



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 10.2

Meeting Date: April 16, 2026

Subject: Closure of George Washington Carver School of Arts and Sciences
Charter School

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

Division: Office of the Deputy Superintendent

Recommendation: The Board should decide whether to close George Washington Carver School of Arts and Sciences (Carver or GWC) effective June 30, 2026.

Background/Rationale:

In December 2025, staff presented the Board with a First Interim fiscal analysis of all dependent charter schools, explicitly notifying the Board that multiple schools were experiencing, or were projected to experience, fiscal distress.

In February 2026, staff presented updated projections on the financial health of all dependent charter schools. At the time, Carver was projected to run out of money (a negative ending fund balance) before the end of the 2026-27 school year. The board directed staff to initiate preparations for closure due to fiscal insolvency. The leadership, staff, and families at Carver were noticed of the potential closure.

In the intervening months, staff have held community meetings, collected data on community preferences, and updated financial projections. At tonight's meeting, staff will be requesting that the Board either commit to keeping Carver open for the entirety of the 2026-27 school year or initiate a self-closure effective June 30, 2026.

Financial Considerations: This decision is largely a financial one. Should the Board vote to keep Carver open for the 2026-27 school year, the District will assume responsibility for some, if not all, financial short-falls that the school may accrue during the 2026-27 school year.

LCAP Goal(s): NA

Documents Attached:

1. Executive Summary
2. Closure Resolution

Estimated Time of Presentation: NA

Submitted by: Mary Hardin Young, Deputy Superintendent
Amanda Goldman, Director, Innovative Schools

Approved by: Cancy McArn, Interim Superintendent

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
George Washington Carver School of Arts and Sciences:
Fiscal Solvency and Closure Decision

Purpose

The purpose of this item is to provide the Board with updated information regarding the fiscal viability of George Washington Carver School of Arts and Sciences (“Carver”) and to request direction on the school’s status for the 2026–27 school year. This item is a continuation of the fiscal distress analysis presented to the Board in December 2025 and February 2026.

Framework for Fiscal Solvency

Staff has evaluated Carver’s fiscal condition using three criteria:

1. This Year’s Budget (2025–26): Ability to complete the current school year with sufficient funds
2. Confirmation of Next Year’s Enrollment (2026-27): Sufficient confirmation of student enrollment to accurately project and collect the revenue necessary to sustain operations
3. Next Year’s Budget (2026–27): Ability to operate the full school year without exhausting available resources

These criteria are applied collectively to determine whether a school is fiscally viable and able to continue operating without extraordinary intervention.

Current Status

1) 2025–26 Budget - Condition Met

Carver is reasonably projected to complete the 2025–26 school year with a **small yet positive ending fund balance**, of between \$60,000-\$80,000. This is supported in part by use of one-time funds and cost controls. This amount falls below the required 5% expenditure reserve threshold described in the Charter School’s MOU with the District. In summary, the school’s financial position remains fragile, with effectively no capacity to absorb additional or unbudgeted costs.

2) Enrollment – Condition Not Met

Enrollment is the primary driver of revenue and a key determinant of whether Carver can meet its projected 2026–27 budget. Prior year financial challenges have arisen due, in part, to an over-projection of enrollment and ADA. The following are the enrollment and ADA thresholds that staff considered:

	To Satisfy the Revenue Conditions as Built into the 2026-2027 Developed Budget	To Satisfy the Revenue Conditions for a Positive Fund Balance in 2026-27	To Satisfy the Revenue Conditions for Long-Term Sustainability
Enrollment	160	190	220
ADA	93%	93%	93%
Deficit / Excess	-\$388,210	+\$40,861	+\$100,000

Staff evaluated enrollment using the following overlapping data points. *The information below is as of Tuesday, April 7. Should additional information be received prior to the board meeting, it will be presented.*

- Data Point 1: Carver’s in-school survey of students (currently grades 9-11) confirmed that **111** students intend to return next year.
- Data Point 2: Carver has received **73** new applicants for next year. **35** have completed registration in Infinite Campus. These 35 are likely reflected in Data point 3 below.
- Data Point 3: The District sent a form to parents inquiring about their preferences for next year. A family member of each student registered for next year (rising 9-12th graders), received the form. **139** forms were sent. **101** responses were received.
 - Question 1: If available, would your student attend Carver next year?
 - **90** – Yes **6** – No **5** – No Response
 - Question 2: If Carver was not available, what would be your preference for next year?
 - **76** Students who reside in District
 - **56** would not return to their school of residence
 - **15** would return to the school of residence
 - **3** No Response
 - **6 / 25** Students who reside outside of the District would request support with an inter-district permit

Taken together, a reasonable enrollment projection would be **134-159**. That includes (at minimum) the 90 confirmed, 27/34 out of those not responded, and 17/35 who have applied but not registered. This number of students would not meet the revenue targets established at Budget Development. Nor would it close the structural deficit. **Carver would continue to be insolvent in absence of the donations and grants discussed in the following section.**

3. 2026–27 Budget – Condition Not Met

Based on current projections, Carver is expected to **carry a negative unrestricted ending fund balance** by the end 2026–27 school year. The school continues to experience a structural deficit in which ongoing expenditures exceed projected revenues. Absent significant changes, Carver is unlikely to remain solvent for the full school year.

