



June 2, 2017

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

**Via electronic mail**

Dear Shawn,

Congratulations on receiving conditional approval for North Star College Preparatory Academy for Boys (North Star) to operate a public charter school in Washington, D.C. beginning in school year 2018-19!

On May 22, 2017, the DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB) determined that North Star's application substantially satisfied the petition requirements of the School Reform Act, and that the school has the ability to meet the educational objectives outlined in its application. Specifically, DC PCSB conditionally approved North Star's petition to establish a public charter school. This approval is contingent on North Star satisfying all of the Board's conditions and successfully negotiating a mutually acceptable charter agreement. Enclosed is a full list of conditions that must be satisfied for full approval. [*D.C. Code § 38-1802.03(d)(1)(B).*] **Please sign and return the attachment by June 30, 2017.**

Once again, congratulations!

Warmly,

[Redacted signature block]

Scott Pearson  
Executive Director  
DC Public Charter School Board

Darren Woodruff, PhD  
Chairman  
DC Public Charter School Board

Attachment: Conditions of Charter Approval

## **ATTACHMENT: Conditions of Full Charter Approval**

North Star College Preparatory Academy for Boys agrees to satisfy the following conditions to receive charter approval.

### **1. 501(c)3 Status**

The school shall apply for and obtain 501(c)3 status.

**By August 1, 2017**, the school will submit its IRS receipt demonstrating that it has submitted IRS Form 1023 to apply for 501(c)3 status.

**By May 1, 2018**, the school shall submit its IRS determination letter confirming that it has obtained 501(c)3 status.

### **2. Gender Inclusiveness**

The school shall submit a plan for supporting trans and gender non-conforming students. This shall include the code of conduct, student handbook and bullying policy; components of the boy-focused curriculum, including Kings 101 and how the boy-focused pedagogy will be adjusted for students who do not identify as boys; and components of the school's operations manual.

**By August 1, 2017**, the school shall submit a list of the policies and procedures wherein it will address inclusiveness of gender diversity. This list shall include specific elements, to be named by the school, of the code of conduct, student handbook, bullying policy, boy-focused curriculum, and operations manual.

**By November 15, 2017**, the school shall submit drafts of the agreed-upon policies and procedures.

**By February 1, 2018**, all feedback and revisions will be incorporated to DC PCSB's satisfaction.

### **3. Strategies for Supporting Latino Students**

The school shall submit a plan for developing resources and/or strategies to support identity development and positive self-image among all students, including Latinos.

**By August 1, 2017**, the school shall submit a plan for developing resources and/or strategies to support identity development and positive self-image among all students.

**By February 1, 2018**, all feedback and revisions will be incorporated to DC PCSB's satisfaction.

### **4. Key Personnel**

The school's Key Personnel, as will be listed in Attachment I to the charter agreement, include: Board Chair, Head of School, Director of Instruction, Director of Operations, Academic Dean, Special Education Coordinator, community relations manager, and data-driven instruction support coordinator. Currently, these positions are filled by the following members of the school's founding team: Shawn Hardnett, proposed Head of School; Toni Barton, who has experience in special education;

Maya Martin, who has experience in school governance and operations; Mary Brown, who has experience in community relations; and Nicole Solomon Mitchell, interim board chair. Should any of these members of the founding team leave the school corporation prior to the school corporation receiving full charter approval, the school corporation shall replace the person with someone with similar experience. The replacement shall be subject to DC PCSB's approval of fulfillment of this condition. The school shall also identify the staff member responsible for overseeing and supporting teachers in implementing data-driven instruction.

**By October 9, 2017**, the applicant team shall confirm that Shawn Hardnett will be the Head of School; Nicole Solomon Mitchell will be the Board Chair; and Mary Brown will be the community relations manager. The school shall also identify the Director of Instruction and Academic Dean.

**By March 1, 2018**, the school shall confirm that Maya Martin will be the Director of Operations and Toni Barton will be the Special Education Coordinator. The school shall also identify the staff member responsible for overseeing and supporting teachers in implementing data-driven instruction.

Up until the signing of the charter agreement, any replacements to these positions shall be subject to DC PCSB's approval.

#### **5. English Learner Plan**

The school shall submit a plan describing how its staffing, program and budget would change to support English learners (ELs), should any student be eligible for services.

**By November 15, 2017**, the school shall submit revisions using track changes to the relevant sections of its original charter application describing how its staffing, program, and budget would change to support ELs. This plan shall meet the relevant Standards for Approval from the 2017 Charter Application Guidelines, including but not limited to the Curriculum, Staffing Plan, and Finance and Facilities sections.

