



June 2, 2017

Deborah Hayman  
4646 Livingston Road SE  
Washington, DC 20032

Dear Mrs. Hayman,

Thank you for submitting an application to establish a public charter school in the District of Columbia. The District of Columbia Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB) has completed the Spring 2017 Application Review process. As you know, at its public meeting held on May 22, 2017, DC PCSB did not approve your application to establish The Adult Career Technical Education School (TACTE).

DC PCSB's decision was based on a thorough evaluation of the written application and information gathered from the capacity interview, and the public hearing. While there were some strong aspects of the application, the following findings were the basis for denial:

- Lack of demonstrated demand: While the founding team demonstrates the need for an adult school with both secondary credentialing and career technical education (CTE) programming, the applicant group has not adequately demonstrated demand for their proposed model or programming. Furthermore, while the applicant group demonstrates deep personal ties to the District, their community engagement plan does not meet the standard for approval. Rather than explain how the school will engage with its community and future students, the group provided a list of 13 prospective organizational partners.
- Insufficient progress in developing the academic plan: The school program and academic plan is under-developed and lacks detail. The applicant has not thoroughly explained its instructional approaches, resources, or student supports. The applicant has not articulated how it will simultaneously and effectively operate high school diploma, GED, and CTE programs; furthermore, the applicant group has not been able to identify any potential challenges in operating all three programs, demonstrating an unrealistic outlook on both their progress to-date and the scope of work ahead. TACTE considered contracting with a school management organization (SMO), but has identified neither the services it will seek nor the process for selecting an SMO.
- Lack of consistency of the mission and philosophy: The applicant's educational philosophy is not well defined, which makes the proposed program fragmented and inconsistent. Though part of the applicant's mission is to provide students with "paths to productive and economically sound lifestyles" (p. 1), it is not clear how the applicant group defines success for their potential students. This is evidenced by

goals that are not measurable, and CTE pathways that may not lead to financial security for exiting students.

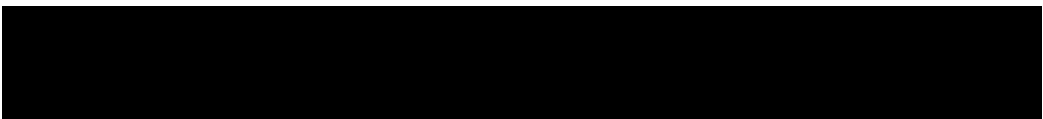
- Insufficient supports for students with disabilities, English learners, and students struggling academically: When asked to describe how TACTE will support students with disabilities and English learners, the applicant did not offer specific methods or strategies, instead stating generic ideas such as “meet the students where they are,” a “supplemental curriculum” for students with disabilities, and a six-week remediation program.
- Founding group ability: TACTE’s founders have extensive personal and professional experience in the DC metropolitan area. They express a remarkable passion to improve educational and professional opportunities for DC residents. Their application does not reflect their palpable passion or rich DC experience. For example, three board members have “significant capabilities” in fiscal management (p. 45), yet TACTE’s finance plan does not include any contingency plans; this is noteworthy given the applicant’s reliance on grants and fundraising.

Should you choose to file a petition again, that petition must meet the requirements of the School Reform Act. D.C. Code § 38-1802.02. Specifically, it should appropriately resolve the deficiencies cited above and establish: (a) a demonstrated need for the school; (b) sufficient progress in developing the plan; (c) alignment of the entire school program with the school’s mission and philosophy; (d) inclusion of and adequate support for special populations; and (e) the founding group’s capability to ensure that the school can meet the educational objectives outlined in the application. If you would like, DC PCSB staff would be happy to discuss with you in more detail your application’s strengths and weaknesses.

Should you want to appeal the denial of your application, you may seek review of this decision pursuant to D.C. Code §38-1802.03(j).

We recognize the hard work and effort that went into the development of your application. There were many positive parts of the application that are not mentioned in this letter. Thank you for your interest in public charter schools and your commitment to improving public education in Washington, DC.

Best,



Scott Pearson  
Executive Director  
DC Public Charter School Board

Darren Woodruff, PhD  
Chairman  
DC Public Charter School Board