

**LAACS/LEWISTON/AUBURN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL**

**Replication of the Pioneer charter School of science (PCCS)**

**Established in 2007, Everett, Massachusetts**

**Recommendation to the Maine Charter School Commission (MCSC)**

**Report of Subcommittee**

**Jana Lapoint, (Chair), Shelley Reed & Laurie Pendleton**

**1/30/14**

**The sub-committee unanimously recommends LAACS/Lewiston/Auburn Academy Charter School be approved and forwarded to the next step in the application process which is the public interview and hearing.**

**The school is intended to replicate the Pioneer Charter School in Massachusetts. This is reflected throughout their application in the areas of curriculum, student handbook, discipline, mission and vision statements.**

**A. Education Plan**

**Presented a clear, focused, compelling mission statement that defines the purpose of the school.**

**Strong focus on STEM education, balanced with humanities.**

**Demonstrated knowledge of the diverse cultural background of community it will serve.**

**Presented a viable plan for curriculum development of the core academic areas consistent with the school's mission, values and education program design.**

**Interesting concept for "backward design" curriculum development.**

**Focus on high quality education leading to college.**

**Requirement of 40 hours of community service to graduate.**

**Based on Pioneer has developed strong policy on discipline and anti-bullying to provide a safe and welcoming environment for structured learning.**

**“Character Development” throughout all grades.**

#### **Concern**

**Need to be sure LAACS is fully aware of the differences between Maine and Massachusetts state laws. For example, “Learning Results”, “Proficiency Based Diploma, Special Education requirements.**

#### **B. Organizational Plan**

**School calendar extended 190 days, daily schedule 8-5:30 and 3 hours on Saturday.**

**Two weeks provided for teacher development and half a day during week.**

**Recruitment plan extensive. Enrollment projections based on face to face contacts in the community, visiting malls, speaking at civic meetings.**

**Understand staffing needs in ELL and Special Education.**

**Staffing ratio of 1.13.**

**Pre-opening plan is detailed and sufficient to bring confidence that tasks have been thought through and there is an understanding of staff and their roles to carry out the plan.**

**Experience with operating Charter Schools.**

**Parent involvement is well documented. Have spoken to over 500 parents.**

**Home visits scheduled for all students.**

**Concern:**

**Need to demonstrate how they will involve the greater community such as businesses, colleges, local schools etc. Their need for science labs should require reaching out to industry.**

### **C. Governance**

**Governing board is representative of education, science field specific, cultural diversity, management and fundraising.**

**Good understanding of diverse roles needed on board.**

**Proper documentation has been applied for in order to demonstrate nonprofit and tax exempt status.**

**Concern**

**Need to fill two vacant seats possible with legal and financial expertise.**

### **D. Business and Financial Services**

**Budget priorities are consistent with and support mission and vision of the school.**

**Fundraising has begun with several letters of financial and donation of I-pads for student promised.**

**Line of credit of \$250,000 will be secured with backing of Pioneer if needed.**

### **Concern**

**There is no facility to date but a plan to work with Charter School Development Corporation who would purchase land and build and erect modular building which LAACS would lease on a 5 year basis is in budget.**

**Budget based on per pupil allotment and donations. Shown to be in black first three years.**

**There is only a part-time custodian but students are expected to help.**

**Transportation not nailed down outside catchment area since students will walk within a 2 mile radius but a transportation cost is in budget. Students may be asked to car pool.**

**Insurance costs in budget but no coverage plans included in document.**

**Food services not included**

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