

District of Columbia Public Charter School Board

Annual Report

July, 2001

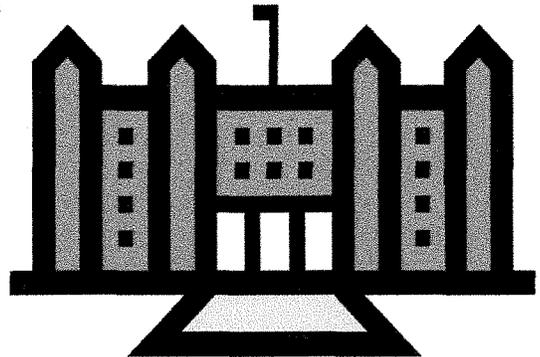
PCSB 2000-01 Profile

- Number of schools: 16
- Number of campuses: 19
- Schools opening fall 2001: 4
- Number of students in fall 2000: 6,412
- Percent low-income students: 79%
- Percent special education: 8%
- Percent LEP/NEP: 3%
- Average daily attendance: 88.2%

A Message from Board Chair Josephine Baker:

The DC Public Charter School Board continues working toward its goal of chartering successful schools.

During the past year more than 6,200 students attended one of 16 public charter schools overseen by this Board, operating on 19 campuses. Four additional schools will open this September. In order to maintain the quality of the Board's services during this time of growth, we have moved into more accessible quarters, held more public meetings, and adopted a new committee structure.



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Our most important task is authorizing and overseeing schools -- and in that task, our byword as a Board is accountability. In the pages that follow, you will read about an array of activities designed to determine how well schools are meeting the ambitious goals for which they were chartered. You will also learn of other activities the Board has undertaken to help strengthen the chances that these fledgling schools will succeed.

Parents, public officials, and citizens are watching closely the development of our city's charter sector, since it has the potential to revolutionize public education in the District. We will continue doing our utmost to see that as this sector grows, public charter schools provide sound education choices for District learners.

Sincerely,

Josephine C. Baker

Josephine C. Baker
Chair

Kudos to Our Schools!

During the 2000-2001 school year, the DC Public Charter School Board has overseen 16 public charter schools operating on 19 campuses. Here are some of their successes:

- This year, the Charter School Resource Center honored several PCSB schools with MAC Awards (Major Achievement in Charters). Karen Dresden, principal of the first-year **Capital City** Public Charter School, was honored as Principal of the Year. Other awardees included **Carlos Rosario International** Public Charter School (highest student satisfaction); **Edison-Friendship Blow-Pierce** Public Charter School (highest daily attendance); and **SEED** Public Charter School's Brandon Lloyd (Teacher of the Year).
- Principal Irasema Salcido of **Cesar Chavez** Public Charter School was awarded the "Use Your Life Award" from Oprah Winfrey's Angel Network[®] in February, 2001.
- The **Arts and Technology Academy**, **SEED**, and **Tree of Life** were accepted into the Leadership Academy at the DC Public Charter School Resource Center.
- **Carlos Rosario International** Public Charter School was named one of 100 semi-finalists in the Innovations in American Government competition. Sponsored by the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, the program honors "outstanding examples of creative problem-solving in the public sector." Executive Director Sonia Gutierrez was also honored by Channel Nine's "Nine Who Care" program for her contributions to the community.
- Teachers Kurt Becker, Lisa Johnson, and Glen Anderson of **Paul Junior High** Public Charter School won recognition from the Washington Post's "Grants in the Arts" program.
- Student Robert P. Cook, Jr. from **Washington Math Science and Technology** won second place in the DC Citywide Science Fair.
- Student Kenneth Gray at **New School for Enterprise and Development** went to Orlando, Florida this summer to participate in the Fifth World MultiConference on Systemics, Cybernetics, and Informatics.
- Students, staff, and parents of **Associates for Renewal in Education (ARE)** Public Charter School traced the Underground Railroad to Detroit and beyond, as part of the school's annual Spring Learning Tour.
- **New School for Enterprise and Development** participated in Georgetown Law School's Street Law Program. The school's ninth grade students competed against eleventh grade students in high schools citywide and went all the way to the final competition.
- Ten charter schools received a \$2.7 million grant from the very competitive 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, an effort that was led by the Resource Center. Recipient schools include **Meridian**, **Tree of Life**, and **Southeast Academy**. This grant will establish after-school, weekend, and summer programs for students and communities at the participating schools.
- Several PCSB schools moved into impressive new facilities. **SEED** Public Charter School held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 26 at their new quarters, which include a fully renovated former DCPS school, Weatherless Elementary, plus a brand-new residential facility built on the Ward 7 site. **Maya Angelou** Public Charter School also moved into new facilities -- the historic Odd Fellows building on 9th Street in Shaw. The building houses classrooms, dorm space, a theater, a commercial kitchen for the school's catering business, and a street-level technology lab where students tutor community residents. **Edison-Friendship** Public Charter School's new **Collegiate Academy** opened in another renovated DCPS building, the former Carter G. Woodson Elementary, near the Minnesota Avenue metro stop.

