



TO: Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

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

DATE: February 5, 2021

SUBJECT: Executive Director Updates

Operational Updates

Staffing

- I have hired an individual, Melanie Harrell, to serve as the Director of Finance and Operations. She started with the Charter Commission on January 19, 2021. In addition to supporting the finance and budget responsibilities of the Commission, she will lead the setup of our LEA functions including hiring two coordinators to support the LEA work.

Office Space

- The Charter Commission acquired two additional cubicles as of January 1, 2021 to accommodate new staff. The Charter Commission currently has the following office space: two offices, three cubicles, and a file room. The Charter Commission staff has access to conference rooms in the building.

Commission Website

- Chase Ingle worked with the website contractor to build out individual pages for the Commission's authorized charter schools. Examples of the pages for [Nashville Collegiate Prep](#) and [Cornerstone Prep School](#) are linked. The pages for the additional schools will be built out as the charter agreements are transitioned.

Pre-Opening Process and Charter Agreement Transition Process

- Charter Commission staff have partnered with State Board of Education staff to kick off the pre-opening process with Nashville Collegiate Prep and Cornerstone Prep School. We will meet monthly with representatives from these schools to track progress toward opening.
- Charter Commission staff met with all operators with existing charter agreements with the State Board of Education (Green Dot, KIPP Nashville, and Rocketship Education) to discuss the transfers of the charter agreements. All transfer agreements will be brought to the Commission at the April 2021 meeting.

State Board Site Visits

- The State Board is conducting its annual site visits of its authorized charter schools in February, and the Charter Commission staff will participate in these site visits to gain an understanding of the performance of the schools in SY2020-21 in advance of the transfer process.



Commission Member Vacancy

- Chairman Griscom and I continue to be in regular contact with the Governor's office regarding the appointment of the 9th member to ensure it remains a priority to fill.

Tennessee General Assembly

- Chase Ingle, in his role as Director of External Affairs, is prioritizing outreach to members of the General Assembly to introduce them to the work of the Charter Commission and to be a resource as they need information.
- Governor Lee's State of the State is set for Monday, February 8, and the Governor will also release his FY22 proposed budget. At that point the General Assembly will begin its budget process, and we will have further information regarding the proposed FY22 budget for the Charter Commission.
- The Charter Commission will be in front of the House Government Operations Committee and Senate Government Operations Committee for sunset hearings at some point during the 112th General Assembly. We will notify the Charter Commission when those dates are set.

Renewal Appeal Updates

- On January 26, 2021, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools and Shelby County Schools voted on their renewal applications. The following renewal applications were approved by the districts for an additional ten-year term:
 - East End Prep, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
 - STEM Prep, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
 - Nashville Prep, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
 - Liberty Collegiate and Republic High School, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
 - Cameron College Prep, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
 - Memphis Business Academy Elementary School, Shelby County Schools
 - KIPP Memphis High School, Shelby County Schools
 - Power Center Academy High School, Shelby County Schools
- Therefore, the Charter Commission will not receive any renewal appeals this cycle.