
ANSWERING MEMORANDUM

TO: SUPERINTENDENT DR. HENDERSON LEWIS, JR.
FROM: INDEPENDENT EVALUATION TEAM
SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DATE: NOVEMBER 8, 2018

1. STATEMENT OF FACTS

Pursuant to Louisiana state law, the 2018 Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB or the District) Charter School Request for Applications (RFA) process included an opportunity for each applicant to respond, in writing, to a draft of the recommendation report prepared by the Independent Evaluation Team that reviewed the application.

On November 7, 2018, Community Exceptional Children's Services Centers submitted a response to the draft recommendation report for The Community School. In this response, the applicant presents the following:

- a. **New Information.**
- b. **Disputed Judgements.**
- c. **Factual Errors.**
 1. The applicant presents factual errors regarding the mission statement as stated in the Proposal Overview (pg.5).
 2. The applicant presents factual errors regarding the school goal as stated in the Plan Summary (pg.7).

The Independent Evaluation Team will not consider any new information or disputed judgments cited in the applicant's written response; only factual errors.

2. STANDARD OF REVIEW

Per Title 28, Bulletin 126, Louisiana law requires OPSB to:

- a. "carefully review each Type 1 and Type 3 charter school application they receive and may approve a charter application only after it has made a specific determination that the determine whether each proposed charter complies with the law and rules, whether the proposal is valid, complete, financially well-structured, and educationally sound, whether it provides for a master plan for improving behavior and discipline in accordance with

R.S. 17:252, whether it provides a plan for collecting data in accordance with R.S. 17:3911.”

- b. “engage in a transparent application review process that complies with the latest Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing, as promulgated by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, and shall provide for an independent evaluation of the charter proposal by a third party with educational, organizational, legal, and financial expertise”

In compliance with these requirements, an Independent Evaluation Team has evaluated each application against rigorous criteria, reviewed the Request for Clarification (RFC) information, interviewed each applicant, and came to a consensus recommendation regarding the quality of the application with regard to the evaluation criteria.

While the duty of the Independent Evaluation Team is to recommend approval or denial of each application based on the criteria, it is the responsibility of OPSB to decide whether to approve or deny each application.

It is the Independent Evaluation Team’s primary objective to deliver the most accurate, fair, and comprehensive recommendation reports for each applicant. To that end, the Independent Evaluation Team will address and correct factual errors that are identified via an applicant’s written rebuttal.

3. RESPONSE

The Independent Evaluation Team thoroughly reviewed the applicant’s response and offers the following:

- a. **Factual Errors.** The following factual corrections have been made:
 1. The mission statement has been updated to reflect the mission statement as stated on Part 1, page 3 of the application.
 2. The last sentence of the Plan Summary on page 7 regarding the goal of the school has been deleted.

A revised recommendation report is contained herein.

In the opinion of the Independent Evaluation Team, the corrected factual information does not change the original ratings and overall recommendation.