The Accountability Process

The Public Charter School Board's motto is "We Charter Success." During the past year, the Board has employed a series of strategies to hold schools accountable for performance -- while helping them achieve success by providing schools with ample feedback and support.

The Board's monitoring program is currently undergoing a formal review, beginning with focus groups held in early July that sought the views of more than two dozen charter school trustees, administrators, and business managers. PCSB is seeking to maintain its rigorous standards, but to streamline the process for the schools it oversees.

The following section discusses monitoring and oversight activities undertaken during this past year and summarizes results.

THE REVIEW PROCESS:

Accountability Planning:

Once a school is approved, PCSB staff and consultants jointly develop an Accountability Plan, including quantitative measures covering everything from student achievement to operational soundness. Unique to each school but containing some common elements, these plans are the heart of the Board's accountability operation, providing measures against which the Board will judge annual and long-term progress.

This year, PCSB accelerated its efforts to finalize plans for all operating schools, with five new plans [and two revised] winning approval. The Board expects to approve seven remaining plans by late August.

Implementation Review:

In the spring of its first year, each school undergoes an Implementation Review designed to see if it is delivering the program promised in its charter. The review begins with a thorough self-study according to a framework developed by the Board. Next, a team of experts visits the school to clarify the findings. The Board then develops a memorandum of findings and recommendations about improvements needed before the start of the second school year.

This year, Implementation Review Teams assessed the performance of our five first-year schools. In general, all five schools got strongly positive reviews. As the purpose of the review is to provide constructive feedback, the Teams made recommendations to each school in the areas such as curriculum development, special education and ESL services, staffing and employee policies, and community involvement.

Financial Control Review. As part of the Implementation Review, a CPA consultant looks at internal controls and financial operations in order to help the schools maintain sound financial practices and avoid future audit problems. The review was performed this year by the firm of Williams, Adley and a report will be provided in August.

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The Accountability Process (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

Annual Performance Review

After a school's first year, the Board conducts an Annual Performance Review to ensure that the school is meeting the goals in its Accountability Plan. This year, the Review consisted of a quantitative analysis comparing outcomes reported in each school's annual report to the goals in its accountability plan, followed by a half-day school site visit. The firm of J.B. Johnson and Associates conducted the Review, with a team including attorney Mary Levy and organizational development specialist Bascom Talley.

According to the Review's executive summary: "Most of the charter schools appear to be functioning efficiently and effectively. Considered best are those schools where the trustees and school administrators work collaboratively, but with each having clearly defined roles and responsibilities." Reviewers expressed some concern about charter schools that, while functioning well, "are dominated by talented, charismatic leaders who may not be easily replaced."

While noting that "some schools have done a remarkable job of documenting their accomplishments on alternative behavioral measures that may be more authentic than norm-referenced, group administered tests," the reviewers reported serious concern about the overall state of reporting and data collection. They found that most schools, even those functioning effectively, were not producing consistent data that would document their effectiveness.

