



Board of Education Informational Report

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 2, 2021

To: Members of the Board of Education, Charter Schools and Alternative Programs Committee

From: Korinna Wolfe, Area Senior Director, Multiple Pathways to Graduation

Subject: Portland Arthur Academy Charter School Renewal Request

Portland Arthur Academy Charter School is a k-5 charter school in SE Portland, housed on the Ascension Catholic Church campus, enrolling 175 students. The school uses a research-based, Direct Instruction model that focuses students through a highly organized, incremental curriculum and ensures they master each skill before moving on to the next. Portland Arthur Academy is one of six Arthur Academies in the greater Portland area, which share a common curriculum, a single board of directors, and a central administrative office.

Portland Arthur Academy opened in 2005, and is in its 16th year of operation. It successfully applied for charter renewal in 2008 and 2011. The school is currently operating under a five-to-ten-year “flexible” agreement which has been extended annually to reach the statutory 10th year limit, and will terminate on June 30, 2021.

Portland Arthur Academy has formally submitted an Application for Renewal of its charter with the District. Per ORS 338.065(4)(c), this renewal term “shall be for a minimum of five years but may not exceed 10 years.” Portland Arthur Academy has requested a ten-year renewal of its charter.

Highlights of renewal term include:

- Students consistently meet or exceed District averages and State targets as a whole population and as disaggregated student groups on state assessments.
- After a focus on 3rd grade math instruction, the 2018-19 average achievement scores on state assessments increased by thirty points from the previous year.
- Annual parent satisfaction survey results consistently show that families have chosen the options of “Highly Satisfied” or “Satisfied” between 96%-100% of the time over the term of the contract.

Considerations:

- Many of the economies of scale available to Portland Arthur Academy are due to the ability to have the central office functions shared by six schools, a structure unique among the Portland charter schools.

Requests from Portland Arthur Academy for consideration in Renewal Contract:

- Portland Arthur Academy has requested an increase in the pass through percentage of State School Funds from 80% to 90% (see justification for request on pg. 20-21 of Renewal Application)

Charter schools, as schools of choice, continue to work to attract a student population that is reflective of the District's population. Portland Arthur Academy's enrollment reflects this trend, though the school has some success in this work; 6.5% of its students are English Learners (compared to 11% District k-5), 28% are Economically Disadvantaged (compared to 32.1% District k-5), 23.4% are Historically Underserved Races/Ethnicities (compared to 31.9% District k-5), and 55.6% are White (compared to 56.9% District k-5). Portland Arthur Academy has posted translated enrollment information as well as made hard copy brochures available in all the District supported languages to broaden its outreach to English Language Learners. The school continues to focus on outreach in historically underserved communities.

In academic, financial, and organizational performance, the Charter Schools Office found no areas of concern regarding statutory compliance.

The PPS Charter Schools Office submits the attached 2019-20 Oregon School Profile and 2019-20 Performance Framework and Report for Portland Arthur Academy in review of its academic performance, fiscal management, organizational stability, adherence with all applicable state laws, and compliance with all terms of the charter contract. In addition, Portland Arthur Academy's Charter Renewal Application is attached.

Attachments:

- o 2019-20 Oregon School Profile
- o PAA 2019-20 Performance Framework and Report
- o PAA Charter Renewal Application