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For more information regarding the content of this material, please contact the Charter Schools Division by phone at 916-322-6029 or by e-mail at charters@cde.ca.gov.



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December 3, 2018

Via Hand Delivery

Lisa Constancio, Director
Charter Schools Division
California Department of Education
1430 N Street, Suite 5401
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Description of Changes to Ridgecrest Charter School Charter Renewal Petition Necessary for Appeal to the State Board of Education

The Ridgecrest Charter School (“RCS” or the “Charter School”) charter renewal petition was submitted to the Sierra Sands Unified School District (“SSUSD” or the “District”) on August 16, 2018. On September 13, 2018, the District Board held a public hearing for the RCS charter renewal petition. The District Board voted to deny the renewal petition at a special meeting on October 11, 2018.

The Charter School respectfully submits its charter renewal petition to the State Board of Education (the “SBE”). Pursuant to Title 5, California Code of Regulations Section 11966.6(b)(4), we have listed below the relevant and appropriate changes to the charter petition necessary to reflect the State Board of Education as the chartering entity.

Chartering Authority

Any text referring to the Sierra Sands Unified School District, SSUSD, or the District as the chartering authority would be revised to read “State Board of Education” or “SBE,” or the “California Department of Education” or “CDE” as the oversight agency.

Legal Updates

RCS will comply with, and will update its charter to reflect, all applicable changes to law that were signed into law after submission of the charter renewal petition and will become effective on January 1, 2019 or July 1, 2019, including, but not limited to, the following:

- AB 1871, requiring charter schools to provide each needy student with one nutritionally adequate free or reduced-price meal during each schoolday;
- AB 2601, requiring charter schools to comply with the California Healthy Youth Act;
- AB 1747, requiring charter schools to adopt and annually update a comprehensive school safety plan; and

*Description of Changes to Ridgecrest Charter School Charter Renewal Petition Necessary for Appeal to the State
Board of Education
December 3, 2018
Page 2 of 2*

- AB 406, prohibiting a petitioner that submits an establishment or renewal charter petition or material revision application from operating as or by a for-profit corporation, for-profit educational management organization, or for-profit charter management organization.

Element Eight: Admissions Policies and Procedures

Pursuant to instructions from the California School Finance Authority dated October 8, 2018 and October 22, 2018, after RCS's renewal petition submission to the District, requiring all charter petitions approved or renewed on or after January 1, 2018 to include preference in admissions language for purposes of the SB 740 Charter School Facility Grant Program, RCS shall replace the admission preferences on page 81 of the charter with the following:

1. Siblings of students admitted to or attending the Charter School
2. Children of Charter School teachers and staff (up to 10% of total enrollment capacity)
3. Residents of the Sierra Sands Unified School District
4. Students who are currently enrolled in the Faller Elementary School and students who reside in the Faller Elementary School attendance area (for purposes of the SB 740 Charter School Facility Grant Program)
5. All other applicants

Alternatively, if the CDE and SBE request a material revision to reflect this change, RCS will submit a material revision to the renewal petition consistent with the above description.

* * *

We look forward to working with the SBE and the California Department of Education during consideration of the charter petition. Please feel free to contact me via email (steven.martinez@rcharter.org) or phone (760-375-1010) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Steve Martinez, Ed.D.
Executive Director
Ridgecrest Charter School