Special Education Review. As a matter of federal law and the PCSB charter, each school is required to follow the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Although each state education agency is formally charged with ascertaining compliance with the Act, PCSB has conducted formal special education reviews each of the past two years in relation to the Annual Performance Review in order to assure that schools are following the terms of their charters.

This year, specialists examined IEP quality, vendor records and teacher schedules, and sought evidence of due process in each school. According to a summary report, compliance was excellent in the area of confidentiality of information. Schools were generally compliant in the areas of service provider certification, scheduling, and current evaluations, but needed additional work in the areas of individualized education programs (IEPs), protection in evaluation procedures, and providing services in the least restrictive environment possible. However, the reviewers noted that many violations in these areas are the result of incomplete or missing information from the sending schools. The report also noted that "with a few exceptions, IEPs appeared to be up to date and parental participation at IEP meetings has been well documented." The reviewers suggested closer review of staffing patterns for special education and the delivery of services via the inclusion model. PCSB will use this information to develop intensive training sessions focusing on the areas where schools need improvement.

Operations Review

In addition to a pre-opening visit that assures readiness of first-year schools to open, all schools undergo an annual Operations Review that measures the effectiveness of administrative practices including enrollment, discipline, employment, and record keeping.

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The Accountability Process

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This year's review was conducted by a team of consultants who are former school administrators. In general, the results were very positive. Summaries showed that either "most schools" or "all schools" rated "exemplary" in management of student records, staff information, and other operational items. A comparison of the Operations Reviews in 1999 and 2001 reveals that in 1999, 3 of 9 schools (33%) reviewed received a rating of "exemplary" in 80% or more of the areas of review. In 2001, 14 of 19 schools (74%) received a rating of "exemplary" in 80% or more of the areas of review.

- **Note:** *Full copies of all of the reviews described in this report, as well as school accountability plans, are available at the PCSB office.*

REGULAR REPORTING:

Throughout the country, the great majority of failed charter schools have succumbed to financial rather than academic problems. In order to identify any issues that could threaten the viability of a charter school and endanger public funds, the Board requires monthly financial reports. An accountant examines these reports, and schools are asked to clarify any lapses in bookkeeping. This year, the Board established a policy allowing schools to move to quarterly reporting once they have demonstrated consistency and stability in financial reporting.

On November 1, beginning with schools' second year of operation, every school must submit the Annual Report required by the DC School Reform Act, detailing their progress meeting academic and non-academic goals. This report must include an independent financial audit of the previous fiscal year. Again this year, each school overseen by PCSB provided a clean financial audit.

ACCOUNTABILITY MATTERS:

Fifth-Year Revocation Criteria:

The DC School Reform Act requires that the Board review each charter school every five years to determine if it should be revoked for failure "to meet the goals and academic achievement expectations set forth in the charter." In March 2001, PCSB released a draft version of criteria for fifth-year revocation for public comment. A public hearing was held on March 29th. After extensive consideration of feedback received, the criteria have been revised and are moving toward final approval.

School Performance Reports:

Since parental decisions to enroll in charter schools constitute the ultimate form of "market accountability," one of PCSB's priorities is to make reliable school performance information available to the public. In August 2000, the Board published its first School Performance Reports including more than 30 data sets about each school's mission, academic performance, and charter compliance. The Reports can be found on the Board's website (www.dcpubliccharter.com), and a new set will be published as soon as SAT9 data for the 2000-2001 school year are finalized. In addition, the Board plans streamlined print versions suitable for distribution to parents without Web access.

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The Accountability Process

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SAT9 "Gain Scores" PCSB is in the vanguard of a new national movement toward more effective evaluation of student performance. By examining actual gains of students who move from grade to grade within school, the Board can determine the "value-added" effect of that school. "Gain scores" were included in the Board's first School Performance Reports; this year's analysis will also include data on students scoring at or above the national average.

Preliminary Spring 2001 Outcomes: At the time of the publication of this report, NCE Gain Scores were not available. While it is preferable to measure student progress using gain scores, some preliminary outcomes can be based on schools' NCE Mean Scores. These are norm-referenced scores, based on a scale of 100, where a score of 50 is the center of the curve, or the "normal" score.

