy maximum at the new location? If the maximum occupancy load for staff and students is less than the total number of staff and students who will occupy the facility at any point in the future, please explain how you will address this issue.

According to the Certificate of Occupancy, the Ward 6 location can house up to 176 students, 3 years to 9 years old.

9. In addition to providing a [5-year Operating Budget](#), please answer the following questions regarding the financial impact of the proposed new location:

- a. How much does the proposed new facility cost, and how many students will be served at the new site?

Eagle has already renovated this location so there is no new capital costs. The monthly lease will rise by 3% to \$16,093 monthly. This is included in Eagle's attached 5 Year Operating Budget.

- b. What is the school's per-pupil cost, and how does this compare with its per-pupil allowance?

For 2018, the Per Pupil Cost was \$22,922 and the Per Pupil Revenue was \$24,742. (Source: DCPCSB HUB)

- c. If you plan to operate multiple facilities, in addition to the proposed new location, what is the LEA's total facilities cost (e.g. lease, plus mortgage)? How does this expense compare with your per-pupil allowance?

Eagle owns the 2345 R Street, SE building. The mortgage (principal plus interest) is \$17,560 per month, or \$210,712 annually. The Capitol Riverfront Campus rent is \$193,113 annually. The District lease on the Congress Heights campus is \$0 because of Eagle's investment in the facility. The mortgage is \$903,054 annually. Eagle's annual per pupil allowance (920 students) is \$3,092,019. Eagle's total facility lease/mortgage costs for all three facilities for FY2020 are \$1,499,992.

Eagle still has \$1,592,026 remaining in its facility funds for utilities, maintenance, and improvements.

- d. What additional sources of funding do you plan to use to pay for this new facility.

No new sources of funds are needed. All expenditures and liabilities are included in c above.

- e. If applicable, what contingencies do you have in place in case the new location enrolls fewer students than anticipated? **Eagle is not seeking an increase in total enrollment. Eagle will have 920 at 3 facilities, 2 campuses.**