

**RESOLUTION
REGARDING NEW AMERICA SCHOOL-THORNTON'S
CHARTER RENEWAL APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, New America School-Thornton (“NAS-Thornton”) has been in operation since 2005 and was previously authorized by Adams 12 Five Star Schools (“District”) and later by Mapleton Public Schools. For a time, NAS-Thornton was authorized by the state Charter School Institute (“CSI”). In response to renewal applications, CSI granted a conditional one-year renewal on December 13, 2016 (expiring on June 30, 2018) and a conditional two-year renewal on November 14, 2017 (expiring June 30, 2020 or June 30, 2022 depending on performance). Conditions included contract provisions, student performance frameworks, and academic outcomes; and,

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2017, the District received an application from NAS-Thornton, which had been chartered by the state Charter School Institute; and

WHEREAS, the District and NAS-Thornton went through the application process in the fall of 2017 and early 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Board thoroughly reviewed and considered the 2017 NAS-Thornton application, as well as additional information submitted, other information presented, and the requirements of the Charter Schools Act, found at C.R.S. § 22-30.5-101, *et. seq.*; and

WHEREAS, by resolution adopted on February 21, 2018, this Board of Education approved NAS-Thornton’s 2017 charter application for a period of two school years (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020) with an opportunity to obtain a two-year extension if certain conditions were met. The conditions addressed the topics of: 1) Gifted and Talented Students; 2) Special Education; 3) Attendance and Behavior; 4) Accountability; 5) School Performance; and 6) Safety and Security; and

WHEREAS, on October 16, 2019, this Board agreed that NAS-Thornton had met the contract extension conditions and approved an extension of the existing charter contract through June 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, by resolution adopted on September 15, 2021, this Board of Education approved a one-year extension of NAS-Thornton’s charter (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023) due to the significant and continuing disruptions to public education caused by COVID-19 pandemic and the desire to allow the District and NAS-Thornton to focus on the education of its students rather than preparing, submitting and reviewing a renewal application at the time; and

WHEREAS, this renewal application process was conducted during the fall of 2022 and early 2023 in accordance with Colorado law C.R.S. § 22-30.5-511; and

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2022, District staff and the District Accountability Committee (“DAC”) conducted a site visit to corroborate and augment information gathered when examining NAS-Thornton’s charter renewal application; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2022, District staff provided NAS-Thornton with a copy of the site visit summary; and

WHEREAS, NAS-Thornton submitted a charter renewal application to the District on December 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the renewal application was examined by District staff and the DAC in compliance with Board Policy Operating Limitations: 2.9 Charter Schools performance monitoring priorities; and

WHEREAS, on December 22, 2023, District staff provided NAS-Thornton and the Board with a copy of the renewal recommendation including a recommendation of nonrenewal; and

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2023, there were presentations by NAS-Thornton and District staff before the Board of Education including a recommendation of nonrenewal from District staff; and

WHEREAS, in January of 2023, there was a submittal/exchange of additional information between the District staff, the District Board of Education, and NAS-Thornton; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2023, the District and NAS-Thornton agreed to defer the statutory requirement for action by the Board of Education on the charter renewal, which extended the deadline from February 1 to February 15.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education, consistent with the best interests of the students, the District, and the community, the application for renewal of the New America School-Thornton to remain a District charter school is approved for a two-year term with the following provisions to be expressly incorporated into the authorizing agreement to be negotiated by the parties:

1. By August 1, 2023, NAS-Thornton will provide the District BOE with a written report including:
 - a. Proposed changes to their education model they believe they need to make to reach the goals outlined in items 3-7 below;
 - b. The school's Comprehensive Support Year 4+ implementation plan;
 - c. Assistance the school is requesting from the District; and,
 - d. Current status of progress toward the goals outlined below
2. By February 1, 2024 and no less than every six months thereafter, NAS-Thornton will provide the District BOE with a written report substantially similar to the report outlined in item 1 above that explains their progress toward the goals outlined below;
3. The District, as the Local Education Agency, will participate in the development of NAS-Thornton's Continuous Support and Improvement 4+ implementation plan planning along with the Colorado Department of Education;
4. Keep balanced budgets that maintain or increase the instructional and non-instructional staff and supports that are currently in place;
5. Meet its TABOR reserve during the District's quarterly financial monitoring reports to the Board of Education;
6. Demonstrate substantial progress toward a Performance rating on the AEC SPF by the fall of 2026 by making at least 2.7 growth in total percentage of points on the 2024 AEC SPF; and,
7. Demonstrate substantial progress toward reaching a graduation rate of 67% based by the class of 2026 graduation data by improving its "best of 4, 5, 6, and 7 year annual graduation rate" by 15% with 2024 graduation data.

Approved and adopted by the Board of Education at its regular meeting of February 15, 2023.