

**ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS 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, a 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 resulting in a two-year renewal following a 4-1 vote by this Board on February 15, 2023; and

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2024, 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;

WHEREAS, on November 22, 2024, District staff provided NAS-Thornton with a copy of the site visit summary;

WHEREAS, NAS-Thornton officially submitted a charter renewal application to the District on November 30, 2024;

WHEREAS, the renewal application was examined by District staff and the DAC including, but not limited to, District Board Policy Operation Limitations: 2.9 Charter Schools performance monitoring priorities;

WHEREAS, on December 5, 2024, 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 5, 2025;

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2024, District staff provided NAS-Thornton and the Board with a copy of its recommendation;

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2025, there were presentations by NAS-Thornton and District staff before the Board of Education including a recommendation from District Staff for a two-year renewal with certain provisions to be incorporated into an authorizing agreement between the parties;;

WHEREAS, in January of 2025, there was a submittal/exchange of additional information between the District staff, the District Board of Education, and NAS-Thornton;

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. The school will hire and retain an outside Special Education Consultant to work with the SSS team to remain in compliance with state and federal statute for the entirety of the charter term.
2. The school must hire and retain qualified ELD and Special Education teachers/Service Providers by the start of the school year. In the event of turnover for these staff members, the school may not let more than three weeks elapse without a qualified staff member in these areas.
3. The school will work with the district's Executive Director of Secondary Options and Innovation Programming on a monthly basis to extend the school's capacity to execute an effective Competency Based Diploma Program.
4. The school will demonstrate substantial progress toward reaching a graduation rate of 67% based on the class of 2028 graduation data by improving its "best of 4, 5, 6, and 7 year annual graduation rate" by 15%. The school will show it has made substantial progress by achieving a "best of 4, 5, 6, and 7 year annual graduation rate" of 51.6% in school year 2024-2025 and 56.6% in school year 2025-2026.
5. The school will demonstrate substantial progress toward a "Meets" rating on the AEC SPF dropout rate by the fall of 2027, by achieving a dropout rate of 17% by 2027.

Adopted by the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education at its meeting on February 5, 2025