This year, the majority (two-thirds) of PCSB's second and third year schools showed an increase in NCE Mean Scores in both reading and mathematics. All second-year schools increased their NCE Mean Scores in both reading and mathematics. Three of seven third-year schools increased their NCE Mean Scores in both reading and mathematics, and two increased in one category but not the other.

RECOGNITION FOR THE PCSB ACCOUNTABILITY PROCESS:

The Board is proud that its practices have been recognized and emulated in a number of ways:

- The Colorado chartering authority has adapted the scoring rubrics developed by the Board for its application process.
- Board Chair Josephine Baker met with Minnesota officials to advise them in the creation of a new, independent state-level charter-authorizing agency similar to the PCSB.
- An April, 2001 report by the DC Appleseed Center, *Charter Schools in the District of Columbia: Improving Systems for Accountability, Autonomy, and Competition*, stated that "[C]harter operators believe the PCSB to be focused on the best interests of students. They reported that the PCSB reviews applications and monitors schools carefully and focuses on charter school's academic plans rather than the more bureaucratic aspects of school governance... Overall, charter operators expressed to DC Appleseed the belief that the PCSB embraces the philosophy that schools should be given autonomy but also must be held accountable to agreed-upon educational and operational plans."
- *A Study of Charter School Accountability*, a June 2001 report from the U.S. Department of Education, notes: "In Washington DC, two groups are authorized to sponsor charter schools and their contrasting approaches show what a difference an authorizer can make ... [T]he DC Public Charter School Board has promoted applications, reviewed them carefully, matched school operators with sources of financial, managerial, and educational advice, and carefully overseen the schools once they were in operation."

Supporting School Success

"Chartering Success" not only means holding schools accountable for results; it also means supporting them in a variety of ways including training, technology development, and clarification of District and federal policy. Here are some of the PCSB's current efforts in this area:

- **Strengthening Boards:** The Annual Performance Review found that numerous charter schools lack Boards with a sufficient variety of expertise and skills. Further, in some schools there is not a clear understanding among Board members of their roles in relation to the school.

The quality of charter school trustee boards has been a consistent concern of PCSB. Last fall, the Board provided governance training for more than 80 charter school trustees, administrators, and business managers in four facilitated sessions. Over 77% percent of the attendees rated the sessions "Very Good" or "Excellent."

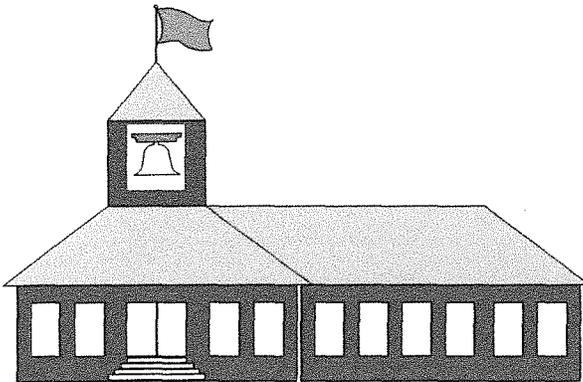
The Board also provided a separate workshop for nearly 30 school trustees, administrators, and business managers on financial accountability and reporting, acquainting them with the elements of a sound financial control system, and also covering how the Board's reporting system operates.

The DC Charter School Resource Center has provided invaluable service to PCSB schools' boards by providing qualified candidates from the District's business community. PCSB plans to encourage its schools to take advantage of the support provided by the Resource Center around strengthening trustee boards.

- **Advocating for Facilities** One of the biggest challenges facing charter schools in DC is the lack of adequate, affordable facilities. Board Chair Josephine Baker testified on this problem before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on the District of Columbia on March 29, 2001:

In the past year alone, six operating schools overseen by our Board moved into new or expanded facilities. Four new schools opened. We have approved three new charters for the coming school year; two will be in temporary quarters for the first year and one will occupy its own building. At least eight of our existing schools are actively looking for new quarters.

Some charter schools will remain small, but most want to grow — meaning that they'll need not only classroom space but cafeterias, science labs, and playing fields. We're fortunate to have a facilities allotment in the funding formula that roughly matches DCPS' per-pupil capital spending — but must have help on the supply side as well.



In June, the Mayor released his decision about the use of excess DCPS buildings. At that time, of the 20 buildings not already disposed, only the former Keene school was made available for the exclusive bidding of public charter schools. The Board continues to push for more emphatic support in this area, urging District leaders to find financial and political solutions that will make more of the excess DCPS stock available for charter school use -- and identifying other District-owned buildings and land that could be made available for charter school use.

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Supporting School Success (continued)

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- ***New Opportunities for Students:*** This year, charter school students participated in a variety of competitions and programs that were not available to those students in previous years, made possible by the efforts of PCSB staff and other leaders in the charter school community. For example, charter school students competed in the citywide *Washington Informer's Spelling Bee* and an art competition (celebrated at an Open House held at PCSB Headquarters). Students also participated in the *City is Mine Youth Summit*, which enables students to provide input in order to improve DC programming for youth, and the *Close Up Foundation's* special course on government policy development. In addition, PCSB helped to provide charter school students with accurate information about accessing the newly created *DC Tuition Assistance Program*, which allows students residing in DC to pay in-state tuition at state universities throughout the nation.
 - ***Early Childhood Conference:*** PCSB is collaborating with the DC Board of Education and DCPS to organize the citywide Early Childhood Conference mandated by the FY2001 DC Appropriations Act. The conference is tentatively scheduled for September 14-15, 2001.
 - ***Accreditation:*** All DC public charter schools are required by law to gain accreditation, but none have so far. In part, this is because mainstream accrediting bodies don't work with schools until they are well established, and many will not work with charter schools. The Board has been gathering information on alternative strategies and has partnered with California's Charter School Development Center in a proposal to the US Department of Education to create and test a nationally recognized, outcomes-based accrediting process for public charter schools.
 - ***Focus on Technology:*** The Board is investigating a web-based data collection system that all schools could use for reporting and evaluation purposes. PCSB has also partnered with DCPS, the DC Board of Education, and the Archdiocese of Washington in a proposal to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation that will fund technology training for school administrators in all three sectors. This year, the Board also began reviewing schools' E-Rate Technology Plans, and has so far approved plans for the School for Arts in Learning Public Charter School and Cesar Chavez Public Charter High School.
 - ***Policies and Procedures Manual:*** Since last summer, PCSB has distributed copies of a new Policies and Procedures manual to all lead administrators, business managers, and board chairs of its schools. The Manual provides "shelf-ready" guidance and resources to assist schools, including sections on technical-assistance resources, procurement law, and "nuts and bolts" information such as how to notify the media of school closings on snow days. In addition, the Manual provides schools with schedules and frameworks for the Board's own monitoring activities.
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Board Operations: Highlights of 2000-01



- **NACSA:** The newly formed National Association of Charter School Authorizers, created to identify "best practices" in the emerging field of charter-school oversight, held its first annual conference in June. PCSB Board Chair Josephine Baker serves as Vice Chair, elected at NACSA's organizational meeting in August 2000.
- Mrs. Baker was also honored at the Charter School Resource Center's Major Achievement in Charters (MAC) Awards with the **2001 Award for Community Support**.
- **New Board Member.** On February 2, 2001 Mayor Williams appointed Dr. Dora Marcus of the U.S. Department of Education to a four-year term on the Board. Dr. Marcus is a program evaluator for the Fund for Improvement of Postsecondary Education, and has also helped set up evaluation programs for DC nonprofits and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.
- **Board Members Re-appointed:** Board Chair Josephine Baker and Vice Chair Thomas Loughlin were re-appointed to the Board by Mayor Williams (nominated by former Secretary of Education Richard Riley). Board member Hope Hill has been nominated by Secretary of Education Rod Paige and awaits re-appointment.
- **New Committee Structure for the Board:** In February the Board created a set of committees to increase efficiency of Board actions and to ensure that Board members and staff work closely together in all areas. The Committees are:
 - Schools: BB Otero, Dora Marcus
 - Technology: Bernie Walker, Hope Hill, Dora Marcus
 - Finance: Tom Loughlin, Joe Horning
 - Personnel: Bernie Walker, Jo Baker
- **New Location:** In August, 2000, the Board moved from its downtown location to new offices in the M.A. Winter Building at 1436 U Street, NW -- the heart of the burgeoning "New U" neighborhood. PCSB's new location is served by the U Street/Cardozo stop on Metro's Green Line, and features flexible space to accommodate the Board's frequent public meetings.
- **New staff members** include Linda McKay, Education Specialist, a veteran DCPS educator and former principal of Options Public Charter School; and Deborah Spitz, School Performance Analyst, an attorney and former staff member at the US Department of Education and DCPS. Administrative staff Carmelita Pratt and Chathan Smoot also joined the PCSB team.
- **Contract Review.** In January, as mandated under new amendments to the DC School Reform Act, the Board took over from the Financial Authority the responsibility for reviewing all school contracts over \$25,000. To ensure that each contract receives a thorough review, the Board has utilized the expertise of the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers, the accounting firm of Bond Beebe, and members of the National Executive Service Corps. Since January, the Board has reviewed 18 contracts.

