

May 7, 2018

Mr. Rick Cruz
Chair
D.C. Public Charter School Board
3333 14th Street NW
Suite 210
Washington, DC, 20010

Dear Chairman Cruz:

I write to request the D.C. Public Charter School Board's approval to delay the opening of Rocketship Public School D.C. ("Rocketship PCS") Public Charter School's third campus by one year until the 2019-2020 school year.

When Rocketship PCS was initially approved by PCSB, our charter agreement authorized the opening of the School's first campus in the first academic year of operation and a second campus after our first year of operation. The first campus, Rocketship Rise Academy opened in 2016, and the second campus, Rocketship Legacy Prep, opened in 2017. Thereafter, the agreement stipulates that Rocketship PCS is permitted to open one additional campus per year (up to a maximum) subject to certain conditions. These conditions include that all previously authorized campuses have opened, that all operating DC campuses have elementary school program and early learning programs have achieved the equivalent of Tier 1 status on the Performance Management Framework (PMF), and that there have been no material violations and neither the school nor any of its campuses are under charter warning status.

During the 2016-2017 school year, Rocketship Rise Academy met the conditions outlined in the charter agreement, including achieving the equivalent of Tier 1 status, and the PCSB authorized Rocketship to open its third campus. We had planned to open this campus in Ward 5 in the South Dakota Avenue facility currently occupied by LAMB PCS and, when LAMB PCS was unable to relocate as planned, we entered into a letter of intent in shared space with Perry Street Prep PCS. However, we recently received preliminary construction plans to renovate our temporary facility that were more than double that of our original estimate. After consulting with our construction and design partners, we came to the conclusion that it is highly unlikely that we could meaningfully reduce the cost. When we evaluated construction costs, needs to renovate the space, and the low enrollment at for the third campus, we came to consensus that the most prudent decision for the health of our school, students, staff, and families is to delay the opening of our third DC campus by one year. We brought this update to the Rocketship DC PCS

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Board of Trustees, which determined that the one-year delay was best course of action after considering all of the factors described above.

We therefore write to request that the PCSB approve this one-year delay of our third campus. According to the condition of our charter agreement that requires that all previously authorized campus have opened before another campus is authorized, the PCSB's decision to approve this one-year delay would mean that a fourth Rocketship campus would not be authorized to open in the 2019-2020 school year even if all other conditions are met. Moreover, in making the decision to delay the opening of this campus to 2019, we have communicated and coordinated extensively with PCSB staff, which has suggested a condition that a signed lease for the third campus' facility be in place no later than March 1, 2019, or else the opening would be subject to a further year delay. Rocketship PCS agrees in advance to this condition, which we believe is prudent.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to our continued partnership to provide quality and equitable educational options to the children and families of the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,



Chey M. Calvo
Chief Growth and Community Engagement Officer
ccalvo@rsed.org

Cc: DC PCSB Executive Director Scott Pearson
Rocketship Public Schools DC Board of Trustees