



TO: Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

FROM: Tess Stovall, Executive Director, Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

DATE: October 12, 2021

SUBJECT: Executive Director Updates

### Staffing

- Since the July 2021 meeting, we have hired the following individuals:
  - Fiscal Programs Manager: Gomer Pascual
  - Director of Authorizing: Beth Figueroa
- With the passage of the ASD Exit legislation, the Charter Commission received five additional positions to support the increase work and responsibilities. The following roles are the priority hires over the next six months:
  - Special Populations Coordinator
  - Data Analyst
  - Deputy Director of Authorizing

### Charter Agreement Amendments

- One authorized charter school, Cornerstone Prep School, submitted an application to amend their charter agreement to begin with only kindergarten in School Year 2022-23 rather than kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade due to available facilities.
- The Commission is required to review and act on any amendment petition within 60 calendar days of receipt of the petition, and that deadline is November 30, 2021.
- The Commission will need to call a special-called meeting to act on this petition within the required timeline.

### LEA/Authorization Overview

- Successes
  - All four schools have been open for over two months serving just under 2,000 students.
  - Staff is supporting the district operations successfully across a team of four and thinking about scale on as the portfolio grows.
  - Staff has confirmed that all staff in schools have a DCS background check conducted by the Charter Commission.
  - August and September BEP payments have been made on time, and first federal grant reimbursements from schools will come in during October.
- Challenges
  - Schools have struggled to be fully staffed with appropriately licensed and endorsed teachers.
  - COVID-19 has resulted in schools needing to isolate and/or quarantine staff and students which has stretched capacity.



### ASD Implementation Updates

- Letters of Intent are due to the Commission on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Applications are due on November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Staff will begin application review process in November, and recommendations regarding the applications will be brought to the Commission at its January 2022 meeting.

### 2022 Legislative Session

- Staff are preparing for the upcoming legislative session by both finalizing internal processes for handling bill analysis and fiscal notes and connecting with stakeholders regarding any legislation that may impact our work.
- Chase Ingle, Director of External Affairs, will update the Commission regularly on the latest information from the General Assembly.