Board Operations: Official Actions Taken in 2000-01

August, 2000:

- The Board approved a \$2100 annual fee to the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA).
- The Board voted on charter school applications. Thurgood Marshall Academy was approved with conditions, and three others were given first-stage clearance. Eight applications were denied approval.

October, 2000:

- The Board approved a request for enrollment increase from 600 to 640 by Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School.
- The Board approved a request to add a grade by the Sasha Bruce Public Charter School.
- The Board approved the Technology Plan for the School For Arts in Learning's E-rate application.
- The Board approved procedures to implement the DC Freedom of Information Act.
- The Board authorized amendments to charters, requiring all schools to submit quarterly Board of Trustees minutes.

December, 2000:

- The Board declined to approve revisions to the Cesar Chavez Accountability Plan.
- Meridian Public Charter School was placed on probation on December 18, 2001. The Board specifically noted concerns about the improper maintenance of special education records, failure to provide timely reports, and failure to obtain licenses and permits required under its charter. The Board established conditions for removal of probation, including the development of a special education service delivery model, effective delivery of the Calvert curriculum model, and the consolidation of all programs and activities at the location specified in the charter.
- The Board delegated authority to the Finance Committee for the review and approval of contracts.

February, 2001:

- The Board approved two charter schools to open in the fall. One school was denied approval.
- The Board reviewed Meridian's probation status and continued the probation.
- The Board voted to release fifth-year revocation criteria for public comment.
- The Board decided to send a Notice of Concern to ARE Public Charter School, detailing concerns in the areas of attendance, financial reporting, record-keeping, and staff evaluation policies. (Note: ARE responded to these concerns and no further action has been required.)

Board Operations: Official Actions Taken in 2000-01

May, 2001:

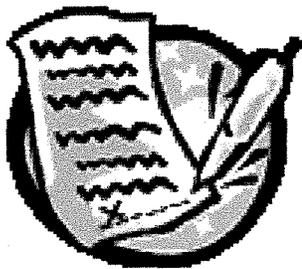
- The Board approved the Accountability Plan of SouthEast Academy Public Charter School.
- The Board approved the revisions to the Accountability Plan of Cesar Chavez Public Charter School.
- The Board approved discipline policies for 8 schools.
- The Board approved the quarterly reporting status of Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School and SEED Public Charter School.
- The Board approved the request of Marriott Hospitality Public Charter School to change to LEA status for special education.

June, 2001:

- The Board approved Accountability Plans for Capital City, New School, Blow-Pierce, and Meridian.
- The Board approved revisions to the Accountability Plans of SEED and Carlos Rosario.
- The Board reviewed the probation status of Meridian and continued the probation.

July, 2001:

- The Board terminated the Meridian probation.
- The Board approved the Technology Plan for Cesar Chavez' E-rate application.



