

*show that meet the criteria could receive a charter in '99.*

### QUESTIONS FOR CHARTER SCHOOL HEARING

- We are authorized to charter 10*
1. How many charter schools will be funded for SY 1997-98?
  2. In an earlier response, DCPS indicated that its funding request for FY 1998 is \$2,385,000. However, during the May 1, 1997 hearing before the U.S. House, General Becton indicated that DCPS intends to sponsor 24 charter schools by the end of 1998. What funding source will be used to support these 24 schools?
  3. What is the anticipated cost for each school? *Cost to the city determined by its enrollment.*
  4. How are charter schools monitored and evaluated by DCPS? What criteria is used to determine accreditation? Are charter schools subject to review by Middle States? What type of curriculum is administered? Does the curriculum have to meet DCPS requirements? *Law sec #19 mentions 7 in the law*
  5. What is the status of the Marcus Garvey Public Charter School and Options Public School? Will these schools be funded during FY 1998? If so, how much funding will be provided by DCPS? How many students are currently enrolled? How many students are projected to be enrolled during SY 1997-98? How are students selected for charter school enrollment?
  6. Are charter school enrollments a separate count from DCPS student enrollment? Please provide a copy of student membership for the charter school students and for DCPS for the current school year.
  7. For DCPS students that are accepted in charter schools, are funds provided in the DCPS regular budget as well as the charter school for the same students? In short, is DCPS providing funding twice for the same students?
  8. Please provide a copy of the progress report on each school as of April 30, 1997. Also provide the criteria by which charter schools are assessed and evaluated.
  9. Are you familiar with the Palisades Charter Complex created on November 6, 1995 by the Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District? If so, what do you think about the concept? Would the Board of Education and the Charter Board consider duplicating such a model? [The Palisades Charter Complex is a single charter for an entire complex of schools — that is a high school and all its feeder schools.]
  11. Are charter schools inspected by the D.C. Fire Department, and are they required to meet the same fire code violation criteria as regular DCPS schools? Who is responsible for maintaining charter schools?

*as we proceed through the development process*

*We are documenting our concerns and will share them at appropriate times with legislative staff.*

- 12. Is the new Charter School Board considering changes in the authorizing legislation for Charter Schools? Apparently, the present law is ambiguous in some respects. *Have you — ?*
- 13. What criteria are used to determine whether a fully funded charter school will no longer be funded by DCPS? Please provide a copy of the criteria. *more time for petitioners to work on applications.*
- 14. If a child is suspended or expelled from a charter school, is DCPS obligated to provide alternative education for that child or is it the responsibility of the charter school?
- 15. For each of the existing chartering entities, what are your thoughts on the Emergency Transitional Board of Trustees proposals stating:
  - a. that the Board of Trustees shall, as the state educational agency of the District of Columbia, review all charters entered into by an eligible chartering authority; *What does.*
  - b. that the Board of Trustees, in its capacity as state educational agency, as the third eligible chartering authority referred to in the School Reform Act of 1995, shall take appeals from eligible applicants whose petitions were rejected.
- 16. Are the guidelines as indicated in the D.C. School Reform Act of 1996 being followed by those Charter schools that have been established?
- 17. To your knowledge have the existing charter schools received any additional federal or private funding? If so, how much? What impact will additional grant or private funding have on DCPS funding of these schools? In short, will DCPS reduce its funding level if the charter school receives additional outside funding?
- 18. How many non-resident students are enrolled at each charter school? How much tuition is charged for each student? What process is used to determine if non-resident students are enrolled in charter schools? How are non-tuition fees assessed, collected and processed? Are these funds returned to DCPS since its full funding is provided by the school system or are taxpayers paying for the same students twice?
- 19. Of the seven organizations listed in the Act that can provide accreditation for Charter Schools, which organizations have provided accreditation for Options and Marcus Garvey Public Charter Schools?
- 20. How many regular school employees have requested and received an extended leave of absence to accept employment at the public charter schools?

*Reform Act of 1996*

21. How many of the eight federal agencies, such as the Department of Education, Library of Congress, Department of Justice, Department of Defense, etc., listed in the Act have been contacted, asking them to explore the possibilities of establishing public charter schools? What was their response? Has any agency made a commitment to establish a charter school?
22. Has the Public Charter School Board been fully established? Has the Executive Director been hired? Also, provide the title and salary of any other positions that have been filled. Additionally, have any questions been let? If so, what is the purpose and what is the amount?

*I am not sure what you mean  
by fully established*