

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
STAFF REPORT

Board Item: Material Revision to Charter of Journey Charter School

Board Meeting Date: June 12, 2024

HISTORY

Journey School (Journey) followed District protocol and submitted a request for a material revision to its charter petition on April 16, 2024. Currently, Journey is considered a school of the District as it relates to special education services, operating under the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) coordinated by the District. Journey seeks to materially revise its charter to enable it to act as its own local educational agency (LEA) for special education purposes and to reflect its acceptance into the El Dorado County Charter SELPA in conformity with Education Code § 47641, subdivision (a). If the District’s Board of Trustees (Board) approves the material revision, Journey will no longer participate in the District’s SELPA effective July 1, 2024, and the District will have no obligation to provide any special education services to Journey for the 2024-2025 school year.

Journey has also updated its charter to include all new requirements of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was last renewed on March 11, 2020, in accordance with Education Code § 47607, subdivision (b).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During the term of its charter, a charter school may wish to amend its current approved charter. The District must approve any proposed change to the provisions of a charter before the change may be implemented. While any non-material change can be handled administratively by the charter office, any desired revision considered “material” must be approved by the governing board of the charter school and the District’s Board in accordance with Education Code § 47607, subdivision (a)(3). Material revisions are governed by the same standards and criteria that apply to new charter petitions. (Education Code, § 47607, subs. (a)(3) and (b).) Therefore, the District must determine whether the charter, as amended, provides reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the required elements of a charter petition, is educationally sound, and is likely to be successfully implemented. (Education Code, § 47605, subd. (c)(1)-(2), (5).)

The District considers the following to be among, but not limited to, changes constituting material revisions:

1. Substantial changes to a charter school’s educational program, mission or vision.
2. Changing or adding a non-classroom-based program.
3. Changes in enrollment that increases or decreases by 1 or more classrooms the enrollment originally projected in the charter petition in any given year.

4. Addition or deletion of grades or grade levels to be served.
5. Changing the location of the charter school, or opening of resource centers, meeting spaces or other satellite facilities, including the opening of a new facility. Temporary locations rented for annual student testing purposes or a temporary meeting place for up to 5 students does not require a material revision of the charter.
6. Changes to admissions requirements or procedures.
7. Changes to governance structure, including but not limited to, number of board members, method of new board member selection, and provisions relating to resolution approval.
8. Entering into or revising a contract with an Educational/Charter Management Organization (E/CMO).

Journey School's material revision is based on bullet point number 1, as a change in SELPA is a significant material change to the charter petition.

Journey's governing board supports the SELPA change and approved submission of the request for a material revision to the District at its March 28, 2024, regularly scheduled meeting. Details of Journey's board's action can be found in the corresponding meeting minutes.

In the redlined version of the charter petition, the following edits have been made:

- All references to the District's SELPA have been replaced with El Dorado County Charter SELPA.
- Reasonably comprehensive descriptions of any new requirements of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or last renewed have been added.

Deleted language is indicated by strikeout and new language is underlined.

CURRENT CONSIDERATIONS

Journey has requested a material revision to its charter to reflect a change from membership in the District's SELPA to the El Dorado County Charter SELPA, in conformity with Education Code § 47641, subdivision (a). As of July 1, 2024, the charter school shall be its own LEA for special education purposes. The changes are reflected in the proposed materially revised charter petition submitted on April 16, 2024.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve the material revision to the Journey charter.

PREPARED BY: Heidi Crowley, Director I, Alternative Programs

APPROVED BY: Gregory Merwin, Associate Superintendent, Education and Support Services