

School Board
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Karen Perez
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Henry "Shake" Washington



Superintendent of Schools
Addison G. Davis

June 29, 2021

Richard Corcoran
Commissioner of Education
325 W Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

RE: Kid's Community College Charter High School; Pivot Charter School, Southshore Charter Academy;
Woodmont Charter School letter received June 23, 2021

Dear Commissioner Corcoran:

The Hillsborough County School Board has received your letter of June 23, 2021. Please accept this correspondence as the School Board's response.

Section 4 of Article IX of the Florida Constitution tasks the School Board with operating, controlling and supervising all free public schools within the school district. This includes all of the charter schools operating within the district. Moreover, section 1001.33 specifically provides that all public schools "shall be under the direction and control of the district school board."

On June 15, 2021, the School Board, during its regularly scheduled board meeting, took up the issue of renewing the charter contracts of Kid's Community College Charter High School, Pivot Charter School, SouthShore Charter Academy, Woodmont Charter School and Sunlake Academy of Math and Science. During that Board meeting, the School Board voted to renew the charter of Sunlake Academy of Math and Science and, pursuant to its authority granted by section 1002.33(8), Florida Statutes, voted to inform the boards of Kid's Community College Charter High School, Pivot Charter School, SouthShore Charter Academy, and Woodmont Charter School of its intent to non-renew their charters.

These votes constituted the initiation of the statutory ninety (90) day notice to the school of the School Board's intent to not renew the respective charters.

Attached please find correspondence sent to each of the four (4) subject charter school boards pursuant to section 1002.33(8)(b), Florida Statutes, stating in reasonable detail the statutory grounds for the proposed action of nonrenewing the subject charters.

It is important to note that the schools whose charters the School Board intends to non-renew will not be closed during the ninety (90) day notice period and during the pendency of any appeals the schools may pursue. If the District is ultimately successful in defending any appeals, we commit to ensuring a smooth transition for the families and students.

Hillsborough County School District has historically brought forward potential renewals to the School Board during a board meeting in May or June to prevent disruption to the individual schools, students, families and staff. As you know, the School Board is the final arbiter at the local level of whether to renew a charter, and the School Board, pursuant to section 1002.33(8)(b), Florida Statutes, considers "student academic

achievement for all students the most important factor in determining whether to renew or terminate the contract.”

As is permitted by section 1002.33(8)(b), Florida Statutes, any of the four (4) subject charter schools may request a hearing to be conducted in accordance with chapter 120 of the Florida Statutes by an administrative law judge assigned by the Division of Administrative Hearings. As stated earlier, during the pendency of such an appeal, the charter school may continue to operate and to continue to receive their biweekly Florida Education Finance Program payments. It is always the intent of the School Board to provide due process and to minimize any disruption that a school closure may cause for the students and families. The Hillsborough County School Board has acted appropriately and completely within the bounds of section 1002.33(8).

In addition to section 1002.33(8), your June 23, 2021 letter also references Rule 6A-6.0786 of the Florida Administrative Code (FAC). For your ready reference, I am attaching a copy of the cited rule. However, the language quoted in your letter is not found in Rule 6A-6.0786. That language appears to come from language found in Section 1, paragraph (B)(5) of Form IEPCSC, the Florida Standard Charter Contract that became effective December of 2019. This form became effective after each of the charters were executed with Kid's Community College Charter High School, Pivot Charter School, SouthShore Charter Academy, and Woodmont Charter School and does not apply to the subject schools.

The charter contracts of each of the subject schools provide that notice of non-renewal is to be provided at least ninety (90) days before such action. The subject charters do not specifically provide that the nonrenewal notice must be provided by a set deadline. As you can see from the attached notices, the School Board is in complete compliance with the charter contract as well as state law.

As was previously stated, should any of the four (4) charter schools wish to appeal the decision of the Hillsborough County School Board, they will be well within their rights to request a hearing before an administrative law judge. Should such a hearing be requested, the School Board will present its detailed evidence supporting the nonrenewal as is outlined in the attached notices. Should any of the charter schools not wish to appeal, that charter school will be dissolved pursuant to section 1002.33(8)(d), Florida Statutes, and the district will work to minimize as much as is practicable the disruption to our students and families.

Thank you for your continued work for the families of the State of Florida. Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to inquire.

