

BOARD OF REGENTS
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

SECTION: 23
DATE:
June 10, 2014

RECOMMENDATION

REISSUANCE OF CHARTER – GRAND BLANC ACADEMY (K-8)

**REISSUANCE OF CHARTER – DR. JOSEPH F. POLLACK ACADEMIC CENTER OF
EXCELLENCE (K-8)**

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents reissue the charter for *Grand Blanc Academy* and authorize the president of the University to execute a new five-year contract which will expire June 30, 2019.

Furthermore, it is recommended that the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents reissue the charter for the *Dr. Joseph F. Pollack Academic Center of Excellence* and authorize the president of the University to execute a new five-year contract which will expire June 30, 2019.

Accompanying this recommendation are profiles of Grand Blanc Academy and the Dr. Joseph F. Pollack Academic Center of Excellence.

SCHOOL PROFILES

Grand Blanc Academy

Grand Blanc Academy opened in 1999. The initial school enrollment was 341 students, and the 2012-2013 enrollment in grades K-8 was 442 students. Students in grades K-5 are offered reading, language arts, mathematics, science, Spanish, music, and physical education. Students in grades 6-8 are offered language arts, mathematics, science, Spanish, world and U.S. history, physical education and health.

Students also had the opportunity to take courses in journalism, speech and debate, photography, videography, life skills, visual art, choir, band, computers and drama. The Academy strives to support families by partnering with local agencies including Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Insight Recovery and Mental Health.

Grand Blanc's significant achievements include the following:

- Grand Blanc Academy's students made positive gains in reading scores across all grade levels (K-8).
- The Grand Blanc Academy's staff has begun to effectively use a data-drive decision-making approach to setting achievement goals for student performance. This has resulted in higher gains in reading and math.
- Grand Blanc Academy works to build community relationships to support our vision of the whole child. This includes programs such as Caring Communities, Big Brothers and Big Sisters and the YMCA. Also, the community and the local food bank have supported a Weekend Backpack program to provide food to needy students.

Dr. Joseph F. Pollack Academic Center of Excellence

The Dr. Joseph F. Pollack Academic Center of Excellence opened its doors fall of 1999. In 2010 the school was named after Dr. Joseph Pollack, who developed the Eastern Michigan University Charter Schools Office and became its first director. In 2012, the charter school served 883 students in grades K-8 organized into the primary academy (K-2) and the elementary/secondary academy (3-8). Approximately 87 percent of the academy's student population reside in the city of Detroit.

The academy offers a variety of choices in its curriculum. In the reading area, teachers use *Success For All* in the primary grades. This curriculum requires students to master phonetic skills prior to making a transition to a literature-based program. In grades five and six, teachers use a five-day literacy plan based on *Success For All* and *Project Read*. Teachers use the University of Chicago School Mathematics Program: everyday mathematics, transition math and algebra. In addition, extensive programs are offered in writing, science, history, social science and foreign language.

The school was most proud of these achievements:

- With significant focus on the school's instructional core, PACE Academy has made significant academic progress on state assessments. The school's scores on the top to bottom ranking moved up from the 10th percentile in 2011 to the 18th percentile in 2012.
- PACE Academy continues to integrate technology in its classrooms with the use of computer-based, data-driven instruction.
- Work was completed on a \$100K playground renovation thanks to a dedicated team of PACE Academy teachers, students, parents and administrators.
- PACE Academy is focused on increasing parent participation with programs such as the R.E.A.L Parents and R.E.A.L. Dad's groups. R.E.A.L. is an acronym for Raising Educated Academic Leaders.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and is recommended for Board approval.

University Executive Officer _____

Date