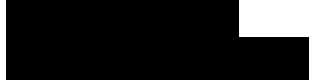




May 30, 2013

Ms. Kathleen Guinan



Dear Ms. Guinan,

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 (“PCSB”) has completed the 2013 Application Review process and I regret to inform you that at its public meeting held May 20, 2013, PCSB did not approve your application to establish Crossway Community DC Public Charter School in the District of Columbia.

The Board’s decision was based on a thorough evaluation of the written application and information gathered from the applicant interview, a site visit to the school in Kennington, Maryland, and the public hearing. The following findings were the basis for denial:

- The application described a Montessori base for educating students; however, the proposed academic goals are not measurable and the application, interviews, and site visit provided limited explanation of the advantages of the model for the target population and how success will be measured.
- The founding group is passionate about the necessity of providing wraparound services for parents and describes the services as an integral part of the proposed school model, but the group did not fully describe how the services would be provided in the DC charter school, which, unlike the Maryland model, will not have a residential component.
- The application stated that an integral part of the application will be the workforce development for parents, however this aspect was not fully developed in the application. During the applicant interview, the applicants stated that the information describing the workforce development was included by mistake and it would not be part of the DC charter school in the same way it is in Maryland. There was uncertainty of how this component would be addressed in the DC school.
- Two members of the Board of Trustees in key leadership positions in Maryland propose giving a small portion of their time to the DC school during both the planning year and once the school opens but they had not identified the leaders for this school.
- During the capacity interview, it was evident that the applicant group is knowledgeable about Montessori education and is passionate about its mission; however, the group showed that it had not thoroughly researched the District of Columbia and its characteristics, evidenced by assumptions about publicly funded transportation for DC students, describing their target population as only being 40% low-income when many charter schools with missions to serve low-income neighborhoods have upwards of 90% of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals, and by submitting Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws for Montgomery County, Maryland, without acknowledging in the application that these would need to be changed to conform to DC’s laws.

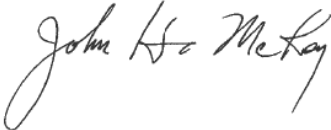
- The budget did not include related services for special education and only accounted for level one special education students at the school.
- A portion of the budget is allocated to the Crossway Community non-profit, but there was little description of the services that Crossways Community will provide for the DC school beyond joint professional development with the Maryland staff and back-office finances.

We also recommend, should you choose to file a petition again, that you revise the petition such that the content is in compliance with DC charter law and that the budget clearly delineates how the DC tax dollars will support the DC charter school.

We recognize the hard work and effort that went into the development of your application and there were many positive parts of the application that are not mentioned in this letter. If you wish to receive additional feedback as it relates to the Board's denial decision, please e-mail Monique Miller at [REDACTED] by Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> to schedule an appointment. This feedback can be useful should you decide to revise your application for submission in upcoming review cycles.

Thank you for your interest in public charter schools and your commitment to improving public education in Washington, DC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John H. McKoy".

John H. "Skip" McKoy  
Chair  
DC Public Charter School Board