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STAFF ANALYSIS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT REGARDING REVIEW OF PEABODY CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL PETITION

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DETERMINATION CRITERIA FOR RENEWAL OF PEABODY CHARTER SCHOOL

The California Department of Education (CDE) has designated Peabody Charter School as a school in the middle performance category for purposes of this renewal. In its Renewal Petition, Peabody asserts that it meets the minimum academic performance standards and presents evidence supporting its eligibility for charter renewal. To evaluate its academic performance under the criteria for middle-performing charter schools, Peabody submitted CAASPP data as well as comparative Dashboard data for Santa Barbara Unified School District and statewide results. Peabody states that the data included in its petition demonstrates measurable academic growth and confirms its eligibility for a five-year renewal term. Staff has confirmed and incorporated all the information submitted by Peabody in this Staff Analysis and the CAASPP and Dashboard performance data provided by CDE.

Santa Barbara Unified staff also reviewed additional performance data related to Dashboard indicators, including progress on the English Learner Progress Indicator, suspension rates, and chronic absenteeism. The data from the California School Dashboard reflects key performance metrics provided by Peabody for consideration in this renewal.

REVIEW OF THE CHARTER PETITION

Santa Barbara Unified School District Staff reviewed the renewal Petition using the criteria established in California Education Code Sections 47605(c), 47607, and 47607.2, consistent with County Board Policy 0420.4 (c) and found the following:

1. Sound Education Program

Staff found facts demonstrating the Petitioner is successfully implementing a well-defined educational program grounded in its Peabody Learner Profile, which emphasizes critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and cultural awareness. The school integrates evidence-based practices, including the Science of Reading and Project-Based Learning, to support academic achievement across all student groups. Peabody provides a robust daily enrichment program including art, dance, PE, and science and offers extended learning

opportunities through its after-school Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP). The school's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), inclusive practices, and data-informed instruction ensure that Emergent Multilingual Learners, Students with Disabilities, and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Students receive targeted academic and social-emotional supports.

2. Ability to successfully implement the program set forth in the Petition

Staff found facts demonstrating that the Petitioner is successfully implementing the program set forth in the Renewal Petition. Peabody Charter School has a long-standing record of operational and instructional effectiveness, supported by stable leadership, strong governance, and consistent academic performance. The school has demonstrated capacity to deliver its educational program, maintain fiscal stability, and meet the needs of all student groups as outlined in the petition.

3. Affirmation of each of the conditions required by statute

Santa Barbara Unified staff found that the Renewal Petition contains all required affirmations pursuant to Education Code Section 47605. The Affirmations section at the beginning of the petition includes the necessary legal assurances, and additional affirmations are embedded within the comprehensive descriptions of program elements throughout the document.

4. Reasonably comprehensive description of the required elements

For the description of each element to be considered "reasonably comprehensive," it is not enough for the Renewal Petition to include a description; rather, the description must be acceptable to Santa Barbara Unified School District and consistent with the District's standards and expectations for charter schools under its oversight. The District's determination that a description is "reasonably comprehensive" does not preclude the need for further clarification or agreement on certain terms through the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Facilities Use Agreement (FUA).

District staff found that the Peabody Charter School Renewal Petition includes reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all required charter elements, including educational program, governance, financial operations, services for Emergent Multilingual Learners and Students with Disabilities, and other legal assurances.

A. Element One: Description of the Educational Program/Plan for Student Academic Achievement

The Santa Barbara Unified staff concluded the Peabody Charter Renewal Petition provides sufficient information to substantiate the required elements for a sound educational program.

B. Element Two: Measurable Student Outcomes

The Santa Barbara Unified staff believes this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description.

C. Element Three: Method by Which Pupil Progress in Meeting Outcomes will be Measured

The Santa Barbara Unified staff believes this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description

D. Element Four: Governance Structure

The Santa Barbara Unified staff believes this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description

E. Element Five: Employee Qualifications

The Santa Barbara Unified staff believes this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description

F. Element Six: Health and Safety

The Santa Barbara Unified staff believes this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description.

G. Element Seven: Racial, Ethnic, English Learner, and Special Education Balance

The Santa Barbara Unified staff believes this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description.

H. Element Eight: Admissions Policies and Procedures

Peabody Charter School has established nonsectarian, tuition-free admission policies in accordance with Education Code, and does not discriminate against any pupil based on protected characteristics, as outlined in Section 220. The Renewal Petition includes a description of how the school administers its public random drawing (lottery), maintains a waitlist, and extends offers of enrollment, consistent with current requirements under the Charter Schools Act.

