

Amato, Candy

From: Amato, Candy
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 2:05 PM
To: jcalkins compassesp.com; manny@nalboard.com; Diane LaFrance
Cc: Bridges, Wes; McNaughton III., Joseph; Delvalle, Karla; Price, Robin
Subject: RE: Navigator Academy of Leadership High School FINAL Evaluation-2023

Good Morning,

The Polk County School Board wishes to thank Navigator Academy of Leadership High School Davenport for applying to become a Polk County Charter School. Navigator Academy of Leadership High School Davenport charter application was evaluated utilizing the Model Florida Charter School Application Instrument, which includes multiple sections for consideration. Navigator Academy of Leadership High School's charter application has been placed on the Action Agenda portion of the July 25, 2023, board meeting. The agenda is now available on the Polk County Public School's website. During the board meeting, the Superintendent will make his recommendation to deny the application to the board, and the board will vote on the final decision.

The Board meeting will take place at:

Polk County Public Schools District Office
1915 S. Floral Ave
Bartow, FL

The meeting is available on the Polk County Public Schools YouTube channel.

If you have any questions or concerns to discuss before the Board meeting, please feel free to reach out to our office.

Thank you,
Candy



Candy Amato | Senior Director

Office of Charter Schools | Polk County Public Schools
T: 863-534-0625 | polkschoolsfl.com



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From: Amato, Candy
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2023 11:04 AM
To: jcalkins compassesp.com <jcalkins@compassesp.com>
Cc: Diane LaFrance <dlafrance@compassesp.com>; manny@nalboard.com; Delvalle, Karla <karla.delvalle@polk-fl.net>; Price, Robin <robin.price@polk-fl.net>; McNaughton III., Joseph <joseph.mcnaughton@polk-fl.net>; Bridges, Wes <wes.bridges@polk-fl.net>; Bob Bivins <bbivins@bhpalaw.com>; Jeffrey Wood <jsw@TrippScott.com>; Anivette Vargas <anivette@compassesp.com>; Jesse Price <jesse@nalboard.com>; Paul Bello <paul@nalboard.com>
Subject: RE: Navigator Academy of Leadership High School FINAL Evaluation-2023

Good morning,

For your records, I have attached the evaluation summary that has been updated to reflect Addendum B as "meets the standard."

Thank you,
Candy



Candy Amato | Senior Director
Office of Charter Schools | Polk County Public Schools
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From: Amato, Candy <candy.amato@polk-fl.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 9:54 AM
To: jcalkins compassesp.com <jcalkins@compassesp.com>
Cc: Diane LaFrance <dlafrance@compassesp.com>; manny@nalboard.com; Delvalle, Karla <karla.delvalle@polk-fl.net>; Price, Robin <robin.price@polk-fl.net>; McNaughton III., Joseph <joseph.mcnaughton@polk-fl.net>; Bridges, Wes <wes.bridges@polk-fl.net>; Bob Bivins <bbivins@bhpalaw.com>; Jeffrey Wood <jsw@TrippScott.com>; Anivette Vargas <anivette@compassesp.com>; Jesse Price <jesse@nalboard.com>; Paul Bello <paul@nalboard.com>
Subject: RE: Navigator Academy of Leadership High School FINAL Evaluation-2023

Good morning,

Due to the discrepancy in the hard copy and the electronic copy of the submitted application, the charter office has provided the members who received the hard copy with the electronic version of Addendum B in printed form.

The charter review team evaluated the entire application. It made the denial recommendation due to components allowed under the charter statute.

Thank you,



Candy Amato | Senior Director

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From: jcalkins@compassesp.com <jcalkins@compassesp.com>

Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 3:20 PM

To: Amato, Candy <candy.amato@polk-fl.net>

Cc: Diane LaFrance <dlafrance@compassesp.com>; manny@nalboard.com; Delvalle, Karla <karla.delvalle@polk-fl.net>; Price, Robin <robin.price@polk-fl.net>; McNaughton III., Joseph <joseph.mcnaughton@polk-fl.net>; Bridges, Wes <wes.bridges@polk-fl.net>; Bob Bivins <bbivins@bhpalaw.com>; Jeffrey Wood <jsw@TrippScott.com>; Anivette Vargas <anivette@compassesp.com>; Jesse Price <jesse@nalboard.com>; Paul Bello <paul@nalboard.com>

Subject: Re: Navigator Academy of Leadership High School FINAL Evaluation-2023

Hi Candy,

I have reviewed the District comments and our follow up emails regarding the disclosure issue and feel like there is a disconnect here. The electronic version we provided you contains all the final versions of our application. I have no explanation as to how the hard copy did not reflect the same information. Regardless, the disclosure was made at the time of submittal and I apologize for any confusion the difference between the two document sets may have caused.

To further the point regarding disclosure, the questions regarding the different relationships between the companies I have an ownership interest in and how they tie into development were asked by the county, in a straight forward way, during our initial capacity interview for the Navigator Academy of Leadership Davenport K-8 school. Everyone on the NAL Board knows the relationship between my companies and the schools and why we do what we do - it's to save the schools money, period. The reason, and I paraphrase, we said we were using this delivery method at the outset of development for Navigator Academy of Leadership Davenport is because we thought we could save the school significant monies by doing so. Indeed, our track record with the K-8 school demonstrates that our delivery methodology has and will continue to save NAL money in a very significant and substantial way.