**By February 1, 2018**, all feedback and revisions will be incorporated to DC PCSB's satisfaction.

#### **6. Legal Analysis of Gender Differentiated Instruction**

The school shall modify its program to address any concerns raised after a legal assessment is conducted.

**By May 1, 2018, and no later than one week before the DC PCSB Board's scheduled vote on the school's charter agreement**, the school shall address any remaining legal concerns regarding the legality of its program.

#### **7. Charter Agreement**

The school shall negotiate with and submit to be executed by DC PCSB a draft charter agreement that is consistent with DC PCSB's charter school agreement template, including all attachments. Please note that pursuant to D.C. Code § 38-1802.03(h)(2), the following sections of the charter application comprise the School's Charter and may require revision and are subject to Board approval, per D.C. Code

§ 38-1802.03(d)(1)(B):

- The School's statement regarding the mission and goals of the School and the manner in which the school will conduct any district-wide assessments;
- Proposed Rules and Policies for Governance and Operation of School Corporation;
- Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws;
- Procedures to Ensure Health and Safety of Students and Employees, including the school's proposed discipline policy;
- Enrollment Ceilings;
- Assurance to Seek, Obtain, and Maintain Accreditation; and
- Relationship between School and Employees.

In its Proposed Rules and Policies for Governance and Operation of School Corporation, the school shall include a clause affirming that in its first three years of operation, it shall not contract with any school management organization or employ staff of a school management organization without the written permission of DC PCSB.

By the time the agreement is finalized, the school shall be incorporated as a nonprofit organization under the DC Nonprofit Corporation Act, and the name of the school will include "public charter school" as required by DC Code § 38-1802.04(b)(1).

**By January 15, 2018**, the school will submit a draft charter agreement.

**By May 1, 2018**, all feedback and revisions will be incorporated to DC PCSB's satisfaction.

**By June 29, 2018, and within five business days of the DC PCSB Board voting to approve the charter agreement**, the school shall submit a signed charter agreement, with all attachments.

DC PCSB recommends that the school retain counsel for negotiating the charter agreement.

## **8. Facility**

The school shall submit appropriate documentation evidencing that it has acquired title to or otherwise secured (e.g., a lease or letter of intent) a sufficient school facility to DC PCSB.

**By February 1, 2018**, the school will submit appropriate documentation evidencing that it has acquired title to or otherwise secured a sufficient school facility.

DC PCSB recommends that the school secure a school facility as early as possible in the pre-opening year.

## **9. Discipline Policy**

The school shall submit to DC PCSB for review its draft discipline policy and, based on DC PCSB's review, the school shall resolve any substantial concerns raised by DC PCSB.

**By February 1, 2018**, the school will submit a draft discipline policy.

**By May 1, 2018**, all feedback and revisions related to the discipline policy will be incorporated to DC PCSB's satisfaction.

**10. Governing Board**

The school shall identify a governing board that complies with the School Reform Act. The school's governing board shall complete background check release forms to undergo background checks and, based on the results of those background checks, the school will resolve any substantial concerns raised by DC PCSB.

**By March 15, 2018**, the school shall submit a list of governing board members that complies with the School Reform Act, except for parent members.<sup>1</sup> All members of the governing board will complete background check release forms.

**By May 1, 2018**, all feedback and revisions related to the governing board will be incorporated to DC PCSB's satisfaction.

Should the school anticipate being incapable of meeting any deadline listed above, the school shall submit a request for an extension in writing to DC PCSB's Deputy Director at least ten business days before the deadline. The request shall include, at minimum, the proposed new deadline for the condition and steps that the school will take to ensure that the condition is met by the new deadline.

Nonetheless, if DC PCSB staff determines that the school's opening is in jeopardy due to lack of progress in a) meeting any of the conditions listed above, or b) launching the school program in a manner that is economically viable and consistent with the educational objectives outlined in the school's petition, DC PCSB staff may propose to the Board that it vote to deny or delay full approval of the applicant's charter.

The school also commits to working with DC PCSB during the planning year and attend workshops and scheduled meetings with DC PCSB staff to ensure an on-time and successful opening.

**Lead founder or designated representative responsible for ensuring all conditions are met:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

---

<sup>1</sup> This shall be interpreted to allow the governing board to be less than one-half DC residents, provided that the addition of two parent members would increase the representation of DC residents on the board to at least one-half.