



Memorandum

TO: Members of the Maryland State Board of Education
FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*
DATE: September 21, 2010
SUBJECT: Charter School Program Review

PURPOSE:

To continue the State Board of Education's efforts to expand the Board's understanding of the operation of charter schools under present State statute and to identify opportunities to strengthen Maryland's Charter School Program.

BACKGROUND:

In June, the State Board approved a Charter School Policy which was prepared to provide greater clarity of Maryland's Charter School Law. During the discussion of that Policy, questions were raised regarding the need to suggest amendments to improve the functioning of the law. At that time, it was agreed that the Board did not have sufficient knowledge of the operation of the Maryland Charter School Program to determine whether or not it was appropriate and/or necessary for the State Board to suggest amendments to the current Charter School Law. It was further agreed that the Board would conduct a review of the charter schools using a process similar to that followed by the Board in examining and reviewing the operation of Alternative Teacher Education Programs. The review would take place over several meetings of the State Board and include panel presentations by representatives of charter schools as well as representatives of local boards of educations and school systems.

The review began at the August Board meeting with a presentation by Department staff which included both State and national data on charter schools and an overview of Maryland's Federal Charter School Program Grant.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Board will be addressed by and have the opportunity to question a panel of Maryland charter school operators. The panel members are as follows:

Bobbi Macdonald

Executive Director

The City Neighbors Foundation

Three Schools in Baltimore City: City Neighbors Charter School; City Neighbors Hamilton Charter School; and, City Neighbors High School.

Jason Botel

Executive Director

KIPP Baltimore

Two Schools in Baltimore City: KIPP Ujima Village Academy; and, KIPP Harmony Academy.

Pat Crain

Maryland Regional Director

Imagine Schools, Inc

Three Schools: Imagine Foundations in Prince George's County; Lincoln Imagine in Prince George's County; and, Imagine Discovery in Baltimore County.

ACTION:

For information only, no action is required.

Attachments (3)