



NOVEMBER 2003 AGENDA

| SUBJECT | X | ACTION |
|---|---|----------------|
| Request by the Leadership Public School – San Rafael (LPSSR) to Approve a Petition to Become a Charter School Under the Oversight of the State Board of Education | X | INFORMATION |
| | X | PUBLIC HEARING |

Recommendation:

The California Department of Education (CDE) will provide a complete analysis to the State Board of Education (SBE) at the November meeting.

Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

SBE Authority to Grant Charters: Pursuant to *Education Code* Section 47605 (j), as of January 1, 1999, a charter school that has been denied approval by a local chartering entity may petition the SBE to approve the charter. As of January 1, 2003, a charter school must be denied by both a local school district and county office of education before it may petition the SBE to approve the charter.

Previous requests: Since January 1999, the SBE has reviewed several charter petitions that have been denied at the local level and has to date approved seven such requests. At its December 2000 meeting, the SBE approved two charter schools: the Oakland Military Institute in Alameda County and the Ridgecrest Charter School in Kern County. These two charter schools opened at the beginning of the 2001-02 school year under oversight of the SBE. In July 2001, the SBE approved the renewal of the Edison Charter Academy in San Francisco, which had previously been denied renewal by the district. At its December 2001 meeting, the SBE approved the New West Charter Middle School and the Animo Inglewood Charter High School, both of which are located in Los Angeles County. In September 2002, the SBE approved the School of Arts and Enterprise, also located in Los Angeles County. Finally, in February 2003, the SBE approved the Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) Summit Academy in Alameda County.

Oversight of Charter Schools by the SBE: At the request of the SBE, CDE staff presented an issue paper at its May 2000 meeting that outlined a comprehensive proposal for the review, approval, and oversight of previously denied charters. The issue paper proposed that the SBE adopt regulations that define a process for review of a charter petition that has been denied locally. Regulations were developed and approved by the SBE at its December 2001 meeting and are currently in use.

At its October 2001 meeting, the SBE also established an Advisory Commission on Charter Schools (ACCS) and charged it with a number of responsibilities, including advising the SBE on charter petitions that have been denied at the local level.

Summary of Key Issue(s)

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On October 6, 2003, the CDE received a request from the petitioners of the Leadership Public Schools – San Rafael to authorize a charter school proposed to be located in the city of San Rafael in Marin County. The petition to establish the charter school was denied by the San Rafael City School District on August 11, 2003. The petition was submitted to the Marin County Office of Education on August 12, 2003. The Marin County Office of Education is expected to act on the petition at its October 14, 2003, meeting. In the event that the appeal is denied by the county office, the ACCS will review this petition and hear testimony from the petitioners at its October 16, 2003, meeting, at which time the ACCS is expected to make a recommendation on this petition.

This item will provide for a public hearing on this charter proposal. According to *Education Code* Section 47605(b), at the public hearing, the SBE “shall consider the level of support for the petition by teachers employed by the district, other employees of the district and parents.”

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

Information will be provided as necessary at the November meeting.

Attachment(s)

Attachment 1: Leadership Public Schools – San Rafael Charter Petition (Pages 1-226)
(This attachment not available on the Web)

The CDE will provide a complete analysis at the November meeting.