DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

# **Charter and/or Charter Agreement Amendment Application**

## **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

DC PUBLIC

CHARTER

- □ 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
- $\square$  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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.
  - X School is not currently under corrective action.
  - X Has historically met enrollment projections w/in 80% of target.
  - X School has been in operation for 3+ years.
  - X 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).

 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 <u>5-year</u> <u>Operating Budget</u>. 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.