

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
February 9, 2022

SUBJECT: Own Your Success Academies v. School Board of Hillsborough County

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Accept the Recommendation of the Charter School Appeal Commission (CSAC) to deny the Appeal.

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1002.33, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an appeal by Own Your Success Academies, Inc., of the decision of the School Board of Hillsborough County to deny the charter application submitted by the Applicant.

ISSUE:

Whether the School Board had good cause to deny the application based on the Applicant's failure to comply with section 1002.33, Florida Statutes.

STANDARD OF REVIEW:

The School Board's determination must be based on good cause. The standard by which the State Board is to review the School Board's decision is whether the School Board had competent substantial evidence to make that determination. The question, therefore, is whether the evidence upon which the School Board based its determination is sufficiently relevant and material that a reasonable mind would accept it as adequate to support the conclusion reached. If so, the School Board's decision must be upheld.

SCHOOL BOARD'S GROUNDS FOR DENIAL:

The School Board of Hillsborough County based its denial on the following pursuant to section 1002.33, Florida Statutes:

- Application failed to meet the requirements of the Educational Plan
 - Educational Program Design
 - Exceptional Students
 - English Language Learners
- Application failed to meet the requirements of the Business Plan
 - Budget
 - Financial Management and Oversight
- Application failed to include Addendum B with its Application
 - Addendum B is required when an Applicant chooses to work with an Education Service Provider (ESP).
 - Required elements include a draft contract and explanation of why the ESP was selected, including its background, track record, and affiliation with other schools; the legal relationship between the school's governing board and the

ESP; the ESP's organizational structure; and the terms of the management agreement.

CSAC CONCLUSION:

The School Board of Hillsborough County did not have competent, substantial evidence to support denial of the Application based on the Applicant's failure to meet the standards for the Education Plan or to include Addendum B with its Application.

In a unanimous vote, the CSAC found that the School Board of Hillsborough County did have competent, substantial evidence to support its denial of the application based on the Applicant's failure to meet the standards for the Business Plan. Overall, the financial plan lacked clarity, public transparency and controls to ensure appropriate fiscal management of state funds, and did not contain the level of financial management and oversight by the governing board required to approve a charter school application.

CSAC RECOMMENDATION:

The Charter School Appeal Commission recommends upholding the decision of the School Board of Hillsborough County by denying the appeal of Own Your Success Academies, Inc.

Supporting Documentation Included: Charter School Appeal Commission Recommendation. Appeal of Charter School, Response, CSAC Transcript, Own Your Success Academies Motion to Exclude Reasons for Denial, and Hillsborough Response to Motion to Exclude Reasons for Denial (under separate cover)

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