Sincerely,



Lynn Gray
School Board Chair
County-Wide

CC: Stacy A. Hahn, Ph.D
Nadia Combs
Karen Perez
Melissa Snively
Jessica Vaughn
Henry "Shake" Washington
Addison Davis
Jacob Oliva
Matthew Mears
Eric Hall
Bethany Swonson
Dakeyan Graham

6A-6.0786 Forms for Charter School Applicants and Sponsors.

(1) Persons or entities submitting a charter school application must use Form IEPC-M1, Model Florida Charter School Application, effective December 2019 (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-11357>), pursuant to Section 1002.33, F.S. Form IEPC-M1 is hereby incorporated by reference and may be obtained electronically on the Department's website at <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org>, or from the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400.

(2) Sponsors shall evaluate Model Florida Charter School Applications using Form IEPC-M2, Florida Charter School Application Evaluation Instrument, effective December 2019 (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-11358>). Form IEPC-M2 is hereby incorporated by reference and may be obtained electronically on the Department's website at <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org>, or from the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400.

(3) Upon approval of a charter school application, the sponsor shall have thirty (30) days to propose an initial proposed charter contract to the charter school. The sponsor shall use Form IEPC-SC, Florida Standard Charter Contract, effective December 2019, (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-11359>), as the basis for the initial draft contract. Proposed deletions to Form IEPC-SC must be displayed as strike-through text. Proposed additions to form IEPC-SC must be displayed as underlined text. The applicant and the sponsor have forty (40) days thereafter to negotiate and notice the charter contract for final approval by the sponsor unless both parties agree to an extension. Additional components may be included in a charter school contract if mutually agreed upon by both parties. Form IEPC-SC is hereby incorporated by reference and may be obtained electronically on the Department's website at <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org>, or from the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400.

(4) For all charter contract renewals, charter schools and their sponsors shall use the Florida Standard Charter Renewal Contract (Form IEPC-SCR). This shall be the basis for the renewal draft contract. Proposed deletions to Form IEPC-SCR must be displayed as strike-through text. Proposed additions to form IEPC-SCR must be displayed as underlined text. Additional components may be included in a charter school renewal contract if mutually agreed upon by both parties. Form IEPC-SCR is hereby incorporated by reference (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-11360>) effective December 2019 and may be obtained electronically on the Department's website at <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org>, or from the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400.

(5) A high-performing charter school system may replicate its high-performing charter schools in any school district in the state. The applicant must submit an application using Form IEPC-HPS1, the Model Florida Charter School Application High-Performing Charter School System Replication (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-08911>), effective January 2018, pursuant to Section 1002.332(2)(b), F.S. Form IEPC-HPS1 is hereby incorporated by reference and may be obtained electronically on the Department's website at <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org>, or from the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400.

(6) Sponsors shall evaluate high-performing system replication applications using Form IEPC-HPS2, the Model Florida Charter School Application High-Performing Charter School System Replication Evaluation Instrument (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-08912>), effective January 2018. Form IEPC-HPS2 is hereby incorporated by reference and may be obtained electronically on the Department's website at <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org>, or from the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400.

(7) Persons or entities submitting a virtual charter school application must use Form IEPC-VI, Model Florida Virtual Charter School Application, effective February 2016, (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-06304>), pursuant to Section 1002.33, F.S. Form IEPC-VI is hereby incorporated by reference and may be obtained electronically on the Department's website at <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org>, or from the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400.

(8) Sponsors shall evaluate Model Florida Virtual Charter School Applications using Form IEPC-V2, Florida Virtual Charter School Application Evaluation Instrument, effective February 2016 (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-06305>). Form IEPC-V2 is hereby incorporated by reference and may be obtained electronically on the Department's website at <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org>, or from the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400.

(9) Applicants completing Addenda A, B, or C, pursuant to the model application shall use Form IEPC-M1A, Applicant History Worksheet, (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-05518>), effective August 2015. Form IEPC-M1A is hereby incorporated by reference and may be obtained electronically on the Department's website at <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/>, or from the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400.

Rulemaking Authority 1002.33(6), (28) FS. Law Implemented 1002.33(6), (21), 1002.331, 1002.332(2) FS. History—New 10-25-10, Amended 7-9-12, 12-23-14, 8-6-15, 2-9-16, 12-20-16, 1-1-18, 12-22-19.

