



May 24, 2013

Dr. Alicia Petersen
Mr. Xavier Epps
1605 7th St, NW, Apt 5
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Dr. Petersen and Mr. Epps,

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 (“Board”) has completed the 2013 Application Review process and I regret to inform you that at its public meeting held May 20, 2013, the Board did not approve your application to establish New Pathways Academy 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 and the public hearing. The following findings were basis for denial:

- The proposed school is modeled after the District of Columbia Public Schools’ now defunct “Dix Street Academy;” however, the application did not identify and explain the successful components of this model to be replicated.
- The application focused primarily on providing students training on “soft skills,” such as punctuality and teamwork, but made little mention of actual vocation offerings or certification programs.
- The application did not provide an explanation as to the types of wraparound services the school would provide or whether partnerships were established with outside organizations to provide trainings and services.
- The application lacked details and clarity in its plans for serving special education students and English language learners.
- The application proposes using online programming to facilitate credit recovery for students below grade-level, but does not adequately explain the timeline or methodology for bringing students to grade-level proficiency.
- The proposed operations plan relies on parent volunteers serving in administrative capacities, but does not explain how these staffing needs would be met if there are an insufficient number of parent volunteers.
- The application contained numerous spelling, grammar, and syntax errors and the budget contained errors in revenues.

We recognize the hard work and effort that went into the development of your application. If you wish to receive additional feedback as it relates to the Board’s denial decision, please e-mail Monique Miller

at mmiller@dcpcsb.org by Thursday, June 6th 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, appearing to read 'JH/McKoy', is written over a large black rectangular redaction box. The signature is positioned to the left of a smaller, separate black rectangular redaction box.

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