

SCHOOL BOARD AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

Meeting Date: March 1, 2017
Category: Consent
Division: Charter
Title: CS6 – Belle Glade Excel- Proposed Non-Renewal of Charter Contract

Description

On June 20, 2012, Belle Glade Excel, Inc. was granted a five (5) year Charter Contract to serve K-5 students. The Charter Contract expires June 30, 2017.

The mission of the school is “to incorporate active parental involvement, community resources, and to utilize the best curriculum to prepare students to be successful in their continuing education. Students will hold themselves to the highest standards of achievement and academic excellence as they have an equal opportunity to receive a quality education and gain an educational foundation on which they can learn and grow.”

Pursuant to F.S. 1002.33(7) (b) 1, “A charter may be renewed provided a program review demonstrates that the criteria in paragraph (a) have been successfully accomplished and that none of the grounds for non-renewal established by paragraph (8) (a) has been documented. In January, 2017, the District staff conducted a Program Review. The results of reviewing the criteria outlined in the Charter Renewal Program Review of Belle Glade Excel, show that deficiencies exist regarding Academics, Finance and Operations, ELL and Transportation. At the March 1, 2017, Special School Board meeting, the Superintendent will recommend to non-renew the Charter between the Palm Beach County School board and Belle Glade Excel.

F.S. 1002.33(8) (a) – The sponsor may choose not to renew or may terminate the charter for any of the following grounds:

1. Failure to participate in the state’s education accountability system created in Fla. Stat. 1008.31, as required in this section, or failure to meet the requirements for student performance stated in the charter;
2. Failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management;
3. Violation of law;
4. Other good cause shown.

The Program Review and/or Fla. Stat. 1002.33 set forth many of the details of the grounds for non-renewal of Belle Glade Excel.

1. Failure by Belle Glade Excel to comply with Fla. Stat. 1002.33(2) (b) (1) & (2).
 - a) School Year 14-15 Grade of F
 - b) School Year 15-16 Grade of F
2. Provisions in the Belle Glade Excel Charter Contract Section I, D.,1., a), i., (d), (ii), (iii),(iv),(xxiii)
 - a) Substantially inadequate student performance
School Year 14-15 Grade of F
School Year 15-16 Grade of F
 - b) Receiving a school grade of “F”
School Year 14-15 Grade of F
School Year 15-16 Grade of F
 - c) Failure to make adequate academic progress
 - d) Any material breach of the standards, requirements, or procedures of the Charter Contract including
 - Failure to timely comply with financial reports and statements
 - Failure to fulfill all the requirements for Highly Qualified instructional personnel
 - Failure to achieve at least 50% of the goals and outcomes designated in the School Improvement Plan
 - Failure to provide English Language Learners (ELL) with programs and service in accordance with federal, state, and local laws. Failure to make sufficient progress in attaining the student achievement objectives of the Charter and it’s not likely such objectives can be completed before the expiration of the Charter.

The District conducted an Annual Review of the school on October 31, 2016, (included) and found numerous deficiencies, and provided the school an opportunity to cure and offered assistance.

Based on the foregoing, statutory and contractual reasons and good cause exist to non-renew the Charter.

The School Board’s approval of the Charter Renewal indicates an agreement to enter into charter contract negotiations, and if successfully negotiated by Legal and approved

by the School Board, will result in entering into a Charter Contract. The Charter will be a binding agreement, which shall detail the rights and responsibilities of the School Board and the Charter School. If the Charter Renewal is not approved by the School Board, the School Board is required to send a 90 day notice letter indicating the reasons for non-renewal and the right to appeal. If the Charter School does not appeal, or the School appeals and the School Board prevails, then the school is closed after the 90 days.

Attached are copies of the Charter Contract, Annual Review, Program Renewal Review, Board Notification, and Matrix for March 1, 2017, Board Agenda Items.

Recommendation

I recommend that the School Board approve the Charter Non-Renewal for Belle Glade Excel and authorize the Superintendent and/or his designee to sign all related contracts and documents.

My Contact

David Christiansen, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Schools

(david.christiansen@palmbeachschools.org)

Mark Howard, Chief, Performance Accountability

James T. Pegg, Director

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact to the District.