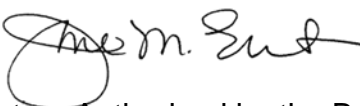





TO: P-12 Education Committee
FROM: Jhone M. Ebert 
SUBJECT: Revision to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents
DATE: May 9, 2016
AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Regents approve the proposed revisions to the charters of the following schools authorized by the Board of Regents?

1. Young Women's Collegiate Preparatory Charter School of Rochester
2. Newburgh Preparatory Charter High School

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by New York State law.

Proposed Handling

This issue will be before the Board of Regents P-12 Education Committee and the Full Board for action at the May 2016 Regents meeting.

Background Information

The Commissioner recommends that the Board of Regents amend the charters of the above listed charter schools. Information about the revision requests is provided below.

YOUNG WOMEN'S COLLEGIATE PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL OF ROCHESTER

Table 1: School Summary

Name of Charter School	Young Women's Collegiate Preparatory Charter School of Rochester
Board Chair	Duffy Palmer
District of Location	Rochester City School District
Opening Date	August 2012
Current Charter Term	August 27, 2012 – June 30, 2017
Facility	311 Flower City Park, Rochester, NY 14615
Current Grade Levels/Number of Students	7-10 257 students
Mission	“Young Women's College Prep Charter School of Rochester (YWCP) offers young women from the city of Rochester the opportunity to learn in a single-gender environment, free from stereotypes, where a strong focus is placed on preparation for college enrollment and graduation. High expectations and evidence of concrete results define the student's academic experience. Educators commit to, and thrive upon, sharing effective practices within and beyond the school building. YWCP partners with families and instills in each student a sense of community, responsibility and ethics. We support students in their endeavors to achieve excellence in and out of the classroom, helping them to develop the strong voices they will need to be leaders.”
Proposed Revision	The Board seeks to relocate from their current location in Rochester City School District to the Greece School District beginning with the 2016-2017 school year to lease sufficient classroom space to provide full enrollment through 11th grade.

On September 13, 2011, the Board of Regents approved the Young Women's Collegiate Preparatory Charter School of Rochester (or the “School”), to be located at 311 Flower City Park, Rochester, NY 14615. The School opened for instruction on August 27, 2012. The School is approved to operate grades 7-11, and intends to add a grade every year of the charter until the school is fully expanded. The charter authorizes 75 students per grade with a full enrollment 375 students.

The School's Trustees request that the Board of Regents approve a material revision to its charter to allow the School to change the district of location for the School to the Greece Central School District; specifically to lease space at the Summer Sands Campus, 133 Hoover Drive, Rochester, NY 14615. The proposed lease space is approximately 59,149 square feet and will be part of a co-location with another Board of Regents authorized charter school, Discovery Charter School. The location is made available through a lease agreement with 133 Hoover Drive LLC. By initiating this move, the School intends to gain sufficient classroom space to provide for full enrollment through 11th grade. The facilities offer a full-size gym, cafeteria, science labs, and green space including sports fields.

**Table 2: Young Women's Collegiate Preparatory Charter School
Approved Enrollment**

	Year 1 2012- 2013	Year 2 2013- 2014	Year 3 2014- 2015	Year 4 2015- 2016	Year 5 2016- 2017
Grade Configuration	7	7-8	7-9	7-10	7-11
Total Approved Enrollment	75	150	225	300	375

Summary of Public Comment

As required by the Charter School Act, both the Greece Central School District and the Rochester City School District held public hearings about the proposed relocation.

The Greece Central School District held their hearing on Tuesday, April 12, 2016. Two speakers asked questions of the charter school, both about charter schools as a whole and to this one specifically. A charter school representative responded. One comment supported the School's decision to join NYS Teacher's Retirement System. Another speaker expressed concern about the effect of a charter school on a suburban school district.

The Rochester City School District held their hearing on Thursday, April 28, 2016. No members of the public were present. A member of the Rochester City School District Board of Education posed questions to the principal of the School regarding the reasoning behind incubation in the current space and plans for relocation to the new space.

