

**DRAFT**

**VIA EMAIL AND CERTIFIED MAIL**

April 24, 2021

Mark Goodson  
1122 Live Oak Dr.  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34988

Dear Mr. Goodson:

The SUNNY County School Board wishes to thank ABC Charter Academy for applying to become a SUNNY County Charter School. The ABC Charter Academy charter application was evaluated utilizing the Florida Charter School Application Instrument, which includes multiple sections for consideration. Please note that the application was distributed to a knowledgeable team of reviewers who independently evaluated the document utilizing the application requirements of the Florida Model Application. The Charter Application Review Team is comprised of key District personnel, as well as, community representatives. In addition, one (1) external evaluator reviewed the charter application. This team spent numerous hours reviewing the charter application. Moreover, the School Board members were presented with a comprehensive review of the applicant's strengths and weaknesses to assist them in making an informed decision.

On April 23, 2019, the SUNNY County School Board voted to deny the ABC Charter Academy charter application based on the specific deficiencies in the application outlined herein and those outlined in the Charter Application Review Team evaluation document, which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference as is set forth in full text. These reasons unequivocally demonstrate that the School's application was appropriately judged not to have met the statutory standards for a Florida Charter School.

Pursuant to the Florida Department of Education's Charter Application Process, the Board shall approve applicants that demonstrate quality in all components of the application process. *An application cannot have significant weaknesses in some components of the application and still be judged to have met the standard for approval.*

**Please accept this correspondence and any accompanying/attached documentation, which is hereby incorporated by this reference, as notice pursuant to §1002.33(6)(b)(3), F.S. of the specific reasons for denial of the charter application.**

**Specific reasons based on good cause for denial of the charter application include:**

1. Pursuant to §1002.33(6)(b)(2), Florida Statutes, the applicant fails to adequately include an expense projection that includes full accounting of the costs of operation to ensure fiscal responsibility.
2. Pursuant to §1002.33(6)(a)(5), Florida Statutes, the applicant fails to provide an adequate annual financial plan for each year requested by the charter for operation of the school for up to five (5) years.
3. Pursuant to §1002.33(6)(a)(2), Florida Statutes, the applicant fails to provide a detailed curriculum plan that illustrates how students will be provided services to attain the Sunshine State Standards.
4. Pursuant to §1002.33(6)(a)(3), Florida Statutes, the applicant fails to provide goals and objectives for improving student learning and measuring that improvement. The proposed goals and objectives do not indicate how much academic improvement students are expected to show each year.
5. The standard for approval is set forth in the charter application evaluation instrument and Florida Statutes §1002.33. The applicant does not meet the standard for:

**I. Educational Plan**

- Section 2: Target Population and Student Body

The applicant fails to provide a clear description of the students the charter school intends to serve.

- Section 3: Educational Design

The applicant fails to provide a clear and coherent educational program design.

- Section 4: Curriculum Plan

The applicant fails to provide an emphasis on reading. The proposed schedule does not provide ninety (90) minutes of uninterrupted reading block, as required by the Florida State Board Rule 6A-6.053 (K-12 Comprehensive Research Based Reading Plan). Moreover, the applicant does not hire sufficient staff for middle school reading/language arts.

- Section 6: Exceptional Students

The applicant fails to provide a detailed and comprehensive plan for serving exceptional students.

- Section 7: English Language Learners

The applicant fails to provide a comprehensive and compelling plan for educating English Language Learner students. The applicant does not provide detailed plans for monitoring and evaluating the progress and success of ELL students. Moreover, the applicant fails to describe the staffing plan to serve these students.

## **II. Organizational Plan**

- Section 10: Governance

The applicant does not demonstrate the capacity to govern a charter school in SUNNY County in accordance to §1002.33(7)(a)(15), F.S. The applicant fails to identify key skills, areas of expertise, and constituencies that are or will be represented on the governing board.

- Section 11: Management and Staffing

The applicant fails to provide a viable and adequate staffing plan. The organizational charts do not clearly and appropriately delineate lines of authority and reporting.

- Parents and Community Involvement

The applicant does not provide any existing evidence of demand for the school.

## **III. Business Plan**

- Section 17: Transportation Services

The applicant fails to provide a reasonable transportation plan that will serve all eligible students and will not be a barrier to access for students residing within a reasonable distance of the school.

- Section 18: Food Service

The applicant does not provide a food service plan that will serve all students and make particular provisions for those students who may qualify for free or reduced price lunch.

- Section 20: Budget

The applicant fails to provide a realistic assessment of projected sources of revenue and expenses that ensure the financial viability of the school. The proposed revenue is dependent upon sources that are not guaranteed. Moreover, the proposed budget for the five (5) years of operation is based on considerable increases in FTE revenue, which is unrealistic. Consequently, the budget is not solvent for all years of the proposed operation.

### **Addendum A: Replication**

The applicant fails to provide evidence that the school or model to be replicated demonstrates academic, organizational, and financial success.

There are numerous sections of the charter application that partially meet the standard, which contribute to the overall recommendation to deny the charter application. Please refer to the identified areas of concern for each of these sections in the attached evaluation document. These sections include: School Culture and Discipline; Human Resources and Employment; Facilities; School Safety and Security; and Financial Management and Oversight.

The SUNNY County School Board encourages you to reconsider your application in light of these materials and to work to improve and resubmit the application during the next application cycle. However, pursuant to §1002.33(6)(c)(1), F.S., you may appeal the School Board's decision to the State Board of Education no later than thirty (30) calendar days from the receipt of this letter.

Please address any questions regarding this matter to the SUNNY County School Board, Office of Charter Schools.

Sincerely,

Enclosure: DOE Charter Application Evaluation Document

cc School Board Members  
Dave Smith, Superintendent  
Bob Dole, School Board Attorney  
Charter Application Review Committee  
Florida Department of Education