

May 22, 2015

Nicole John
2350 Washington Place NE, Apt 425
Washington, DC 20018

Dear Ms. John:

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 (PCSB) has completed the Spring 2015 Application Review process. As you know, at its public meeting held on May 18, 2015, PCSB did not approve your application to establish Legacy Collegiate as a public charter school in the District of Columbia. Please know that many of the existing public charter schools in D.C. applied a second time, with revisions to the application made in response to the reasons for the initial denial. We encourage you to consider reapplying in the future.

The Board's decision was based on a thorough evaluation of the written application and information gathered from the capacity interview and the public hearing. While there were many strong aspects of your application, the following findings were the basis for denial:

- Curriculum and Instruction: The application did not address resources or teaching methods for two core subjects: science and social studies, as well as physical education. Moreover, the applicant did not detail the standards, resources, or instructional methods used for Enrichment period, which includes Music and Art.
- Student Discipline: The applicant's demanding behavioral program may result in high percentages of students being suspended or expelled and the founding team has not developed realistic supports to meet the needs of all learners. When asked about how the school will support students who struggle with strict behavior expectations, the founding group said that teachers would use transitions and brain breaks, as well as different types of instructional groupings/activities to keep students engaged, but did not provide a cohesive and deliberate approach.
- The Founding Group: The group that submitted the application did not demonstrate the experience or capacity to manage the day-to-day operations of the school. No member of the founding group has had the sole responsibility of managing operations at a school or being an academic lead, head of school, principal, or instructional coach. With this lack of demonstrated experience, the founding group also failed to explain how they would identify the personnel to provide the needed expertise.
- Staffing Model: In year one, all eight general education teachers, the Dean of Scholar Supports, and the Director of Operations will report directly to the identified Head of School, who, as noted, has never been a school leader or instructional coach/director.
- Teacher Recruitment: The founding group does not have a comprehensive plan to recruit and retain qualified teachers. While the applicant's ideal teaching candidate is

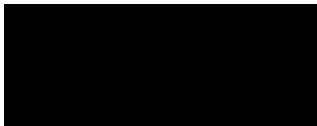
an experienced educator, the team's recruitment plan relies heavily on programs that typically supply young and inexperienced teachers, such as The New Teacher Project and local graduate schools of education. When asked how the school would attract experienced teachers, the founding group said that they would rely on networks such as Teach for America Alumni.

Should you choose to file a petition again, that petition must meet the requirements of the School Reform Act, D.C. Code § 38-1802.02. Specifically, it should appropriately resolve the deficiencies cited above and demonstrate: (a) a demonstrated need for the school; (b) sufficient progress in developing the plan; (c) alignment of the entire school program with the school's mission and philosophy; (d) inclusion of and adequate support for special populations; and (e) the founding group's capability to ensure that the school can meet the educational objectives outlined in the application. If you would like, PCSB staff would be happy to talk with you about your application's strengths and weaknesses.

Should you want to appeal the denial of your application, you may seek review of this decision pursuant to D.C. Code §38-1802.03(j).

We recognize the hard work and effort that went into the development of your application. There were many positive parts of the application that are not mentioned in this letter. Thank you for your interest in public charter schools and your commitment to improving public education in Washington, DC.

Sincerely,



Scott Pearson
Executive Director
DC Public Charter School Board