Projected Unrestricted Revenue with 147 ADA (160 Enrollment)	\$2,143,524
Projected Unrestricted Expenses at minimum staffing, with cost reduction	\$2,531,735
Projected Deficit (Revenue minus Expenses)	- \$388,211
Projected 25-26 Ending Fund Balance	\$80,000
Projected 26-27 Ending Fund Balance	- \$308,211

The team at Carver has applied for and secured some additional funding to offset this deficit. *The information below is as of Tuesday, April 7. Should additional information be received prior to the board meeting, it will be presented.*

Funding Source	Use Restrictions	Amount	Confirmed
Bitty Foundation	School is open for all of 26-27	\$20,000	Yes
Carver Guild	School is open for all of 26-27	\$20,000	Yes
Confirmed Total		\$40,000	
Wilton Rancheria	Indigenous Art on Campus Project: Art Teacher, Facility Fees, other Indirect Costs – Details TBD	\$250,000	No
City of Ranch Cordova	Community Garden Project: Science Teacher, Campus Maintenance, Other Indirect Costs – Details TBD	\$250,000	No

It is important to understand that these unconfirmed funding possibilities, while promising, have yet to be secured or worked out in detail. **Carver would need to receive both unconfirmed awards, and use them for the identified purposes, to finish the 2026-27 school year with a positive fund balance.**

Decision Options

Based on the analysis above, staff presents the following options for Board consideration:

Option 1 — Self-Closure (Governing Board Action)

The Board may initiate self-closure proceedings for Carver, effective June 2026. This approach allows for a planned and supported transition for students, families, and staff and aligns with fiscal realities identified in the analysis.

→ Board Action: Approve the Closure Resolution (#3574)

Option 2 — Commit to Operate Through June 2027 (Authorizing Board Action)

The Board may direct that Carver remains open through at least the 2026–27 school year. Under this option, if Carver exhausts its available funds, the District will assume responsibility for covering costs necessary to continue operations through the end of the year (a potential contribution of between \$200,000 and \$400,000).

→ Board Action: Deny the Closure Resolution (#3574)

Option 3 — Wait and See (Not Recommended)

The Board may elect to defer a decision at this time. However, this approach carries two significant risks. One is that the District would miss the window to effectively transition staff that may be impacted by the closure. The second is that Carver could face a mid-year closure if funds are exhausted and no District contribution is available, resulting in increased disruption for students, families, and staff and greater financial exposure for the District.

→ Board Action: Take no action on the Closure Resolution

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 3574**

**Resolution to Close the George Washington Carver
School of Arts and Sciences**

WHEREAS, George Washington Carver School of Arts and Sciences (“Charter School”) is a dependent charter school that operates under the authorization of the Sacramento City Unified School District (“District”);

WHEREAS, the Charter School’s current charter expires on June 30, 2030;

WHEREAS, the Charter School is experiencing significant financial distress, including a structural deficit of unrestricted expenses surpassing available unrestricted revenue over multiple years, the exhaustion of a prior year District financial contribution, a 2025-26 projected ending fund balance below required reserve levels, and a 2026-27 projected negative ending fund balance;

WHEREAS, the interests of staff and students at the Charter School have been considered and deemed to be better served in a more stable and better resourced learning environment which can be provided at other small high schools and learning communities within the District;

WHEREAS, the District is not in a financial position to absorb the financial obligations of the Charter School or District staff employed at the Charter School;

WHEREAS, a notice of fiscal distress and potential closure was presented to the Board and school community in December 2025 and February 2026;

WHEREAS, the governing Board desires to voluntarily close the Charter School due to an ongoing and unresolved structural deficit, 2025-26 ending fund balance below reserve requirements, and a 2026-27 projected negative fund balance; and

WHEREAS, the Charter School will be required to follow the closure procedures detailed in the Charter School’s approved charter, Education Code section 47605(c)(5)(O), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, section 11962.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Sacramento City Unified School District does resolve, determine, and order the following:

1. The foregoing recitals are hereby adopted as true and correct.
2. The Charter School shall close effective June 30, 2026.

3. The Board authorizes the Interim-Superintendent to appoint a designee staff member responsible for managing the Charter School's closure-related activities.
4. The Board authorizes the abovementioned staff-designee to coordinate all necessary actions consistent with the requirements of the Charter School's charter, applicable laws, and regulations including, but not limited to, preparation of closure-related documentation, notifications, record transfers, student transfers, contractual and financial closeout, and disposition of all assets after liabilities are paid, and all other closure-related activities necessary to close the Charter School.
5. The Interim Superintendent or her designee is authorized and directed to take such action as may be reasonably necessary to effectuate the purpose and intent of this Resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education on April 16, 2026 at a duly noticed meeting by the following vote:

AYES: _____ NOES: _____ ABSENT: _____ ABSTAIN: _____

Cancy McArn, Interim Superintendent

Tara Jeane, Board President