

Resolution of the Board of Education of Archuleta School District 50 JT

WHEREAS, Archuleta School District 50 JT (the "District") received a charter school application (the "Application") on July 30, 2016, from the Pagosa Charter School Initiative (the "Applicant") for Pagosa Peak Open School (the "Charter School"); and

WHEREAS, upon receiving the Application and appendices on August 1, 2016, the District Accountability Committee ("DAC") was notified on August 3, 2016, of the availability of the Application for review, on September 12, 2016, the DAC met to review the Application, on September 19, 2016, the DAC met with the Charter School Board of Directors, on September 26 and October 10, 2016, the DAC met with the Board of Education of the District (the "Board") to review and assess the Application, on October 24, 2016, a public meeting was held to receive comments on the Application, on November 2, 2016, the DAC and Board conducted a work session to review and assess the application, and on November 8, 2016, the DAC presented their recommendation regarding the Application to the Board at a work session and regular Board meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the Application, information provided by the DAC, information provided by the Applicant, and following reasonable public notice, hereby resolves that the Application is approved with conditions, and such conditional approval is in the best interest of the pupils, the District, and the community; and

WHEREAS, the Application is approved for negotiation of a charter contract (the "Contract") consistent with the Application and that includes satisfaction, in the sole discretion of the District, of the following four (4) conditions:

1. **Budget & Finance:** The Applicant will increase its estimated total revenue the first year in its six-year budget by \$175,000 through inclusion of additional grants and/or contributions. The reason for this condition is to ensure that there is a complete, realistic, and viable start-up and five-year budget that aligns with the educational and organizational needs of the Charter School. The District, as the authorizing District, has an interest in ensuring that the Charter School will be able to sufficiently meet the educational needs of students that will attend the Charter School. The District also has an interest in ensuring the financial viability of the Charter School to protect the pupil's, District's and community's interests. The \$175,000 increase in estimated total revenue is based on a comparison of the total revenue of a similarly situated charter school located within the Salida School District R-32 (a comparison presented by the Applicant), and a comparison of total per pupil revenue for similarly situated school districts, *i.e.*, those districts with 60-90 students. These comparisons provide substantial and compelling evidence of the actual total revenue needed for the Charter School to deliver the educational program and ancillary services described in the Application. The increase of \$175,000 is a modest increase that will still place the Charter School with total revenues near, but below, the total revenues for the comparison school/districts.


2. **Educational Program & Standards:** The Applicant will clarify its educational model that is actually a combination of three different learning models: (1) Project-Based Learning ("PBL"); (2) Place-Based Education; and (3) Experiential Learning. While each of these models has a basis in research, no research has been presented to justify the use of all three models together in a single educational program. Accordingly, the Applicant will clarify how these three distinct models will be interwoven and how each will be implemented to cover all of the curricular elements: English Language Arts, Writing Literacy, Handwriting, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The Applicant will describe how each of these three distinct models will be implemented in each curricular element by providing: specific examples of how the models will be implemented in the classroom; the scope and sequence for a single project (both short and long term projects) for each grade level; advisor lesson plans; the role of assistant advisors and volunteers; and how intervention situations are handled. The Applicant will provide more clear evidence and examples of PBL in the classroom to include example teacher/advisor presentations and videos of PBL in action. The Applicant will modify the professional development plan to require that all advisors and the school director take Buck Institute for Education ("BIE") PBL training including PBL 101 or PBL 201 before the start of the first year of operation, take follow-up training before the start of the second year of operation, and develop a plan to sustain support visits from BIE for subsequent years of operation. Finally, the Applicant will modify the required minimum qualifications of staff to include the requirement that the school director have at least two (2) years of experience either as a PBL teacher or administrator, or that at least fifty (50) percent of advisors have at least one year of experience as a PBL teacher or administrator. The reason for this condition is that the Board finds that the Application does not sufficiently describe an organized and cohesive educational program/curricular design demonstrating that it will meet the needs of the students and that is aligned across grade levels.
3. **Governance:** The Applicant will require that the Board of Directors of the Charter School have at least five (5) members to include at least one member with a background and expertise in education and at least one member with a background and expertise in finance. The reason for imposing this condition is to ensure that the Charter School has a Board of Directors that is sufficient in number and expertise to provide sound and effective leadership.
4. **Employees:** The Applicant will require that the school director's qualifications include a "minimum of 5 years of experience as a classroom/school administrator with understanding of educational theories, principles and techniques." The Applicant will require that at least one advisor be a Colorado-licensed teacher. The reason for imposing these conditions is to increase the potential for high quality leadership and instruction at the Charter School while also maintaining flexibility regarding the qualifications for other administrators and advisors.

WHEREAS, failure to satisfy any of the above conditions, which are material to the approval of the charter, constitutes grounds for revocation of the conditional approval because the conditions are necessary for the Charter School to be in the best interest of pupils, the District, and the community; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant and the District shall develop and submit to the Board for approval a Contract consistent with the Application, the foregoing conditions, and state and federal law; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the Application with conditions pursuant to the terms of this Resolution.

Approved this 14th day of November, 2016, by a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.



President, Board of Education

 11/14/16

Secretary to the Board of Education