Contract Report

In response to a request from the DC Council's Committee on Education, Libraries, and Recreation, the Board is including here a digest of its contracting activities in relation to the requirements of the Equal Opportunity for Local, Small, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Act of 1998.

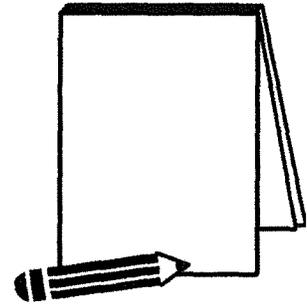
The total dollar amount awarded to local, disadvantaged, and small business enterprises from July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001 was \$167,836.33. This is 86 percent of the total amount awarded.

For more details, contact the DC Public Charter School Board.

2000 Application Process

In June 2000, PCSB received twelve applications. Of those:

- One was approved with conditions – Thurgood Marshall Academy.
- Three were given first-stage clearance: KIPP DC/K.E.Y. Academy, Tri-Community Public Charter School, and Beloved Community Public Charter School.
- KIPP DC/K.E.Y. Academy and Tri-Community were approved with conditions, and Beloved Community was denied approval in the second-stage review.



Thurgood Marshall Academy, founded by law school students in Georgetown University, is founded upon the belief articulated by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall that all children have the right to a first-class education and the opportunity to reach their full potential. This law-themed public high school will work with the America's Choice School Design to provide a comprehensive high school curriculum that emphasizes critical thinking skills and democratic awareness. Students will learn substantive information about laws, human rights, and conflict resolution. The school will open this fall with a ninth grade class of 80 students and will eventually serve grades 9-12.



KIPP DC/K.E.Y. Academy is a member of the KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program) Network Schools and will adapt KIPP's model to meet the needs of students and their families, primarily in the area East of the Anacostia River in Wards 6,7, and 8. Students in KIPP will receive an intensive foundation in core academic subjects with an emphasis on developing the knowledge and skills necessary for success in school and life. Students will attend school from 7:35 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the week, for four hours every Saturday, and for one month during the summer. The school will open with a fifth grade class of 50 students and will eventually serve grades 5-8.



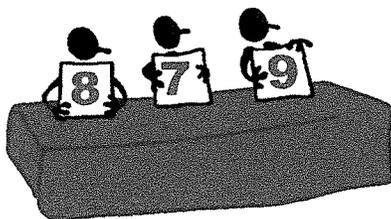
The **Tri-Community Public Charter School**, which will open in fall 2002, will serve students from 3 years old to grade 5. The mission of the school is to provide a rigorous academic education with a career option and enable students to develop a sound ethical framework in a supportive, caring community. The school will be standards-based, working with the America's Choice school reform model. One unique aspect of the program is that following third grade, every teacher will specialize in two subjects and receive intensive training needed to implement a strong academic program. The school will provide comprehensive services for special education and limited English proficient students.

In addition, two schools approved in 2000, the Sasha Bruce Public Charter School and the Howard Road Academy, will open this fall.

2001 Application Process

Application guidelines were released March 5, with an application deadline of June 4, 2001.

- Applications currently under consideration are:
 - The Renaissance Academy
 - Chancellor Capitol Hill Academy
 - City Lights Public Charter School
 - The Ernest E. Just Public Charter School
 - Eagle Academy Public Charter School
- Public hearings on these applications were held July 10, 2001.
- The Board expects to make first-stage decisions in August.



Information Required by the DC School Reform Act

1) *A list of the members of the eligible chartering authority and the addresses of such members.*

Josephine Baker, Chair
5061 MacArthur Blvd. NW
Washington, DC 20016

Joseph F. Horning
2323 Wyoming Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Beatriz "BB" Otero
1769 Lanier Place, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Thomas P. Loughlin, Vice Chair
4803 Foxhall Crescent, NW
Washington, DC 20007

Dora Marcus
2102 R Street NW
Washington, DC 20008

J.B. "Bernie" Walker
3707 Bangor Street, SE
Washington, DC 20020

Hope Hill
425 Emerson Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011

2) *A list of the dates and places of each meeting of the eligible chartering authority during the year preceding the report.*

