



June 2, 2017

Mashea Ashton
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Washington, DC 20037

Via electronic mail

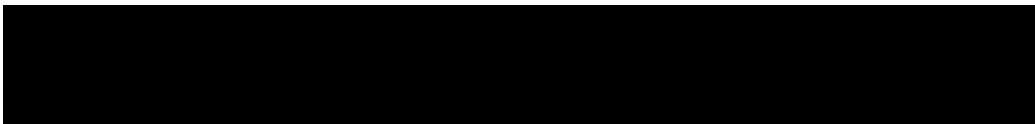
Dear Mashea,

Congratulations on receiving conditional approval for Digital Pioneers Academy to operate a public charter school in Washington, D.C. beginning in school year 2018-19!

On May 22, 2017, the DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB) determined that Digital Pioneers Academy's application substantially satisfied the petition requirements of the School Reform Act, and that the school has the ability to meet the educational objectives outlined in its application. Specifically, DC PCSB conditionally approved Digital Pioneers Academy's petition to establish a public charter school. This approval is contingent on Digital Pioneers Academy' satisfying all of the Board's conditions and successfully negotiating a mutually acceptable charter agreement. Enclosed is a full list of conditions that must be satisfied for full approval. [*D.C. Code § 38-1802.03(d)(1)(B).*] **Please sign and return the attachment by June 30, 2017.**

Once again, congratulations!

Warmly,



Scott Pearson
Executive Director
DC Public Charter School Board

Darren Woodruff, PhD
Chairman
DC Public Charter School Board

Attachment: Conditions of Charter Approval

ATTACHMENT: Conditions of Full Charter Approval

Digital Pioneers Academy agrees to satisfy the following conditions to receive charter approval.

1. 501(c)3 Status

The school shall apply for and obtain 501(c)3 status.

By August 1, 2017, the school will submit its IRS receipt demonstrating that it has submitted IRS Form 1023 to apply for 501(c)3 status.

By May 1, 2018, the school shall submit its IRS determination letter confirming that it has obtained 501(c)3 status.

2. Key Personnel

The school's Key Personnel, as will be listed in Attachment I to the charter agreement, include: Board Chair, CEO, Principal, Director of Operations, Director of Computer Science, and Special Populations Coordinator. Currently, these positions are filled by the following members of the school's founding team: Mashea Ashton, proposed CEO; Joanna Klekowicz, who has experience in computer science; and Michael Spencer, interim board chair. Should any of these members of the founding team leave the school corporation prior to the school corporation receiving full charter approval, the school corporation shall replace the person with someone with similar experience. The replacement shall be subject to DC PCSB's approval of fulfillment of this condition. The school shall also identify the staff member responsible for overseeing and supporting teachers in implementing data-driven instruction.

By October 9, 2017, the school shall confirm that Mashea Ashton will be CEO and that Michael Spencer will be Board Chair. The school will also identify the Principal and the Special Populations Coordinator.

By March 1, 2018, the school shall identify the Director of Operations and the Director of Computer Science.

Up until the signing of the charter agreement, any replacements to these positions shall be subject to DC PCSB's approval.

3. Student Promotion

The school will submit a revised promotion policy that includes explicit strategies to support students who are initially unsuccessful in meeting the promotion requirements.

By November 15, 2017, the school shall revise the promotion policy section of the application using track changes that shall meet the relevant Standards for Approval from the 2017 Charter Application Guidelines, including the Curriculum section. In order to meet the Standard for Approval, the plan shall include a description of the steps the school will take to identify and support students who are struggling.

By February 1, 2018, all feedback and revisions will be incorporated to DC PCSB's satisfaction.

4. Serving Students with Disabilities

The school shall revise using track changes the Curriculum section of the application to detail its strategies for serving students with disabilities (SWD) across a full continuum of services, including those with higher-level needs.

By November 15, 2017, the school shall submit revisions to the relevant sections of its original charter application describing how its staffing, program, and budget would change to support SWD across a full continuum of services. This plan shall meet the relevant Standards for Approval from the 2017 Charter Application Guidelines, including but not limited to the Curriculum, Staffing Plan, and Finance and Facilities sections. In order to meet the Standard for Approval, the curriculum section shall include a plan to serve SWDs whose IEPs require any portion of time outside of the semi-self-contained model (general education setting), specifically through methods of instruction for SWDs, equitable access for SWDs to all components of the curriculum (including Computer Science and expeditions), and a clear explanation of special education staff training to implement the curriculum for SWDs outside of the general education setting.

By February 1, 2018, all feedback and revisions will be incorporated to DC PCSB's satisfaction.

5. Staffing Plan

The school shall submit a revised budget and staffing plan that will clearly support teachers in meeting their heavy responsibilities.

By November 15, 2017, the school shall submit revisions using track changes to the budget and staffing sections of its original charter application describing how it will support teachers in meeting their heavy responsibilities. This plan shall meet the relevant Standards for Approval from the 2017 Charter Application Guidelines, including but not limited to the Curriculum, Staffing Plan, and Finance and Facilities sections.

