



ORANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Staff Report for the Material Revision of Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts

October 20, 2020

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to summarize significant findings based on a comprehensive review by Orange County Department of Education staff of the material revision request by Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts (OCASA) in compliance with Education Code section 47607, and to provide recommendations for consideration by the Orange County Board of Education (the Board).

II. BACKGROUND

OCASA is a K-8 charter school located within the boundaries of Capistrano Unified School District. On August 5, 2020, OCASA submitted a renewal charter petition that included a material revision to eliminate grades 6-8 from the charter. The Board held a public hearing on September 2, 2020, on the provisions of the charter to consider the level of support for the petition by teachers employed by the school district, other employees of the school district and parents.

III. LEGAL STANDARD

Material revisions of charters are governed by the standards and criteria described in Education Code section 47605, and shall include, but not be limited to, a reasonably comprehensive description of any new requirements of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or last renewed.

IV. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The revised OCASA charter petition meets the standards outlined in Education Code section 47605. The elimination of grades 6-8 from the charter is responsive to the needs of the school community and will enable the school to offer the educational options necessary for students to return to school during the ongoing pandemic, while following health department guidelines.

V. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Orange County Department of Education staff recommend that the Board approve the OCASA material revision request to eliminate grades 6-8 from the charter petition.

VI. CONCLUSION

The Board has three options for action regarding a charter petition material revision:

- Option One: Approve the material revision.
- Option Two: Approve the material revision with conditions. This action would result in approval of the charter petition and require the school to address concerns raised by the Board by established timelines.
- Option Three: Deny the material revision request.