NEWBURGH PREPARATORY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Table 1: School Summary

Name of Charter School	Newburgh Preparatory Charter High School
Board Chair	Ms. Mindy Ross
District of Location	Newburgh Enlarged City School District
Opening Date	August 2012
Current Charter Term	August 2012 – June 2017
Facility	Private facility
Current Grade Levels/Number of Students	Grades 9-12; Currently serving, on a daily basis, approximately 55 over-aged and under-credited students who are 16-21 years of age
Mission	“Newburgh Preparatory Charter High School will provide over-aged and under-credited students 16-21 years of age living in the Greater Newburgh, NY, area - including students living in poverty, students who are English language learners, and students with special needs - the opportunity to return to school and, with intensive social-emotional support, to obtain a high school diploma through a rigorous NYSED standards-based education program that prepares them for college and career.”
Proposed Revision	The Board of Trustees of the Newburgh Preparatory Charter High School has submitted a request to amend the School’s charter, proposing a decrease in the School’s authorized enrollment from an approved maximum of 255 students in 2016-2017 (year 4) and 305 students in 2017-2018 (Year 5), to an approved maximum of 88 students in both years.

On December 11, 2012, the Board of Regents approved and chartered the Newburgh Preparatory Charter School (“NPCS” or the “School”) in the Newburgh Enlarged City School District. The School is designed to serve students who are over-aged and under-credited students between the ages of 16 and 21, lag far behind their four-year 9th grade cohort, and have already dropped out of high school, are in-school truants, or are behind grade level and struggling to remain in school. The founders estimate that the population of students who drop out of school in the city of Newburgh ranges between 1200 and 1800. The majority of these students are African-American and Latino, eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, are English language learners, and have special learning needs.

The School has been unable to attract and retain sufficient numbers of students to allow the School to be within the eighty-five percent (85%) of the Projected Enrollment for a given academic year as per §2.2 of the Charter Agreement. Pursuant to New York Education Law §2853(3)(e), the School submitted a written request dated December 15, 2015 to amend the School’s charter, proposing to decrease the School’s authorized enrollment.

Table 2: Newburgh Preparatory Charter High School Approved Enrollment

	Year 4 (2016-2017)	Year 5 (2017-2018)
Grade Served	9-12	9-12
Approved Enrollment	255	305

Table 3: Newburgh Preparatory Charter High School Proposed Enrollment

	Year 4 (2016-2017)	Year 5 (2017-2018)
Grade Served	9-12	9-12
Approved Enrollment	88	88

Summary of Public Comment

As required by the Charter School Act, the Newburgh Enlarged City School District held a public hearing about the proposed revision on March 8, 2016. Approximately twenty-five individuals attended the hearing. Five attendees made comments. One was in favor of the revision request and four were opposed. Opposition to the request focused on the school’s accountability, attendance, graduation rate, qualification of teachers, fiscal impact on the district, and the district’s plan to open a similar school in the upcoming academic year.

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that: (1) the charter school meets the requirements set out in Article 56 of the Education Law, and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations; (2) the charter school can demonstrate the ability to operate in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; (3) granting the request to amend the charter is likely to improve student learning and achievement and materially further the purposes set out in subdivision two of section twenty-eight hundred fifty of Article 56 of the Education Law; and (4) granting the request to amend the charter will have a significant educational benefit to the students expected to attend the charter school, and the Board of Regents therefore approves the charter revision for **Young Women's Collegiate Preparatory Charter School of Rochester** and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that: (1) the charter school meets the requirements set out in Article 56 of the Education Law, and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations; (2) the charter school can demonstrate the ability to operate in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; (3) granting the request to revise the charter is likely to improve student learning and achievement and materially further the purposes set out in subdivision two of section twenty-eight hundred fifty of Article 56 of the Education Law; and (4) granting the request to revise the charter would have a significant educational benefit to the students expected to attend the charter school, and the Board of Regents therefore approves the charter revision for the **Newburgh Preparatory Charter High School** and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

Timetable for Implementation

The Regents action for Young Women's Collegiate Preparatory Charter School of Rochester will become effective immediately.

The Regents action for Newburgh Preparatory Charter High School will become effective immediately.