

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2005 the Board of Education of Jefferson County School District No. R-1 received a charter school application from the Madison High School (“MHS”) steering committee; and

WHEREAS, the charter school application has been reviewed by the District’s Charter School Review Committee, by various District Departments, and by members of the Superintendent’s Cabinet; and

WHEREAS, Charter School Review Committee Notes and Comments, a Budget Department Crucial Questions Report, a Facilities Planning Crucial Questions Report, an Instructional Services Crucial Questions Report, a Special Populations Crucial Questions Report, and a District Wide Crucial Questions Report have been prepared to assist the Board and members of the Superintendent’s Cabinet in reviewing the charter school application (attached hereto as Exhibits A - F, respectively); and

WHEREAS, the District’s Accountability Committee and the Board have reviewed the charter school application in accordance with the requirements of C.R.S. §§ 22-30.5-107(1) & (1.5); and

WHEREAS, the Board held a public meeting with MHS on September 29, 2005 in accordance with the requirements of C.R.S. § 22-30.5-107(2); and

WHEREAS, on September 29, 2005 MHS provided the Board with statistical data regarding Jefferson County School District No. R-1 and other front range school districts, and the results of a survey of board members representing three K-8 charter schools within the District (attached hereto as Exhibit G); and

WHEREAS, the Charter Schools Act requires the Board to rule by resolution on the charter school application within 75 days after its receipt; and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the charter school application; the Charter Schools Act; District policies and regulations; the Comments, Notes, Crucial Questions Reports, and Recommendations prepared by the Charter School Review Committee, District Departments, and members of the Superintendent’s Cabinet; and the additional information provided by MHS on September 29, 2005.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that denial of the MHS charter school application is in the best interests of the District, its students and the community, and the MHS charter school application is hereby denied, for the following reasons:

1. The MHS charter school application is virtually identical to similar charter school applications submitted by MHS to the Board in 2003 and 2004, and

has not been updated for 2005 in any material respect. As such, it contains no evidence that any parents wish to enroll their children at MHS in the fall of 2006; and it contains no evidence that an adequate number of parents, teachers, pupils, or any combination thereof currently support the formation of MHS.

2. Jefferson Academy High School is an established and successful charter school operating in the north part of the District that is already providing an educational program and extracurricular activities quite similar to those proposed by MHS. In addition, the Board has approved the establishment of a college prep North Area Option School for grades 9-12 with coordinated humanities as a learning focus, which will open as a “school within a school” in the fall of 2006 at Arvada High School. Approval of the MHS charter school application would result in an unnecessary and unreasonable duplication of secondary choice schools in the north area of the District, and would compromise the economic viability of Jefferson Academy High School, the District’s college prep North Area Option School, and MHS.

3. MHS has not demonstrated that it is able to secure a viable site and building for its proposed charter school. Matters that have not been appropriately addressed include but are not limited to location of a suitable site; staff and student parking; impact on the local community of using contemplated sites as a charter school; addressing concerns raised by the appropriate land use and planning authority concerning contemplated sites in a timely and responsive manner; method of site acquisition; plan for remodeling, constructing or placing a building on the contemplated sites for use as a charter school; and financing site acquisition and site development.

4. The District currently diverts per-pupil funding from students at some of its non-charter schools to pay for programs and services the Board deems necessary or desirable at other schools. In addition, District analyses and a report prepared by Augenblick and Myers, Inc. establish that charter schools have a fiscal impact on the District in excess of the per-pupil funding that follows students to the charter schools. Approving the MHS charter school application would compromise the District’s ability to devote the funds and educational resources it deems necessary to improve academic performance ratings at certain existing schools based on CSAP assessments; to close the achievement gap for at-risk students, students eligible for free and reduced lunch, students with English as a second language, and other under-served student populations at such existing schools; and to achieve adequate yearly progress on a District-wide basis as required under the No Child Left Behind Act.

5. The cumulative operational and financial impact on the District caused by declining enrollment, reductions in funding, and capital and staffing needs at existing schools requires the Board to be more selective in granting charter applications, and under these circumstances approval of the MHS charter

school application would not be fiscally responsible and would compromise the District's ability to allocate necessary funds (and thus educational resources and support) to existing schools educating at-risk students, students eligible for free and reduced lunch, students with English as a second language, and other underserved student populations.

In accordance with C.R.S. § 22-30.5-107(4), the District administration is hereby directed to provide a copy of this Resolution to the Colorado Department of Education within fifteen days of its adoption date.

Adopted this 20th day of October, 2005.

JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
NO. R-1

By: _____
Jane Barnes
President, Board of Education

Attest:

By: _____
Stephen Dixon
Secretary, Board of Education