The original Renewal Petition proposed the following enrollment preference order:

1. Children of Peabody Charter School employees,
2. Siblings of currently enrolled students living within the attendance boundary,
3. Students residing within the attendance boundary,
4. All other applicants.

As a conversion charter school, Santa Barbara Unified staff recommended that Peabody revise the priority list to clearly place resident students, including siblings, waitlisted students, and new applicants, ahead of children of staff. This revision aligns with the school's obligation to prioritize neighborhood students consistent with its conversion status. In response, Peabody submitted an updated version of this section in the Renewal Petition (see Attachment A).

District staff finds the admissions section to be generally complete and recommends that the enrollment priority order and lottery procedures be finalized through the updated MOU.

I. Element Nine: Independent Financial Audit

The Santa Barbara Unified staff believes this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description.

J. Element Ten: Pupil Suspension and Expulsion

The Santa Barbara Unified staff believes this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description.

K. Element Eleven: Retirement System

The Santa Barbara Unified staff believes this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description.

L. Element Twelve: Attendance Alternatives

The Santa Barbara Unified staff believes this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description.

M. Element Thirteen: Employee Rights to Return

The Santa Barbara Unified staff believes this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description.

N. Element Fourteen: Dispute Resolution

The Santa Barbara Unified staff believes this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description.

O. Element Fifteen: School Closure

The Santa Barbara Unified staff believes this section includes a reasonably comprehensive description.

CONCLUSION

Santa Barbara Unified School District staff reviewed the Peabody Charter School Renewal Petition and accompanying verified data, including evidence of measurable increases in academic achievement, in accordance with the criteria for charter renewal outlined in Education Code Sections 47605, 47607, and 47607.2. Peabody has been designated by the California Department of Education as a middle-performing charter school and has demonstrated strong academic growth, stable governance, and consistent program implementation over the current charter term.

As a conversion charter school, Peabody Charter School has established nonsectarian, tuition-free admission policies in alignment with Education Code and does not discriminate against any pupil based on protected characteristics. The Renewal Petition describes how Peabody conducts its public random drawing, maintains its waitlist, and offers enrollment in accordance with the Charter Schools Act. Staff finds the admissions policies generally complete and recommends finalizing related procedures in the updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Staff recommends that the Santa Barbara Unified School District Board of Education approve the Peabody Charter School Renewal Petition for a five-year term from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030. Staff further recommends that the Board effectuate this action by adopting the proposed resolution entitled:

“Resolution Approving the Charter Renewal for Peabody Charter School for a Five-Year Term from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030.”

This approval is contingent on routine finalization of the updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Facilities Use Agreement (FUA), which reflect current legal standards and District best practices. No additional material revisions or corrective conditions are recommended at this time.

ATTACHMENT A

- Proof of Immunization
- Proof of residency
- Home Language Survey
- Completion of Emergency Medical Information Form
- Release of records¹

Public Random Drawing

Applications will be accepted during an open enrollment period for enrollment in the following school year. Following the open enrollment period each year, if the Charter School receives more applications than it has capacity, the Charter School will hold a public random drawing to determine enrollment for each grade level, with the exception of existing students who are guaranteed enrollment in the following school year.

Enrollment priority in the case of a public random drawing shall be allowed in the following priority order:

- ~~1. Children of Peabody Charter School Employees who meet employment criteria as defined.~~
- ~~2. Siblings of currently enrolled Charter School students who live in the Peabody attendance area~~
- ~~3. Students currently on the school waiting list, and who live in the Peabody attendance area, and who have reapplied for the upcoming school year~~
- ~~4. District residents living in the Peabody attendance area~~

1. Peabody Community Students:

- ~~• Children of Peabody Charter School Employees who meet employment criteria~~
- ~~• Siblings of currently enrolled Charter School students who live in the Peabody attendance area~~
- ~~• Students currently on the school waiting list, and who live in the Peabody attendance area, and who have reapplied for the upcoming school year~~
- ~~• Students living in the Peabody attendance area~~

~~7.2. Children of local out of District educators/school employees who meet employment criteria~~

~~5.3. Sibling of currently enrolled in-District/interdistrict Charter School students~~

~~6.4. Siblings of currently enrolled out-of-District/intradistrict Charter School students~~

~~8.5. District residents outside the Peabody attendance area~~

~~9.6. Out of District students~~

¹ In accordance with Education Code Section 47605(e)(4)(B), the Charter School shall not request a pupil's records or require a parent, guardian, or pupil to submit the pupil's records to the Charter School before enrollment.

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