

Flip Chart Notes

From the Breakout Sessions at the Founders Forum on Sept. 17, 2011 (edited)

1. Starting a new charter school - Group 1

Basic Requirements

- Exploratory Committee
- Board recruitment/governance
- Business Plan completed
- Meeting with community, learning existing opinions
- Surveying community – students coming from public schools
 - Relation to consolidation

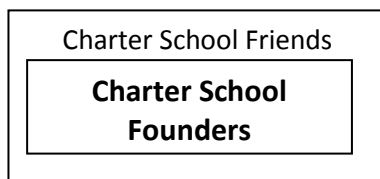
Other Issues

- Role of authorizers
- Funding

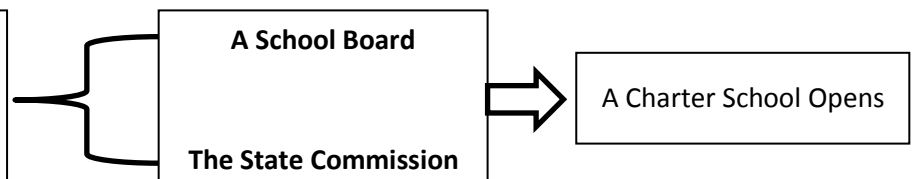
Application Process

- Survey Community
- Demographics
- Choice
- Superintendent/school talks
- RFP = Request for Proposal
- Collect signatures
- Use specific language
- Use valid information
- Build a team
- See MACS website for info

A Board is needed to Found & Operate a Charter School



An Authorizer is needed to Approve & Monitor a Charter School



Questions

1. If a current non-profit – do you have to start new board?
2. How to convince a school board to go to meetings to learn about authorizing?
3. What will inspire a school board to be an authorizer
 - Attend training sessions
 - Role of MACS?
 - Survey community, collect data
 - If school board is the authorizer...?

2. Converting a Private School to a Public Charter School - Group 2

Note: The following questions were not answered due to time constraints. Some questions came from people without much pre-knowledge of charter schools, and some questions came from people with considerable knowledge.

1. Do we need another board, a new board? Can we keep the old board? Can board members transfer to the new board? What is the new relationship between the boards?
2. What are the funding implications of converting?
3. Age requirements? How can pre-school and K+ charter work together/interact?
4. Superintendents as authorizers – is there a conflict of interest? Who are we accountable to?
5. Can we bring multiple towns together to be an authorizer? Can we create our own authorizing board? Can we shop around for an authorizer?
6. What are the advantages for a private school to become public charter?
7. Application process – how does this translate - details?
8. What will State Commission RFPs look like?
9. How does the student transfer process work? Is there a grandfathering process? 10% founding board kids and staff kids are “grandfathered”?
10. Residential program restrictions?
11. Special Ed focus – how will this work if a school wants to specialize?
12. If not a special ed school – how can we provide services?
13. Funding for special ed?
14. How does the law define special ed population?
15. Current private schools assets – how does this transfer to a new charter school? Loans, mortgage, liability?
16. Performance assessments – what will the requirements be for the charter?
17. Certification rules?
18. Will we need to conform to a mandated budget format?
19. Converting just a program within a larger private school – how does that work?
20. Reporting requirements?
21. Parent involvement requirements? Community volunteer requirements?
22. Tuition rates – who sets that number?
23. Transportation & special ed costs – where does the money come from?
24. Service/Activity/Supply fees? What do we have to supply? Where will \$ come from? Can a family be charged?
25. Application process? Will we need a consultant? Is there grant funding for the application process?
26. What can grant funding for planning & startup be used for?
27. How do we transition gracefully and effectively?
28. Can families send kids from an outside district to the charter school and pay their way?
29. When does the town pay the school - i.e., cash flow?
30. What are the marketing requirements for open student slots?
31. What will determine preferences when authorizing a limited number of charter schools from multiple applicants?