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Superintendent of Schools
Addison Davis

Chief of Innovation
Van Ayres

Supervisor, Charter Schools
Cinzia DeLange, Ed.D

June 29, 2021

Ms. Shirley Bhat, Board Chair
Kid's Community College Charter High School
10550 Johanna Avenue
Riverview, FL 33578

Dear Ms. Bhat:

This letter is to serve as a formal written notice, pursuant to F.S. 1002.33(8)(b), that the Hillsborough County School Board voted during its meeting, on June 15, 2021, that, in 90 days of receipt thereof, it intends to not renew the charter of Kid's Community College Charter High School. The reasons supporting the nonrenewal include:

- The failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management. F.S. 1002.33(8)(A)(2).
- The school failed to meet the requirement for student performance as exhibited by its grades of D, C and C. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to maintain accurate evidence and receipts for Teacher Lead Funds. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).

If you desire to challenge the School Board's decision to not renew your charter, your governing board may, within 14 calendar days of receiving this notice, request a hearing in front of an administrative law judge (assigned by the Division of Administrative Hearings) and such hearing shall be conducted within ninety (90) days of such request.

If you have any questions regarding the School Board's decision, please contact me at 813-272-4049.

Sincerely,

Cinzia DeLange, Ed.D.
Supervisor, Charter Schools

c: Board Members, Kid's Community College Charter High School
Dawneva Faison, Principal, Kid's Community College Charter High School
Timothy Kilpatrick, Servant Leader, Kid's Community College
Addison Davis, Superintendent of Schools
Van Ayres, Chief of Innovation
Jeffrey Gibson, School District Attorney
Dr. Dakeyan Graham, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice, Florida Department of Education
Adam Emerson, Director of Charter Schools, Florida Department of Education

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Superintendent of Schools
Addison Davis

Chief of Innovation
Van Ayres

Supervisor, Charter Schools
Cinzia DeLange, Ed.D

June 29, 2021

Dr. Christopher Card, Board Chair
Pivot Charter School
3020 S. Falkenburg Road
Riverview, FL 33578

Dear Dr. Card:

This letter is to serve as a formal written notice, pursuant to F.S. 1002.33(8)(b), that the Hillsborough County School Board voted during its meeting, on June 15, 2021, that, in 90 days of receipt thereof, it intends to not renew the charter of Pivot Charter School. The reasons supporting the nonrenewal include:

- The failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(2). Specifically, the school continues to operate in a deficit, in excess of \$100,000.00, despite the fact a corrective action plan was implemented in 2018. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(2).
- The school failed to meet the requirement for student performance as exhibited by its grades of C, C, C and C. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to procure reasonably accurate financial estimates to ensure the school operates within its budget. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to ensure the school's expenditures do not exceed available resources, resulting in a deficit and exceeding budgeted line items. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).

If you desire to challenge the School Board's decision to not renew your charter, your governing board may, within 14 calendar days of receiving this notice, request a hearing in front of an administrative law judge (assigned by the Division of Administrative Hearings) and such hearing shall be conducted within ninety (90) days of such request.

If you have any questions regarding the School Board's decision, please contact me at 813-272-4049.

Sincerely,

Cinzia DeLange, Ed.D.
Supervisor, Charter Schools

c: Board Members, Pivot Charter School
Stephen Schindler, Principal, Pivot Charter School
Addison Davis, Superintendent of Schools
Van Ayres, Chief of Innovation
Jeffrey Gibson, School District Attorney
Dr. Dakeyan Graham, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice, Florida Department of Education
Adam Emerson, Director of Charter Schools, Florida Department of Education

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Superintendent of Schools
Addison Davis

Chief of Innovation
Van Ayres

Supervisor, Charter Schools
Cinzia DeLange, Ed.D

June 29, 2021

Ms. Valora Cole, Board Chair
SouthShore Charter Academy
11667 Big Bend Road
Riverview, FL 33579

Dear Ms.Cole:

This letter is to serve as a formal written notice, pursuant to F.S. 1002.33(8)(b), that the Hillsborough County School Board voted during its meeting, on June 15, 2021, that, in 90 days of receipt thereof, it intends to not renew the charter of SouthShore Charter Academy. The reasons supporting the nonrenewal include:

