



HAMILTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
 3074 Hickory Valley Road  
 Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421  
 Phone: (423)209-8400

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Charter School Review - Mission

School Name: New Consortium of Law and Business		Date: November 3, 2011
Element 1: Mission and Goals	Points	Comments
1.1	2.3	Mission statement is not clear and is somewhat fragmented.
1.2	2.2	The needs of the local student population are only addressed vaguely.
1.3	1.5	Most goals are measureable for one year only.
1.4	1.5	Goals and mission are aligned for one year only.
		<b>Scoring:</b>
		Total Possible Points Awarded: 10
		Total Points Awarded: <u>7.5</u>
		Excellent ( ) Adequate ( <b>X</b> ) Inadequate ( )



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Charter School Review – Education Plan

School Name: New Consortium of Law and Business		Date: November 3, 2011
Element 2: Instructional Goals and Methods	Points	Comments
2.1	1.43	Many and varied instructional strategies described in plan. Strategies include inquiry-based learning, direct teaching, cooperative learning, role-playing, brainstorming, lecture with discussion, and project-based learning.
2.2	1.00	The methods discussed are generally accepted as standard practice. Current research based evidence is lacking. More specifics are needed.
2.3	.72	What strategies will be used to address specific needs of at risk students?
2.4	.72	State standards will be followed. No books. Curriculum related to business and law. Referenced the Crawford School of Law and Business, and the Monroe Academy for Law and Business as curriculum models but details of this curriculum are lacking.
2.5	.72	The application refers to several elective class offerings as being unique to the school and that "none of these classes has been adopted by the State of Tennessee or the Hamilton County Schools" (p. 32). This statement is false.
2.6	.72	Details of alignment are lacking.
2.7	.40	Students must demonstrate 70% proficiency in class. 80% mastery for grade level advancement. This appears to be a conflict.
2.8	.40	No specific mention of certified Reading Specialist to address the literacy needs of at-risk, struggling readers.
2.9	.72	IEPs are mentioned with a part-time special education teacher. Specification needs to be made in regards to related services and assistive technology. No plan for providing extended school year services.
2.10	.72	Will use the ASE Curriculum which includes the Open Court Reading Series with supplemental materials for ESL students. An ESL teacher will be hired and additional assistance will be provided by volunteer tutors. A compliance manual will be developed. A complete and updated compliance manual should be included in this application
2.11	.60	Enrichment opportunities need further development and explanation.
2.12	1.43	Governing boards for each grade level with heavy parent involvement.
2.13	1.43	Appears to be integrated throughout the curriculum.
2.14	1.43	The single teacher school concept is unique to HCDE.

		<b>Scoring:</b>
		Total Possible Points Awarded: 20
		Total Points Awarded: <u>12.44</u>
		Excellent ( ) Adequate ( ) Inadequate ( X )
<b>Element 3: Evaluating Student Academic Achievement and Procedures for Remedial Action</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Comments</b>
3.1	1.75	References state and national assessments similar to those used in Hamilton County; mentions SCANS as an additional benchmark.
3.2	.82	The application states that students "will take the same state-mandated achievement tests as do other students with the <b>Shelby County Schools District</b> " (p. 61). This lack of detail in relation to assessment is cause for concern. Think-Link is mentioned as an additional assessment measure; little information is provided as to what literacy diagnostic and formative assessments will be used.
3.3	.82	The use of formative data is referenced, but is lacking in details.
3.4	1.75	The school is using standard assessments that align to current TN curriculum.
3.5	.82	The application states that will be integrated, but details are lacking.
3.6	.65	Interventions and remediation methods are not clearly articulated (who will be responsible; what expertise and training do they have)
3.7	.82	Enrichment plan lacks details. Some activities occur at times that may not reach all students (Saturday sessions).
3.8	.82	Mastery levels are defined (students must demonstrate 70% proficiency in class. 80% mastery for grade level advancement). There appears to be a conflict between course pass rates and promotional rates.
3.9	1.75	Mastery of content objectives will determine promotion to the next grade. Students are required to meet minimum state graduation standards.
		<b>Scoring:</b>
		Total Possible Points Awarded: 15
		Total Points Awarded: <u>10.0</u>
		Excellent ( ) Adequate ( ) Inadequate ( X )
<b>Element 10: Code of Behavior and Discipline</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Comments</b>
10.1	1.25	Discipline plan references state policies.
10.2	1.25	Expectations and consequences are described
10.3	1.00	Proposes a supportive learning environment but includes little detail.
10.4	.60	Procedural safeguards for students with disabilities need to be clarified. The following reference to expulsion needs additional clarification: "A student who is expelled will have the option to return to his or her neighborhood city school or to seek private-school placement" (p. 106).
		<b>Scoring:</b>
		Total Possible Points Awarded: 5
		Total Points Awarded: <u>4.1</u>
		Excellent ( ) Adequate ( X ) Inadequate ( )



