

DaVinci Academy of Science and The Arts

Policy Number: 606

Policy Section: 600- Community Policies

POLICY TITLE: Charter Land Trust Council

Revision History

Effective Date	Action Date	Revised
18 May 2013		18 April 2024

Charter land trust council
Effective Date: 18 May 2013

“Charter Land Trust Council” means a council comprised of a two person majority of elected parents or guardians of students attending the charter school and may include other members, as determined by the board of the charter school. The governing board of a charter school may serve as a Charter Land Trust Council if the board membership includes at least two more parents or guardians of students currently enrolled at the school than all other members combined consistent with Section 53G-7-1205. If not, the board of the charter school shall develop a school policy governing the election of a Charter Land Trust Council. R277-491 does not apply to Charter Land Trust Councils.

Purpose of Charter Land Trust Council

- (1) Provide financial resources to public schools to enhance or improve student academic achievement and implement an academic component of the school improvement plan;
- (2) Involve parents and guardians of a school's students in decision making regarding the expenditure of School LAND Trust Program money allocated to the school.
- (3) As directed by Executive Administrator, Charter Land Trust Council parent members may participate fully in the development of various school plans beyond the School Land Trust Plan including, but not limited to:
 - (1) School Improvement Plan;
 - (2) Reading Achievement Plan (for elementary schools); or
 - (3) Professional Development Plan.

Local boards of education shall consider plans annually and may approve or disapprove a school plan. If a plan is not approved, the approving entity shall provide a written explanation of why the plan was not approved and request a revised plan for reconsideration, consistent with Section 53G-7-1205.

Land Trust Plans shall be electronically submitted to the USOE on the School LAND Trust Program website, including a record of the vote by the charter land trust council when the school plan was approved including the date of the vote, votes for, against, and absent, consistent with Section 53G-7-1205.

Examples of successful plans using School LAND Trust Program monies include programs focused on:

- (1) credit recovery courses and programs;
- (2) study skills classes;
- (3) college entrance exam preparation classes;
- (4) academic field trips;
- (5) classroom equipment and materials such as flashcards, math manipulatives, calculators, microscopes, maps, books, or student planners;
- (6) teachers, teacher aides, and student tutors;
- (7) professional development directly tied to school academic goals;
- (8) student focused educational technology, including hardware and software, computer carts and work stations;

- (9) books, textbooks, workbooks, library books, bookcases, and audio-visual materials;
- (10) student planners; and
- (11) nominal student incentives that are academic in nature or of marginal total cost.

Charter Land Trust Council Election Process

Elections shall begin no later than 30 days after the first day of school. Voting for parent/guardian members shall extend for at least three consecutive school days and be completed no later than 35 days after the first day of school.

Notice of the Charter Land Trust Council shall be provided at least 10 days prior to the elections during registration and on the website. The notice shall include the dates and times of the election, the positions that are up for election and instructions about becoming a candidate.

Parents may stand for election as parent members of a Charter Land Trust Council at a school if he or she is a parent or guardian of a student who is attending the school; will be enrolled at the school at any time during the parent's or guardian's initial term of office; or was enrolled at the school during the parent or guardian member's initial term of office. He or she may not be an educator who is employed at the school.

The number of council members will be determined by land trust council rules of order. The rules of order are like bylaws that govern the process of the land trust council. And these rules of order are adjusted and voted on by the land trust council members. These rules of order cover questions such as:

- Will members serve a 1 or 2-year term?
- Will terms be staggered?
- What happens if a member is serving a 2-year term and their child is no longer at the school?
- Can a member serve successive terms through re-election?
- How many days before the election will it be noticed?
- What medium will a notice be in? (posted at the school, an email, etc.)
- What must a notice include?
- Dates and times of the election?
- A list of council positions that are up for election?
- Instructions for becoming a candidate for a community council position?
- What does a candidacy form look like? Is it different for a parent/grandparent member vs "other" member?
- What does an election look like?
- Who oversees the election?
- Who is eligible to vote?
- Can parents/grandparents only vote for parents/grandparents? Who votes for "other" members?
- How will eligibility for voting be determined?
- How will ballots be cast?

- Are electronic ballots allowed or do they have to be delivered in-person? If electronic ballots are allowed, through what platform?
- Are absentee ballots allowed? If so, how will they be handled?
- How are tie votes determined?
- What happens if there are not enough candidates to fill open seats? Will appointments be made? By who?
- When will the chair be elected by the council? (A chair must be a parent or grandparent member)
- Can the council create subcommittees to delegate any work to?
- Are there any other election topics to be proactive about due to the unique needs of the LEA and school/s?

Following the election, if there are more parent members who are educators in the district than parents who are not educators in the district elected to the council, the parents on the council shall appoint additional parent members until the number of parent members who are not educators exceeds the number of parent educators in the district.

Ballots and voting are required only in the event of a Charter Land Trust Council contested race.