- Material violations of law in the form of failing to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and meet class size requirement. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(3).
- Failing to implement a process for tracking and monitoring student retentions. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to provide ESE services in accordance with the level of service indicated in the school's original application. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to timely complete transferring IEPs. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to ensure all gifted students are identified and participate in the eligibility process. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to ensure a gifted certified or endorsed teacher is instructing gifted students appropriately. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to provide ESE education and related services to all eligible students in accordance with particular students' IEPs. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to timely enter certain information in the Hillsborough County School District's Student Information System. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to ensure attendance is accurately and timely recorded in the Student Information System. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failure to provide all parents with sufficient information related to student achievement and promotion requirements. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to provide all parents with contact information for the Governing Board. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to keep all parents apprised of student progress, student programs, student attendance and availability of academic assistance. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to ensure all parents receive the Parent/Student Handbook. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to ensure property inventory, records and asset tags are properly recorded. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to implement appropriate internal controls and proof regarding the Governing Board's removal of items from the inventory list and recording of minutes. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).

SouthShore Charter Academy
Attention: Valora Cole, Board Chair
June 29, 2021
Page 2

- Failing to maintain adequate evidence and receipts for Teacher Lead Funds. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to maintain adequate inventory records regarding the expenditure of grant funds. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).

If you desire to challenge the School Board's decision to not renew your charter, your governing board may, within 14 calendar days of receiving this notice, request a hearing in front of an administrative law judge (assigned by the Division of Administrative Hearings) and such hearing shall be conducted within ninety (90) days of such request.

If you have any questions regarding the School Board's decision, please contact me at 813-272-4049.

Sincerely,



Cinzia DeLange, Ed.D.
Supervisor, Charter Schools

c: Board Members, SouthShore Charter Academy
Amy Sams, Principal, SouthShore Charter Academy
Addison Davis, Superintendent of Schools
Van Ayres, Chief of Innovation
Jeffrey Gibson, School District Attorney
Dr. Dakeyan Graham, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice, Florida Department of Education
Adam Emerson, Director of Charter Schools, Florida Department of Education

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Superintendent of Schools
Addison Davis

Chief of Innovation
Van Ayres

Supervisor, Charter Schools
Cinzia DeLange, Ed.D

June 29, 2021

Ms. Valora Cole, Board Chair
Woodmont Charter School
10402 N. 56th Street
Tampa, FL 33617

Dear Ms. Cole:

This letter is to serve as a formal written notice, pursuant to F.S. 1002.33(8)(b), that the Hillsborough County School Board voted during its meeting, on June 15, 2021, that, in 90 days of receipt thereof, it intends to not renew the charter of Woodmont Charter School. The reasons supporting the nonrenewal include:

- Material violations of law in the form of failing to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and meet class size requirement. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(3).
- Failing to provide evidence of a research-based reading program for Level 1 and 2 students. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to ensure all lesson plans have clear objectives and include ESOL accommodations. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to implement the directives set forth in Hillsborough County Public School's Special Program and Procedure document. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to ensure all gifted students are identified and participate in the eligibility process. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to ensure all gifted plans are current and compliant. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to ensure ESE services are delivered by a certified ESE teacher/instructor. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to timely enter certain information in the Hillsborough County School District's Student Information System. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to consistently ensure attendance is accurately and timely recorded in the Student Information System. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to ensure immunization records are accurately and timely recorded in the Student Information System. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to ensure fixed assets are accounted for in accordance with Rules of the State Chief Financial Officer. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to ensure all property inventory, records and asset tags are properly recorded. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).
- Failing to maintain accurate evidence and receipts for Teacher Lead Funds. F.S. 1002.33(8)(a)(4).

Woodmont Charter School
Attention: Valora Cole, Board Chair
June 29, 2021
Page 2

If you desire to challenge the School Board's decision to not renew your charter, your governing board may, within 14 calendar days of receiving this notice, request a hearing in front of an administrative law judge (assigned by the Division of Administrative Hearings) and such hearing shall be conducted within ninety (90) days of such request.

If you have any questions regarding the School Board's decision, please contact me at 813-272-4049.

Sincerely,



Cinzia DeLange, Ed.D.
Supervisor, Charter Schools

c: Board Members, Woodmont Charter School
Cuwana Lawson, Principal, Woodmont Charter School
Addison Davis, Superintendent of Schools
Van Ayres, Chief of Innovation
Jeffrey Gibson, School District Attorney
Dr. Dakeyan Graham, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice, Florida Department of Education
Adam Emerson, Director of Charter Schools, Florida Department of Education