



DANNIS WOLIVER KELLEY

Attorneys at Law

CHARTER PETITION Review Process

August 8, 2016

San Rafael City Schools

Board of Education Meeting



Janet L. Mueller, Danni Woliver Kelley

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Charter Review Overview

- Process & Timeline
- Petition Components
- Review Process
- Potential Outcomes
- Next Steps

Charter Review Process/Timeline

■ Petition Process

- Petition submitted to district
- Petition is received by the board to start review process
- Within 30 days, a public hearing is held to assess support among teachers, employees and parents
- Within 60 days, board must approve or deny
 - Variation: “Conditional Approval”
 - 30-day time extension is available is mutually agreed

Ipsos Charter Review Timeline

- Petition submitted to SRCS on June 27
- Board receives August 8
- Public hearing set for August 22
- Final Board action scheduled for September 26

Petition Components

- **Petition must contain:**
 - Signatures
 - Legal affirmations
 - “Reasonably comprehensive” descriptions of fifteen statutory criteria
 - Proposed operation and potential effects of the school on the district

Petition Components

■ Signatures

- Parent signatures representing ½ of students estimated to enroll **or** teacher signatures representing ½ of teachers estimated to be employed in first year
- “Meaningfully interested”

■ Affirmations

- Nonsectarian program; no tuition; no discrimination; admission not according to residence of pupil or parents

Petition Components

- **“Reasonably Comprehensive” descriptions of the Fifteen Criteria:**
 - Description of educational program
 - Measurable pupil outcomes
 - Method for assessing pupil progress
 - Governance structure of the school
 - Employee qualifications
 - Health & safety procedures
 - Means to achieve race/ethnic balance reflective of district

Petition Components

■ The Fifteen Criteria (cont.)

- admission requirements
- manner in which annual financial audits shall be conducted
- student suspension & expulsion procedures
- staff coverage by STRS, PERS or social security
- public school attendance alternatives
- district employee leave & return rights
- dispute resolution process
- procedures for closure of school

Petition Components

- What does “**reasonably comprehensive**” mean?
 - Look to State Board of Education regulations as a baseline for what each element should contain
 - Also, a description is “reasonably comprehensive” if:
 - Information is substantive, not just a list
 - Addresses all aspects of the element
 - Is specific to the charter proposed (no boilerplate)
 - Describes pupil learning, increased learning opportunities, increased opportunities for parents, accountability, competition

Petition Components

- **Proposed operation and potential effects of school**
 - Facilities to be utilized
 - Provision of administrative services
 - Potential civil liability effects on district, if any
 - Financial statements, including 1st year budget, start-up costs, and 3 years of financial projections/cash-flow

Review Process

- Convene the SRCS staff “experts”
- Review the SBE standards
- Listen to public testimony
- Develop recommendation for the Board

Potential Outcomes

- **Deny the Charter - grounds for denial include:**
 - Charter presents an “unsound educational program”
 - Petitioners “demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program”
 - Petition lacks sufficient signatures
 - Petition lacks affirmations
 - Petitioners have failed to provide reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the 15 criteria
 - Petition lacks declaration re: the exclusive employer

Potential Outcomes

- **Approve the Charter**
 - With or without amendments
 - Prepare MOU
- **Variation:** “conditionally approve” the charter

Potential Outcomes

■ Impact of Denial

- Charter may appeal District's denial to MCOE
- If MCOE approves charter, MCOE becomes oversight agency
- If MCOE denies, charter may appeal to SBE
- Whichever entity grants charter is oversight agency, but
 - Charter operates in boundaries of SRCS
 - Charter must give admissions preference to SRCS students
 - SRCS must still provide facilities
 - SRCS must provide in-lieu tax funding

Next Steps

- Convene Review Team
- Notify Public of Hearing
- Hold Public Hearing – August 22
- Take Final Action – September 26



Janet L. Mueller
Attorney
San Diego
619.595.0202
jmueller@DWKesq.com