



ORANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Staff Report for the Renewal 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 renewal petition for Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts (OCASA) in compliance with Education Code sections 47607 and 47607.2, and to provide recommendations for consideration by the Orange County Board of Education (the Board).

II. BACKGROUND

OCASA is a K-8 charter school that is located within the boundaries of the Capistrano Unified School District. The Board approved the OCASA charter petition on appeal from denial for a five-year term from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2021. On August 5, 2020, OCASA submitted a renewal charter petition. 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

Pursuant to Education Code sections 47607 and 47607.2, a chartering authority may grant one or more subsequent renewals to a charter school. Charter school renewals 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. The Board shall consider the school's fiscal and governance performance and whether the school is serving all pupils who wish to attend. Additionally, the chartering authority shall consider the performance of the charter school on the state and local indicators included in the California School Dashboard giving greater weight to performance on measurements of academic performance. The California Department of Education annually publishes a data file that provides the performance categories for all non-DASS charter schools to be used for charter school renewal.

IV. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Based on standards outlined in Education Code section 47607 and 47607.2, in accordance with a three-tiered system based on the charter school's performance, OCASA placed in the middle performance category and is eligible for a five-year charter term. Overall, the charter school presented a comprehensive petition for renewal and the past performance of the school indicates the likelihood of future success.

V. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Orange County Department of Education staff recommend that the Board approve the OCASA charter renewal petition for a five-year term from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026.

VI. CONCLUSION

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

- Option One: Approve the charter petition for a five-year term from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2026.
- Option Two: Approve the charter petition renewal with conditions. This action would result in approval of the charter and require the school to address concerns raised by the Board by established timelines.
- Option Three: Deny the charter petition renewal.

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