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Charter School Review – Founding Group

School Name: New Consortium of Law and Business		Date: November 3, 2011
Elements 8 & 13: Governing Body Membership and Sponsor Information	Rating	Comments
8.1	1.9	Board members' qualification and experience is described.
8.2	.5	All board members reside outside our district
8.3	1.9	Contact information is included.
8.4	.7	Two board members have previous charter school experience.
13.1	1.9	Sponsors' qualifications and experience is described.
13.2	1.8	Adequately Addressed.
13.3	1.8	Adequately Addressed.
<b>Element 7: Governance</b>		
7.1	1.1	Composition of board included – Terms of members are unclear. Eight are selected by SMART and seven are selected by parents.
7.2	1.1	Regular board meetings are outlined.
7.3	1.0	Financial oversight will be the responsibility of the board of directors.
<b>Scoring:</b>		
Total Possible Points Awarded: 20		
Total Points Awarded: <b><u>13.7</u></b>		
Excellent ( ) Adequate ( ) Inadequate ( <b>X</b> )		



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Charter School Review – Business/Operations Plan

School Name: New Consortium of Law and Business		Date: November 3, 2011
Element 4: Operating Budget	Points	Comments
4.1	1.1	Revenue section references building the 5 year budget by adding 30 students per year, which correlates with the cash flow exhibit in Appendix C. However, the budgets in Appendices A & B are built on 35 students per year. The BEP requires a 25:1 pupil teacher ratio in 6 <sup>th</sup> grade, and this budget does not support the required number of teachers for 35 students.
4.2	1.0	Teacher salaries in the Personnel section of \$70,000 and \$95,000 appear to be ambitious, and somewhat unrealistic. Requesting and relying on lone of credit may not be sufficient.
4.3	0.7	The Revenue section references building the budget using the per pupil expenditure for Memphis City Schools of \$7154.86. The HCDE expenditure currently being paid to our existing charter schools is \$7008.86 per pupil. The reference to other school systems contributes to the lack of confidence in the financial data.
4.4	0.6	Revenue budget includes Title I allocation of \$8400 and student fundraising allocation of \$7500 in year 1, and increasing amounts in subsequent years. Both of these types of revenue are restricted in their use, and cannot be used in supporting the basic operating expenses of the school.
4.5	0.7	Adequately addressed.
4.6	0.9	Adequately addressed.
4.7	0.3	The Fiscal Services section state that “the budget includes funds to hire a certified (sic) account to handle the financial needs of the school.” However, the budget for Accountants/Bookkeepers only includes \$5000 in Year 1 and \$0 in Year 2 (see p. 183). This is insufficient to cover the cost of monitoring budgeted expenses and financial compliance.
4.8	0.3	See above.
		<b>Scoring:</b>
		Total Possible Points Awarded: 10
		Total Points Awarded: <b>5.6</b>
		Excellent ( ) Adequate ( ) Inadequate ( X )
Element 5: Annual Audit	Rating	Comments
5.1	0.3	To be determined meeting with the governing body and

		auditor. Plan to use state chart of accounts.
5.2	0	Not adequately addressed.
5.3	0	Not addressed.
5.4	0.1	Governing body will select CPA.
5.5	0.3	Governing body sponsors, Governing Body, Master Teachers
5.6	0	Not indicated, but will plan to hire CPA.
		<b>Scoring:</b>
		Total Possible Points Awarded: 1
		Total Points Awarded: <u>0.7</u>
		Excellent ( ) Adequate ( X ) Inadequate ( )
<b>Element 6: Timetables and Calendars</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Comments</b>
6.1	0.2	The school's start-up timetable is included.
6.2	0.2	School calendar is included – same as district.
6.3	0.1	School will use district's calendar but have 7.0 hours a day of instructional time.
6.4	0.2	Students needing extra help will attend summer session receiving instruction only in areas needed.
6.5	0.1	Six class periods of 50 minutes each including a 25 minute lunch, 40 minute activity period, and 45 minutes of a Business & Law forum.
6.6	0.1	Activity day consists of six-50 minute periods, one-45 minute forum, and one 40 minute activity period for a total of 5 hours 45 minutes of instruction time per day plus a 40 minute activity period.
6.7	0.1	See above.
6.8	0.1	Facility has not been identified – to be identified by February.
6.9	0.1	Facility unknown.
		<b>Scoring:</b>
		Total Possible Points Awarded: 3
		Total Points Awarded: <u>1.2</u>
		Excellent ( ) Adequate ( ) Inadequate ( X )
<b>Element 9: Enrollment and Admissions Policy</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Comments</b>
9.1	0.3	Student population will be Hamilton County students first starting with 6 <sup>th</sup> grade and adding one grade per year.
9.2	0.1	Recruitment will consist of faculty and staff visiting community gatherings and functions and visiting families in their homes.
9.3	0.3	Enrollment is based on a lottery system and a waiting list.
9.4	0.3	Admission is by lottery.
9.5	.30	TCA is referenced for anti-discrimination.
9.6	0.2	All students are enrolled without looking at test scores or history of students.
9.7	0.1	In home visits.
		<b>Scoring:</b>
		Total Possible Points Awarded: 2
		Total Points Awarded: <u>1.6</u>
		Excellent ( ) Adequate ( X ) Inadequate ( )
<b>Elements 11 and 20: Health and Safety Compliance AND Transportation</b>		
11.1	0.4	Plan includes fire, tornado, etc... All clear.