By February 1, 2018, all feedback and revisions will be incorporated to DC PCSB's satisfaction.

6. Personalized Learning Plans

The school shall submit a detailed explanation of the Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs), with samples, addressing the following information:

- Overall content areas in the PLPs;
- How teachers develop the PLPs;
- How teachers use the PLPs; and
- Ongoing monitoring for the PLPs.

By November 15, 2017, the school shall submit a detailed explanation, with samples, of the PLPs.

By February 1, 2018, all feedback and revisions will be incorporated to DC PCSB's satisfaction.

7. Draft Charter Agreement

The school shall negotiate with and submit to be executed by DC PCSB a draft charter agreement that is consistent with DC PCSB's charter school agreement template, including all attachments. Please note that pursuant to D.C. Code § 38-1802.03(h)(2), the following sections of the charter application comprise the School's Charter and may require revision and are subject to Board approval, per D.C. Code § 38-1802.03(d)(1)(B):

- The School's statement regarding the mission and goals of the School and the manner in which the school will conduct any district-wide assessments;
- Proposed Rules and Policies for Governance and Operation of School Corporation;
- Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws;
- Procedures to Ensure Health and Safety of Students and Employees, including the school's proposed discipline policy;
- Enrollment Ceilings;
- Assurance to Seek, Obtain, and Maintain Accreditation; and
- Relationship between School and Employees.

In its Goals and Academic Achievement Expectations, the school shall adopt the following additional charter goal: The student re-enrollment rate across the LEA for each significant subgroup ($n \geq 20$) will be no more than 10 percentage points from the school's average re-enrollment rate.

By the time the agreement is finalized, the school shall be incorporated as a nonprofit organization under the DC Nonprofit Corporation Act, and the name of the school will include "public charter school" as required by DC Code § 38-1802.04(b)(1).

By January 15, 2018, the school will submit a draft charter agreement.

By May 1, 2018, all feedback and revisions will be incorporated to DC PCSB's satisfaction.

By June 29, 2018, and within five business days of the DC PCSB Board voting to approve the charter agreement, the school shall submit a signed charter agreement, with all attachments.

DC PCSB recommends that the school retain counsel for negotiating the charter agreement.

8. Discipline Policy

The school shall submit to DC PCSB for review its draft discipline policy and, based on DC PCSB's review, the school shall resolve any substantial concerns raised by DC PCSB.

By February 1, 2018, the school will submit a draft discipline policy.

By May 1, 2018, all feedback and revisions related to the discipline policy will be incorporated to DC PCSB's satisfaction.

9. Management Agreement

In the event that the school contracts with a management company, the school will submit a draft Management Agreement to DC PCSB and, based on DC PCSB's review, the school will resolve any material concerns raised by DC PCSB.

By February 1, 2018, the school will submit a draft management agreement.

By May 1, 2018, all feedback and revisions related to the management agreement will be incorporated to DC PCSB's satisfaction.

10. Facility

The school shall submit appropriate documentation evidencing that it has acquired title to or otherwise secured (e.g., a lease or letter of intent) a sufficient school facility to DC PCSB.

By February 1, 2018, the school will submit appropriate documentation evidencing that it has acquired title to or otherwise secured a sufficient school facility.

DC PCSB recommends that the school secure a school facility as early as possible in the pre-opening year.

11. Governing Board

The school shall identify a governing board that complies with the School Reform Act. The school's governing board shall complete background check release forms to undergo background checks and, based on the results of those background checks, the school will resolve any substantial concerns raised by DC PCSB.

By March 15, 2018, the school shall submit a list of governing board members that complies with the School Reform Act, except for parent members.¹ All members of the governing board will complete background check release forms.

By May 1, 2018, all feedback and revisions related to the governing board will be incorporated to DC PCSB's satisfaction.

Should the school anticipate being incapable of meeting any deadline listed above, the school shall submit a request for an extension in writing to DC PCSB's Deputy Director at least ten business days before the deadline. The request shall include, at minimum, the proposed new deadline for the condition and steps that the school will take to ensure that the condition is met by the new deadline.

Nonetheless, if DC PCSB staff determines that the school's opening is in jeopardy due to

¹ This shall be interpreted to allow the governing board to be less than one-half DC residents, provided that the addition of two parent members would increase the representation of DC residents on the board to at least one-half.

lack of progress in a) meeting any of the conditions listed above, or b) launching the school program in a manner that is economically viable and consistent with the educational objectives outlined in the school's petition, DC PCSB staff may propose to the Board that it vote to deny or delay full approval of the applicant's charter.

The school also commits to working with DC PCSB during the planning year and attend workshops and scheduled meetings with DC PCSB staff to ensure an on-time and successful opening.

Lead founder or designated representative responsible for ensuring all conditions are met:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____