When asked about the relationship or structure during this most recent capacity interview for the high school the answer was "it's all the same..." (paraphrase). The answer remains *it's all the same* as it clearly benefits the school compared to the alternative methods for development. If we can compare a withdrawn application

to this application, then we should be able to compare past conversations and delivery methods regarding development and construction to this application, as well.

Section 1002.33(6)(b), Florida Statutes provides:

(b) A sponsor shall receive and review all applications for a charter school using the evaluation instrument developed by the Department of Education. A sponsor shall receive and consider charter school applications for charter schools to be opened at a time determined by the applicant. A sponsor may not charge an applicant for a charter any fee for the processing or consideration of an application, and a sponsor may not base its consideration or approval of a final application upon the promise of future payment of any kind. Before approving or denying any application, the sponsor shall allow the applicant, upon receipt of written notification, at least 7 calendar days to make technical or nonsubstantive corrections and clarifications, including, but not limited to, corrections of grammatical, typographical, and like errors or missing signatures, if such errors are identified by the sponsor as cause to deny the final application.

Please allow this correspondence to serve as the technical or nonsubstantive correction/amendment necessary to ensure that the hard copy and electronic copy are aligned. Specifically, page 97, Addendum B of the hard copy should, as does the electronically submitted copy, provide that:

“...However, the Board does anticipate that it may contract directly with Radius Development Group and Gladiator Contracting Services, LLC, for construction and other services if and when the Board determines that it is the school’s best interest to do so based on favorable pricing and prior experiences utilizing those companies at other Navigator campuses. Jeremy Calkins, the Managing Principal of Compass Charter Schools, is also a member of both Radius Development Group, LLC and Gladiator Contracting Services, LLC.”

Neither the School Board nor the charter applicant would be prejudiced by technical and non-substantive revision and Florida Statutes expressly permits the inclusion.

We respectfully but firmly disagree with Polk County's assumption that a potential conflict of interest might arise based on a non-executed and non-realized agreement that this would constitute a conflict of interest. If needed, we are fully prepared to present arguments in defense at the next regularly scheduled school board meeting. The language you reference is an appropriate disclosure of a potential future agreement. When the time comes, any and all decisions regarding future developments will be proceeded by a full discussion and full disclosure as is always the case. Further, no conflict of interest exists between any board members and any members of the management company.

I would also like to make a point about the concerns raised about the proposed budget. The County has acknowledged that we have built a sizable unrestricted fund balance. This is due to our ability to build and maintain good budgets. We believe our track record for building and sustaining good budgets should carry significant weight in terms of strategic planning abilities and decision making. Whenever any school builds initial budgets, there will always be adjustments that have to be made over time due to the unknowns associated with the many assumptions reflected in those budgets. We have proven that we are able to make all the necessary changes within our budgets for the benefit of the school. This is another area where we do not believe a “does not meet the standard” should apply.

We thank you for your time and the inclusion of the above to ensure that hard copy submitted is in line with the electronic copy submitted to the district.

Respectfully,

Jeremy Calkins
Compass Charter Schools

From: "Amato, Candy" <candy.amato@polk-fl.net>

Date: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 11:18 AM

To: "jcalkins compassesp.com" <jcalkins@compassesp.com>

Cc: Diane LaFrance <dlafrance@compassesp.com>, "manny@nalboard.com" <manny@nalboard.com>, "Delvalle, Karla" <karla.delvalle@polk-fl.net>, "Price, Robin" <robin.price@polk-fl.net>, "McNaughton III., Joseph" <joseph.mcnaughton@polk-fl.net>, "Bridges, Wes" <wes.bridges@polk-fl.net>, Bob Bivins <bbivins@bhpalaw.com>, Jeffrey Wood <jsw@TrippScott.com>, Anivette Vargas <anivette@compassesp.com>

Subject: RE: Navigator Academy of Leadership High School FINAL Evaluation-2023

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your email. I have reviewed the hard copy of Addendum BB of the most recent Navigator Academy of Leadership High School charter application. There is a disconnect between the screenshot you provided and what can be found in the hard copy of the application. Please see the attachment from the hard copy to question B under LEGAL RELATIONSHIPS - Addendum BB.

Question B

Explain whether the school has or will have any legal or contractual relationships with any subsidiaries or other entities or individuals that are affiliated with or owned in whole or in part by the ESP. If so, identify the nature of those entities' business activities and describe how the governing board will ensure that any such relationships will not pose a conflict of interest or hinder the board's authority or ability to terminate the contract with the ESP.

The Applicant's Response

The Board for Navigator Academy of Leadership has no current contracts with the ESP other than that of a Management Agreement as an Educational Service Provider. Moreover, the Board has no intention of entering into any other contractual agreement with the ESP for any other business other than that of an educational services provider.

Thank you,
Candy



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