11.2	0.4	Draft Plan Included.
20.1	0.2	Transportation will not be provided for all students, but for a set radius of the school only.
		<b>Scoring:</b>
		Total Possible Points Awarded: 2
		Total Points Awarded: <u>1.0</u>
		Excellent ( ) Adequate ( ) Inadequate ( X )
<b>Element 12: Employee Qualifications</b>		
12.1	0.199	No staffing plan noted for ExEd instructors. Master teacher and trainee are noted as "one per 30," but enrollment plan shows 35 students per grade level. This violates state class-size requirements for 6 <sup>th</sup> grade. Number of positions and duties not clear. There is no specific recruiting or hiring plan noted for teachers, volunteers, or "interns from local universities."
12.2	0.198	There are no requirements or guidelines listed for volunteers or interns. No timeline is noted for ensuring compliance of teacher qualifications or HQT status (IE: "at time of hire")
12.3	0.3	Sample PD calendar included for years 1 and 2, yet several components are not clearly defined.
12.4	0.2	"Core competencies and expectations" are broad-based with no specified scoring rubrics. Tennessee's State Evaluation Model (50% qualitative and 50% quantitative) not indicated. Evaluation of the President is somewhat vague. TEAM model not indicated. State EOC courses/T-Cap / ACT Suite of Assessments not indicated.
12.5	0.1	Through utilizing Master Teachers, Master-Teacher Trainees, other contracted employees, interns, and volunteers, the NCLB intends to lower pupil-teacher ratios and realize its goal of a small learning community. However, only a "teacher of record" can legitimately reduce pupil-teacher ratio. Otherwise, there is no indication of a technology focus – as would appear necessary towards achieving its goal of a "bookless school."
		<b>Scoring:</b>
		Total Possible Points Awarded: 2
		Total Points Awarded: <u>0.997</u>
		Excellent ( ) Adequate ( ) Inadequate ( X )
<b>Element 14: Deposit and Investment/Purchase and Travel</b>		
14.1	0.8	NCLB has stated they have the option to deposit funds into a private, federally insured bank. This is a misleading statement as this is the only option.
		<b>Scoring:</b>
		Total Possible Points Awarded: 1
		Total Points Awarded: <u>0.8</u>
		Excellent ( ) Adequate ( X ) Inadequate ( )
<b>Element 15: Management &amp; Administration</b>		
15.1	0.5	Management and administrative plan includes roles and responsibilities of school leaders, board, and other personnel. Principal role and who will be principal is unclear.

15.2	0.5	Organizational structure and responsibilities included.
15.3	0.4	Powers and duties of board described, including how vacancies are filled.
15.4	0.5	Parent will serve on board – role is unclear.
15.5	0.6	Resumes/background information provided for leadership.
15.6	0.2	Adequately addressed.
15.7	0	No crisis intervention and emergency plans.
		<b>Scoring:</b>
		Total Possible Points Awarded: 5
		Total Points Awarded: <u>2.7</u>
		Excellent ( ) Adequate ( ) Inadequate ( X )
<b>Element 16: Bylaws</b>		
16.1	0.8	By-laws are complete.
		<b>Scoring:</b>
		Total Possible Points Awarded: 1
		Total Points Awarded: <u>0.8</u>
		Excellent ( ) Adequate ( X ) Inadequate ( )
<b>Element 17: Assurance of Liability</b>		
17.1	0.9	Certificate of insurance must include Hamilton County Department of education, 3074 Hickory Valley Road, Chattanooga, TN 37421, as additionally insured certificate holder.
		<b>Scoring:</b>
		Total Possible Points Awarded: 1
		Total Points Awarded: <u>0.9</u>
		Excellent ( ) Adequate ( X ) Inadequate ( )
<b>Element 19: Insurance</b>		
19.1	1.0	Adequately addressed.
		<b>Scoring:</b>
		Total Possible Points Awarded: 1
		Total Points Awarded: <u>1.0</u>
		Excellent ( X ) Adequate ( ) Inadequate ( )
<b>Element 21: Funding</b>		
21.1	0	No, may need to rely on letter of credit.
21.2	0.3	May be too optimistic.
21.3	0.2	Line of credit, or borrow from Founder.
		<b>Scoring:</b>
		Total Possible Points Awarded: 1
		Total Points Awarded: <u>0.5</u>
		Excellent ( ) Adequate ( ) Inadequate ( X )