

BOARD OF REGENTS
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

SECTION: ¹¹

DATE:

April 23, 2019

RECOMMENDATION

REAUTHORIZATION OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents issue a charter for *Commonwealth Community Development Academy* and authorize the President of the University to execute a new five-year charter school contract which will expire June 30, 2024.

It is recommended that the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents issue a charter for *Dr. Joseph F. Pollack Academic Center of Excellence* and authorize the President of the University to execute a new seven-year charter school contract which will expire June 30, 2026.

Furthermore, it is recommended that the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents issue a charter for *Grand Blanc Academy* and authorize the President of the University to execute a new five-year charter school contract which will expire June 30, 2024.

STAFF SUMMARY

Commonwealth Community Development Academy

Mission Statement: Commonwealth Community Development Academy shall challenge each student to succeed at his/her maximum potential in a safe and secure environment. Academic and social excellence will be encouraged through effective instruction and cooperation between faculty, parents, and students.

Commonwealth Community Development Academy (Commonwealth) was established in 1996 and is in its 23rd year of serving students. Commonwealth proudly serves a second generation of students; whose parents are alumni and have a desire for their children to have the same quality educational experience they had. The alumni are proud and grateful for their experience and partner with the school in many ways, including mentoring programs, student recruitment and fundraising efforts. Commonwealth is a K-8 school, located in the city of Detroit that enrolls 200 students.

Commonwealth students have demonstrated academic improvement each year through full implementation of its' interdisciplinary, project-based learning program. Community partnerships have been established to provide experiences to extend project-based learning activities beyond the classroom, allowing for exploration into cultural immersion(s), financial planning, physical fitness and community development. Not only do these partnerships benefit students academically, they serve to assist students with clothing, food, and school supplies.

Dr. Joseph F. Pollack Academic Center of Excellence (PACE)

Mission Statement: PACE Academy empowers student to realize their potential through meaningful educational opportunities and creates productive citizens in an ever-changing world.

Vision Statement: PACE Academy envisions our school as a safe, secure and stimulating environment where children will recognize and achieve their fullest potential, so they are empowered to make the best contributions to society.

The Dr. Joseph F. Pollack Academic Center of Excellence (PACE) opened its doors in the fall of 1999 as the Edison-Oakland Public School Academy of Ferndale, Michigan. In the fall of 2009, the school relocated to Southfield, Michigan, and was renamed the Dr. Joseph F. Pollack Academic Center of Excellence, after Dr. Joseph F. Pollack, who served as the founding director of the Eastern Michigan University Charter Schools Office. PACE Academy is a K-8 school that serves 840 students, with more than 87% of whom reside in the city of Detroit.

PACE Academy offers a comprehensive and culturally relevant curriculum in the areas of reading, mathematics, science, history, social science and foreign language. At PACE, character development is cultivated through the implementation of Franklin Covey's "Leader in Me" program. Teachers use a student-centered approach as a foundation for teaching, learning and student development. PACE's approach blends research-based teaching methods with a warm and friendly environment that is nurturing, empowering and kind.

Grand Blanc Academy

Mission Statement: Grand Blanc Academy is an innovative community that supports and celebrates lifelong learning for the success of our students and families by igniting growth, imagination, and dreams.

Grand Blanc Academy opened in 1999. The initial school enrollment was 341 students, grades K-5. Currently, Grand Blanc Academy is a pre-K-8 school with an enrollment of 377 students, the great majority of whom reside in the city of Flint. Students in K-5 are offered classes in reading, language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, art and physical education. Middle school students have the opportunity to excel in reading, writing, mathematics, social studies and science. Art and physical education allow for students to develop artistic ability and interest(s) as well as healthy living habits.

The Grand Blanc Academy supports the education of the “whole” child through rigorous, differentiated instruction; the building and strengthening of meaningful relationships with students and parents; and the wrap-around services provided through community partners. Grand Blanc Academy has the feel of a neighborhood, community school with a warm, friendly atmosphere and welcoming environment. Many community partnerships have been developed to provide support in the areas of student development, mental health, mentorship, community service, social services and more. These efforts support and reinforce the academic program that has resulted in continuous improvement academically, especially in the area of reading.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

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

[Redacted Signature]

University Executive Officer
Name

2/2/2019

Date