- August 8, 2000: Board Meeting, PCSB Headquarters, 1436 U Street, NW, Suite 401.
- October 10, 2000: Board Meeting, PCSB Headquarters
- December 18, 2000: Board Meeting, PCSB Headquarters
- February 26: Board Meeting, PCSB Headquarters
- March 29: Public Hearing on Fifth-Year Revocation Criteria, Maya Angelou Public Charter School.
- May 21: Board Meeting, PCSB Headquarters
- June 18: Board Meeting, PCSB Headquarters
- July 10: Public Hearing on Applications for New Charter Schools, True Reformer Building, 1200 U Street NW.
- July 16: Board Meeting, PCSB Headquarters

Information Required by the DC School Reform Act (continued)

3) *The number of petitions received by the eligible chartering authority for the conversion of a DC public school or a private or independent school, and for the creation of a new school as a public charter school.*

- In the 2000 and 2001 cycles, no petitions were received for the conversion of a DCPS or private or independent school.
- In the 2000 cycle, 12 applications were received for the creation of new public charter schools. Three were approved. Two are scheduled to open in September 2001, and one is scheduled to open in September 2002.
- In the 2001 cycle, five applications were received for the creation of new public charter schools. All are currently under consideration. The Board expects to announce first-stage decisions in August.

4) *The number of petitions that were approved and the number that were denied, as well as a summary of the reasons for which such petitions were denied.*

- In the 2000 cycle, nine applications were denied. These decisions were made by the Board on the basis of information from extensive technical reviews, public hearing records, and other information gathered by staff at the Board's request.
- In the 2001 cycle, all five applications are still under review.

5) *A description of any new charters issued by the eligible chartering authority during the year preceding the report.*

- Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter School
- KIPP DC/K.E.Y Academy Public Charter School
- Tri-Community Public Charter School

6) *A description of any charters renewed by the eligible chartering authority during the year preceding the report.*

No charters were renewed by the Board this year. The first schools chartered by the Board opened in September 1998 and will be eligible for renewal in 2003.

7) *A description of any charters revoked by the eligible chartering authority during the year preceding the report.*

No charters were revoked by the Board this year.

8) *A description of any charters refused renewal by the eligible chartering authority during the year preceding the report.*

No charters were refused renewal ; no applications for renewal are expected until 2002 (see #6 above).

9) *Any recommendations the eligible chartering authority has concerning ways to improve the administration of the public charter schools.*

PCSB has concerns about the availability of facilities for charter school use. See page 7 for further details.



DC Public Charter School Board

District of Columbia Public Charter
School Board
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"We Charter Success"

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- *The DC Public Charter School Board was created in 1996 and opened its first nine schools in 1998-99. Since then, we have reviewed 69 applications and chartered 16 schools.*
- *Our student population continues to rise. In 2001-02, PCSB schools served 6,412 students, an increase of over 140 percent over last year's total! This fall, our schools estimate enrollment of 8,740.*
- *Four additional schools will open this summer and fall: the Howard Road Academy (grades K-5), KIPP DC/ K.E.Y. Academy (grade 5), the Sasha Bruce Public Charter School (grade 6), and the Thurgood Marshall Academy (grades 9-12).*

In Memoriam: Brenda Strong Nixon (1943-2001)

Brenda Strong Nixon, Executive Director of Associates for Renewal in Education, Inc (ARE) and founder of the ARE Public Charter School, was a dedicated and committed educator who served the youth of this city for over 30 years. As Executive Director of ARE, she provided educational services and public service to youth through the development and provision of services in the Dupont Group Homes, the Celebration of Life and House Schools child development programs, the Developmental Before and After Schools program, the DC History Project and many more service and educational projects within ARE.

Mrs. Nixon envisioned a high school that would serve a group of youth whose needs had not been met in the traditional public high schools. Thus, the ARE Public Charter School was created to serve pre- and post-adjudicated youth. The mission and delivery of this educational program that allow a group of high school students who might never have had opportunities for success is a testament to her will and commitment to the youth of our city.

Her energy, her vision and her strong commitment will be remembered.

