



Charter Agreement Amendment Application

SUBMITTED BY: Jolene Slotter-Rocketship Public Schools

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment Ceiling Increase | <input type="checkbox"/> Campus Reconfiguration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program Replication of Grades Served | <input type="checkbox"/> LEA Status for Special Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade Level Expansion (Single Grade) | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education Enrollment Preference |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade Level Expansion (Grade Band) | <input type="checkbox"/> Governance Structure |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facility | (Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation or Management) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goals and Achievement Expectations | <input type="checkbox"/> Graduation Requirements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission or Education Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Competency-Based Learning Application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum, Standards or Assessments | |
- Name Change – Campus or Facility

SUBMISSION DATE: June 29, 2020

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.

- 1.** Provide the following information about your Local Education Agency (LEA) by campus:
- Campus name(s) and location(s): **Rocketship RISE Academy (2335 Raynolds Place, SE), Rocketship Legacy Prep (4250 Massachusetts Avenue, SE), and Rocketship Infinity Community Prep (5450 3rd Street, NE).**
 - Year opened: **2016**
 - Grade levels served (Currently and at maturation of charter agreement, if applicable): **Rocketship Rise Academy (Prek3-5), Rocketship Legacy Prep (Prek3-5), and DC3 will open at Prek-2 and at maturation will serve (Prek3-5).**
 - Date that charter will be eligible for possible renewal: **July 2031**

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 Melodi Sampson at (202) 330-4046.

PROPOSAL

Rocketship Education 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 the effective date has not been determined).*

- 1.** Please provide details on the amendment request, including the school's rationale for the proposed changes. Describe any planning that is already underway to prepare for the proposed amendment.

We are in the process of preparing for the opening of our third campus. This campus will be located near the Fort Totten metro in Ward 5 at 5450 3rd Street, NE. This site is still under construction with an anticipated delivery date of July 21st. In order to ensure that we can provide an in-person option to families, we have secured a separate location, 711 Edgewood Street, NE as a temporary site in case our permanent site does not achieve a Certificate of Occupancy by July 21, 2020 and would necessitate a short-term delay (less than 90 days). The type of agreement that we have negotiated with the owner of 711 Edgewood Street, NE, for temporary space, allows us to terminate on July 21st and to pay nothing. If we elect to use the space, we are only obligated to commit to thirty days and then we could exercise our options to use the space for up to 90 days.

This agreement for the proposed temporary space allows us to have a safety net since with Covid-19, we have to have a contingency plan in place in case construction workers get sick and are not willing to show up for work, causing additional delays. In that situation, we would have to find substitute workers and get them under contract to complete the work.

- 2.** List all the facilities and addresses the school currently operates, along with the new facility the LEA plans to operate. Include the campus located in each facility, highlighting any changes from what is currently written in the school's charter agreement.

We have 3 DC campuses which include RISE Academy, located at 2335 Raynolds Pl., SE, Rocketship Legacy Prep located at 4250 Mass Ave., SE, and our third campus, Rocketship Infinity Community Prep, will be located in permanent space at 5450 Third St., NE. We are opening this campus in August 2020, but we are requesting a possible amendment to change our location to 711 Edgewood Street, NE in case a construction delay occurs at our 5450 Third Street, NE permanent location.

- 3.** Please check the reason below that best describes your proposed change.

Entire campus or school is relocating from current location to a new location.

- A single campus is both staying in its current location AND expanding into a second location (e.g. some grades in one facility and some in a second facility to allow more space, or until a permanent larger facility is found).
- School is creating a new campus being housed in a new facility

We are submitting an application to Contingency space for a temporary occupancy.

4. Is the proposed new facility a property you plan to purchase or lease? How many square feet is this space? Which grade level(s) will be at this location? If you have already purchased or leased the property, provide the dates the property was acquired.

This will be a short-term occupancy agreement formalized as a License Agreement in June 2020, with a targeted occupancy date of August 1, 2020. This is a property that would house both schools, Rocketship and the Social Justice School. In School Year 2020-21, Rocketship would offer grades Prek3-2 in the building and Social Justice will offer 5th and 6th grades.

5. What is the occupancy maximum at the new location? If the maximum occupancy load for staff and students is less than the total number of staff and students who will occupy the facility at any point in the future, please explain how you will address this issue.

Maximum occupancy for 711 Edgewood Street, NE is approximately 400 people; however, the targeted enrollment across Rocketship and the Social Justice School will likely not exceed 250 students and definitely not more than 300 people in the building.

6. 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.

We intend to use the facilities allowance to pay for the temporary space because we only anticipate using the space for approximately 1 month and we do not have to pay for our permanent space until we move in. If our facility located at 5450 3rd Street, NE is not delivered in time and it is related to covid-19 or some other reason, then Turner would reimburse us for a percentage of the cost of the temporary space.

7. In addition to providing a [5-year Operating Budget](#), answer the following questions regarding the financial impact of the proposed new location:
- a. How much does the proposed new facility cost, and how many

students will be served at the new site?

With 21 classrooms, the proposed temporary site will serve the 180 Rocketship students (Prek3-2) and approximately 65 Social Justice School students.

- b. What is the school's per-pupil cost, and how does this compare with its per-pupil allowance?

The monthly cost of the facility is only \$50,000, which is materially less than the per-pupil facilities allowance provided by the District.

- c. If you plan to operate multiple facilities, in addition to the proposed new location, what is the LEA's total facilities cost (e.g. lease, plus mortgage)? How does this expense compare with your per-pupil allowance?

While we have multiple Rocketship campuses, the overall facilities cost does not increase because the lease expense for the permanent facility located at 5450 3rd Street, NE will not begin until Rocketship vacates the subject temporary space. Of course, we will only pay for temporary space should we experience delays with the delivery of our 5450 3rd Street, NE school building.

- d. What additional sources of funding do you plan to use to pay for this new facility.

N/A

- e. If applicable, what contingencies do you have in place in case the new location enrolls fewer students than anticipated?

We have regularly provided PCSB with enrollment updates, and we are on track to meet our enrollment targets by Count Day on October 5.

8. 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? Please attach any written communication (e.g., meeting minutes). Describe any notable support for or opposition to the proposed amendment. How do you plan to address stakeholders' concerns?

At the time of this application, we have notified the single district ANC Commissioner, Gordon Fletcher, and the rest of the ANC 5A Commission of our pending application for a change in location for a finite period of time that is unlikely to exceed 30 days. Due to the emergency nature of this request, we will notify neighbors and other external stakeholders over the course of this week and next week. We will also send a written notification to our parents this week and will also notify our teachers and any staff members who will work at our third Rocketship campus.

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

All of our board members are aware of the temporary space located at 711 Edgewood Street, NE and they voted to approve the proposed amendment on July 6th. We have attached the vote results as required.



Rocketship Public Schools – DC
Board of Trustees Voting Results

On July 6, 2020, Board members were asked to vote on the charter amendment presented to them to utilize a temporary space located at 711 Edgewood Street, NE in the event that the permanent site for the Rocketship DC third campus, located at 5450 3rd Street, NE is not delivered on-time. The following Board members approved the proposed amendment: Chair, Jolene Slotter, Matthew Aaron, Barry Rosenthal, Tom Nida, Rena Johnson, Keshia Battle, Justin Bakewell, Melissa Martin, Zakiya Sackor, and Rose Waller. Simone Brown and MenSa Maa did not participate in voting for the amendment.

Meeting Minutes prepared July 6, 2020