

NEWS RELEASE

DC PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

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Board Votes To Revoke the Charter of New School for Enterprise and Development

Washington, DC: During its March 20, 2006 meeting, the D.C. Public Charter School Board (the Board) voted to proceed with the revocation of New School for Enterprise and Development Public Charter School's (New School) charter. The school currently serves four hundred forty-one students, in grades nine through twelve, at its location on Bladensburg Road in Northeast Washington.

New School had completed five years of operation in June 2005, and underwent its charter review this past fall. The Board had voted to propose revocation of the school's charter during its January 23, 2006 meeting, because the school failed to meet academic and governance performance standards as outlined in the Board's charter review framework. An informal public hearing was conducted on March 6, 2006, and the Board is required to issue its final decision, in writing, within 30 days of the conclusion of the hearing.

Board member Will Marshall motioned to proceed with New School's revocation, stating, "There has been a pattern of chronic under performance. We owe it to the students and to the charter movement to be tough-minded about this. After all, it is a performance contract, and [New School] has failed to fulfill its part of the contract." Board chair Tom Nida added, "This board has engaged in more discussion over a longer period of time with this school than with any other school we have dealt with. It is a situation that has had our serious attention." Board members Tony Colón, Dora Marcus, and Lawrence Patrick also shared their thoughts before the motion passed with four votes, and one abstention. The school will complete the current school year, and officially close its doors on June 30, 2006.

The D.C. Public Charter School Board currently oversees 34 schools on 42 campuses which currently serve over 13,000 students. Six new schools are scheduled to open under the Board's oversight in fall 2006.

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