

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 Teddy Roosevelt Academy (“TRA”) 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 TRA on October 6, 2005 in accordance with the requirements of C.R.S. § 22-30.5-107(2); and

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2005 TRA provided the Board with a revised Budget and responses to Charter School Review Committee Notes and Comments, Budget Department Crucial Questions, Facilities Planning Crucial Questions, Instructional Services Crucial Questions, Special Populations Crucial Questions, and District Wide Crucial Questions (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 additional information provided by TRA on October 6, 2005.

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

1. On October 6, 2005, TRA presented new information substantially revising the characteristics, terms and conditions of its proposed school to the extent that the revisions constitute a new and different charter school application. Inasmuch as this new charter school application was not submitted to the District on or before the August 15, 2005 deadline, it is untimely and will not be considered for the opening of a school in the fall of 2006.

2. The combination of educational methodologies comprising TRA's revised program are not adequately described, and no evidence has been presented that such combination of educational methodologies is research based and proven to be effective. Regardless of whether the 26 foreign languages offered by TRA are characterized as supplemental, the Board does not endorse the teaching of foreign languages through a purchased computer program (Rosetta Stone) rather than through qualified teachers.

3. TRA has not demonstrated that it is able to present an economically viable budget for its proposed school, including but not limited to realistic revenue projections; adequate funding for the "feature-rich multimedia," student computers and other technology proposed for the revised program; adequate funding for teacher aides at each grade level; adequate funding for special education and reading teachers; adequate funding for lease of school facility; and adequate funding for furniture, equipment and instructional materials.

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 TRA 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 TRA 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