



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: **Bethany Little & Andre Bhatia, Co-Chairs, Chavez Schools**

SUBJECT: **Charter Amendment Request for:** (Mark all that apply)

- Enrollment Ceiling Increase
- 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
- Competency-Based Learning Application

SUBMISSION DATE: **2/1/2019**

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):

Cesar Chavez Public Charter Schools for Public Policy:

1. Parkside High School (3701 Hayes Street NE)

2. Parkside Middle School (3701 Hayes Street NE)

3. Chavez Prep Middle School (770 Kenyon Street NW)

4. Capitol Hill High School (709 12th Street SE)

b) Year opened: **1998**

c) Grade levels served (Currently and at maturation of charter agreement, if applicable): **6-12**

d) Date that charter will be eligible for possible renewal: **PCSB last renewed the charter network in 2013; the last charter review was in 2017. The charter will be up for renewal in 2027.**

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.

School is not currently under corrective action.

Has historically met enrollment projections w/in 80% of target.

School has been in operation for 3+ years.

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.

- X School is currently accredited. Parkside High School and Capitol Hill High School are currently accredited through June 30, 2019 under the AALE. Additionally, Parkside High School is currently a candidate for accreditation through MSA. Chavez Prep Middle School is currently accredited through February 28, 2023 under the AALE.**

*If the school has multiple campuses or varying PMFs, please describe the academic performance of each campus here:

For SY2017-18, Chavez School campuses attained the following PMF scores:

Parkside High School – 59.8 (up from 52.2 in SY16-17);

Capitol Hill High School – 50.4 (up from 41.5 in SY16-17);

Chavez Prep Middle School – 46.8 (up from 40.3 in SY16-17);

Parkside Middle School - 35.2 (up from 33 in SY16-17).

PROPOSAL

Cesar Chavez Public Charter Schools for Public Policy 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*).

1. 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.

Cesar Chavez Public Charter Schools for Public Policy submits this application to amend its charter to reflect a network reconfiguration in effect for SY 19-20 and beyond. This reconfiguration will reduce the enrollment ceiling of the LEA and reduce the campuses and locations of operation. This network reconfiguration includes the consolidation of Capitol Hill High School into the Parkside campus and the closure of Chavez Prep Middle School. Please see attached letter sent to PCSB on January 18, 2019, and additional letter sent to all stakeholders on January 23, 2019 with rationale for these planned changes.

Planning underway includes coordination with My School DC to support transfer of all network high school students to Parkside High School; MSDC application and enrollment support to families who will choose new schools; and communication and support to staff of the LEA with regards to transfer policies, open positions and support for resume review.

In addition, Chavez Schools staff is working closely with PCSB staff and OSSE to implement required consolidation and closure plans, including: ensuring all stakeholders, vendors, and officials have been notified; records are kept; and assets in the two buildings where Chavez will cease operations (770 Kenyon Street NW and 709 12th Street SE) are appropriately distributed.

2. How will the proposed amendment(s) support or enhance the school's mission?

Chavez Schools will devote all resources to what Chavez does *best*, what *only* Chavez Schools does, and *where* the LEA can make the biggest difference for scholars. Going forward, Chavez Schools will serve the District of Columbia as a single-campus high school in Ward 7. The LEA will focus on what Chavez Schools was uniquely founded to do: prepare DC's young people to succeed in college, careers and life, and empower them to use public policy to create a more just, free and equal world.

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.

At the 20-year charter review in December 2017, the PCSB Board voted to continue the Chavez Schools charter with several conditions, including: the closure of Parkside Middle - one grade per year, to close completely by the end of SY19-



20; mandatory PMF performance conditions were given to Chavez Prep Middle School and Capitol Hill High School, stating that each school needed to attain a PMF of 40 in SY17-18, 45 in SY18-19, and 50 in SY19-20 or close at the end of the following year; and institute a Financial Corrective Action Plan (FCAP).

OUTCOMES: As directed, Chavez Schools is closing Parkside Middle one grade at time and will serve only the last class of 8th graders in SY19-20. Chavez Prep Middle School and Capitol Hill High School both exceeded the Year 1 PMF Performance Condition of 40 for SY17-18. In an email to the Chavez Schools CEO from PCSB Financial Analyst Ozoemena Nnamadim dated January 8, 2019, Ozo states, "Upon review of the SY18 Audited Financials, it seems as though all control deficiencies have been remediated from the prior year, as such, no FCAP is necessary." Finally, Parkside High school, which did not receive conditions, improved by 7.6 points on the 2018 PMF to reach 59.8 and continue as the highest performing campus of the network, and among the top five highest STAR scores of all Ward 6, 7, and 8 high schools.

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 [5-year Operating Budget](#).*

Chavez Schools holds significant debt that cannot be sustained long-term under the current network configuration. The proposed network reconfiguration will reduce the operational costs of the organization and position the LEA to refinance the debt in order to meet its financial obligations and ensure continued viability. Chavez Schools currently has sufficient cash reserves to support the organization through this transition.

Please see the enclosed forecasted 5-year operating budget.

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.]*

Please see attached letter sent to the community on January 23, 2019, and inserts specific to families at each campus. Individual emails, with the letter attached, were sent to PCSB, OSSE, SBoE, ANCs, DC Council, and family and community partners.

DC ACTS, the teachers union representing staff at Chavez Prep Middle School, has submitted a request for information regarding the reconfiguration. Chavez Schools is working to fulfill the request in a timely manner.

6. When did your school's board approve the proposed amendment(s)? Please attach minutes from the meeting and vote results.

The Chavez Board of Trustees voted unanimously to consolidate Capitol Hill High School with Parkside High School on November 13, 2018, and the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to close Chavez Prep Middle School on January 10, 2019. However, the reconfiguration was not finalized until January 18, 2019, after further review of contingencies by the Board of Trustees. Resolutions attached.