

MAURY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION'S RESPONSE IN SUPPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION- MAURY CLASSICAL ACADEMY

The Maury County Board of Education (the "Board") concurs with the recommendation of the Executive Director of the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission as to the amended application of the American Classical Academy (the "Applicant") in Maury County, Tennessee. American Classical Academy's application is the first charter school application received in Maury County. The Board sought to provide a fair and balanced process for the review of the application, and spent many hours both as a committee, and as a full Board in analyzing the information submitted and questioning the Applicant.

The Board appreciates the Applicant's willingness to serve Maury County, and believes in general terms that its educational model is sound. However, the Board maintains that there are several areas in which the amended application fails to meet or exceed the Department of Education's scoring rubric. Further, the Board was unable to determine that approval of the amended charter application is in the best interest of the community to be served, because no specific community was identified. Maury County is very diverse from a socio-economic standpoint. The Board was asked to assume a "one-size fits all" viewpoint and make a generalized determination that a school which could meet the needs of students in Columbia could also serve the interests of more rural areas of the county. Similarly, the Applicant fails to identify who would hold several key leadership positions within the school. This omission is particularly glaring in light of the fact that the Applicant has no other operational models in Tennessee.

The Board does not believe that the approval of the amended charter application would be in the best interest of either the LEA, or the citizens of Maury County. The Board appreciates the assistance provided by the staff of the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission, and will incorporate the comments of the Executive Director in its review of future applications.