

ACADIA Academy Pre-Opening Visit August, 8th, 2016

ACADIA Academy has substantively met all the pre-opening requirements for a charter school. This was confirmed in the Review Team's on-site evaluation, conducted August 8, 2016 at their school site, 12 Westminster Avenue, Lewiston, Maine.

Governance

The school's Board of Directors has taken a leadership role in ensuring the school is staffed, the renovations are complete, supplies are purchased, and the school is ready to open. The board has a wide range of skills that should serve the school well.

Enrollment

The school held their lottery on April 1, 2016. The school is fully enrolled with 134 students and has a wait list of 49 students.

- Pre-K: 48 students (4 sessions of 12 students each)
- Kindergarten: 28 students (2 classes of 14 students each)
- 1st grade: 32 students (2 classes of 16 students each)
- 2nd Grade: 24 students (2 classes of 12 students each)

Students are mostly from the Lewiston-Auburn school district but there are also students attending from Greene, Hebron, Lisbon, Livermore, and Turner. The school has conducted evaluations in math, reading, and social emotional development for incoming students.

Staffing

The board has hired Julie Colello as the school's principal. Julie was present during the review team meeting and was well versed in the school's mission, the requirements of their charter contract, and Maine State Education law. They are fully staffed and pre-opening Professional Development plans are in place. The school's Assistant Head of School will also serve as its Special Education Coordinator and is fully certified.

Facilities and Safety

The review team was impressed with the renovations on the building. The school looks great! The Board has done an excellent job of finding ways to furnish the classrooms in a fiscally responsible manner. Although small, the school will have two separate playground facilities, one for pre-k and another for the rest of the school. A few final details remain, but everyone is confident those will be completed in time for the opening of school.

Budget

There have been no changes to the budget since the approval of the contract.

Pre-Opening Checklist

The review team and the school representatives reviewed the pre-opening checklist and the following items were requested from the school:

- Floor plan
- Governing Board Roster
- Organizational Chart with names
- Number of students on waiting list
- Staff Certification Grid
- PD Calendar
- Confirmation of fire alarm system being activated
- HVAC and Air Quality testing documentation
- Parent/student Handbook
- Emergency Contact list
- School Calendar
- Current Fundraiser list
- PE/PG plan for 2016-17
- Transportation Contract
- Contract for School nurse and school Health Advisor
- Insurance policy summary

Acadia Academy submitted all but two required pieces of documentation on August 21, 2016. Those two remaining pieces are the HVAC and air quality testing and the transportation contract. The HVAC and air quality testing began on August 19th and the report is expected to be submitted to the school by August 26th. The school has contracted with Northeast Charter for bussing and although the school has a signed paper contract, as of August 23rd, the school is awaiting an electronic version. The school will forward each item to the Commission as soon as they have been received.

Commendations:

The review team was impressed with the commitment of the board and the quality of the renovations completed on the building. All of the ACADIA Team members present appear to have a strong understanding of their mission and responsibilities they have in creating a quality charter school for their students and families.

Review Team Members

Laurie Pendleton, Chair, J. Michael Wilhelm, and Nichi Farnham