

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #128 (2008-2009)

December 1, 2008

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: EAGLE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL
APPLICATION

ASD Goal: Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by providing safe, caring, barrier-free schools; promoting health and wellness; continuing to retain, recruit and train highly qualified staff with an emphasis on improving staff diversity to better reflect our student body; challenging each student academically; maximizing opportunities for lifelong learning, including the development of 21st century skills; offering reinforcing extracurricular activities and collaborating with other community agencies to maximize opportunities for lifelong learning.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the renewal of the charter for Eagle Academy Charter School for an additional 10 years, chartering the school through the 2018-2019 school year.

PERTINENT FACTS:

Anchorage School Board charter school policy and Alaska Department of Education regulations regarding charter schools require charter schools to reapply for approval to their charters within 12 months of the expiration date of the charter. Eagle Academy's charter will expire June 30, 2009. They are subsequently reapplying to the Anchorage School Board and the Alaska Department of Education for a 10 year renewal of Eagle Academy Charter School. This renewal policy requires the school apply using the same 15 areas of consideration listed in School Board Policy 333.10. School Board Policy 333.10 on Charter Schools states:

"The charter school will be subject to review of its operations and finances by the School Board. Annually, the Academic policy Committee will submit a concise written report and make a presentation to the School Board and the public no

later than June 30 of each school year. This report will include, but is not limited to, information of the attainment of student performance expectations, including copies of the Terra Nova and SBA reports; recommendations for remediation for poor student performance; school goal attainment; trends in student/staff enrollment and mobility; an end of year preliminary financial statement showing revenues and expenditures; minutes of the meetings of the governing body of the charter school; descriptions of charter school activities; copies of any leases signed by the charter school; current bylaws of the Academic Policy Committee; notification of establishment of 501 © (3) status; list of officers in any PTA/PTO or other parent organization; any changes in facility location; any major changes planned for the following school year; a list of the Academic Policy Committee for the past and coming school years, including officers, and staff members by position; a list of employees and job titles; and other information requested by the School Board.

Eagle Academy Charter School is a school of choice in the Anchorage School District. The original charter was approved for five years beginning July 1, 2004. Because of delays in acquiring a school site, the school did not open until July 1, 2005. The school has been at the same location in Eagle River since its opening. During that time, the school has been a successful choice for students throughout the Anchorage School District.

Several outstanding features of the school make it extremely successful for its parents, students and staff. One of these is the extensive training and mentoring that takes place year round for the staff. All teaching staff receives training in becoming certified as Spalding certified teachers. There is a certified Spalding consultant that visits the school periodically to work with teachers, staff and parents on Spalding instruction, modeling and coaching.

Another feature which is very popular with the school community is the Parent Teacher Organization. This group is made up of parents, staff and the principal, and meets monthly. The group organizes fund raisers for the school, provides coordination of volunteers for classrooms and the office, and generally supports the school in any way possible. Some of the fund raisers have provided financial support for teacher training in the summer.

Eagle Academy has had tremendous success in meeting State and District Standards when participating in the SBA and Terra Nova testing. Students at Eagle Academy consistently do well on these tests. They do so well that they have for the past two years been named as a PIP (Performance Incentive Program) school. There is a complete buy in of methodology and philosophy pertaining to student achievement that has created the atmosphere of success for students in testing. Students are also expected to be good citizens who value and

honor our democracy. There is no doubt that the school community is dedicated to these ideals and works to achieve them.

The Academic Policy Committee remains committed to the school and works tirelessly to improve the school through thoughtful and meaningful governance. The APC is a dedicated group of volunteers who take their jobs seriously. This is also true of the principal, Mary Meade. She has worked endless hours to support and promote the school's charter. Her teaching and support staff work with her in a way that creates a wonderful atmosphere for students to learn in and feel safe.

The Administration of the Anchorage School District recommends that the Anchorage School Board renew Eagle Academy's charter for an additional 10 years under the terms of Anchorage School Board Policy, Alaska State Statutes regarding charter schools, and the Alaska Department of Education regulations for charter schools.

CC/RG/CB

Attachment

Prepared by: Connie Bensler, Supervisor, Charter Schools

Approved by: Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction