



**CURRICULUM CENTER
JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2**

1720 W. PINE ST. • MERIDIAN, IDAHO 83642 • PHONE (208) 888-3265 • FAX (208) 887-6053

July 6, 1999

TO: Meridian School District Board of Trustees

FROM: Sally Harris, Vocational Coordinator

REF: State Department of Education Findings
Meridian Charter High School, Inc. Charter

Attached is a letter from the State Department of Education with findings regarding the original charter for the Meridian Charter High School, Inc. Also, attached is the document that was sent to Carolyn Mauer for her review. Ms. Mauer has verbally indicated that this amendment document satisfactorily addresses the concerns. We are requesting your approval of the additional information to be added to the charter.

Thank you.

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Meridian Charter High School
Review for Legal Sufficiency
February, 1999**

The Idaho Department of Education Charter School Team reviewed the Meridian Charter School charter for legal sufficiency and found the following concerns. These items are being submitted to the Meridian Charter School and the Meridian School District for consideration.

- Evidence of Incorporation under Idaho's Non-Profit Corporation Act (33-5204) is missing from the documentation.

FINDING:

A charter petition must describe the manner by which special education services will be provided to students with disabilities who are eligible pursuant to the federal individuals with disabilities education act (Idaho Code 33-5205 (3)(p)).

Special Education is not mentioned in this charter. It is not possible to determine whether special education will be provided and if so, how. This omission is a violation of the Idaho Public Charter School law. If special education services are not provided to eligible charter school students, it would be a serious violation of federal law.

RECOMMENDATION:

The charter be amended to describe special education services pursuant to IDEA.

FINDING:

The charter describes high standards for discipline and a zero tolerance policy. Federal laws under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) require public schools to provide students with disabilities additional procedural safeguards in discipline matters. According to this charter, it appears that the charter school intends to treat all students the same. This would violate the requirements of Section 504 and the IDEA.

RECOMMENDATION:

The charter be amended to include a provision in the discipline policy which ensures that students with disabilities have additional procedural safeguards in discipline matters as defined in Section 504 and IDEA.

FINDING:

No provision is written in the charter for how the school would identify and serve gifted and talented students. While the charter outlines many creative opportunities, it fails to comply with the Gifted and Talented mandate: "public school districts in the state shall provide instruction and training for children between the ages of five (5) and eighteen (18) who are gifted and talented..." (Idaho Code, 33-2003)

RECOMMENDATION:

In order to be in compliance with Idaho Code, the charter be amended to include a provision for identifying and providing instruction for students who are gifted and talented.

FINDING:

The charter for Meridian Charter School does not define the measurable educational standards. The "higher test scores" as defined on page 9 of the charter do not completely satisfy the requirements of Idaho's law. " Student educational standards for the purpose of this chapter mean the extent to which all students of the charter school demonstrate they have attained the skills and knowledge specified as goals in the school's educational program (Idaho Code 33-5205 (3) (b). The school's educational program as described in this charter is very vague .

RECOMMENDATION:

The educational program must be more completely described in order for measurable educational standards to be established. In addition, the charter must include the extent to which all students will demonstrate they have attained the knowledge and skills specified as goals. Item #5 of the Thoroughness Standards refers to a basic curriculum. If the basic curriculum is developed for the charter school, it should be included with the charter along with accompanying assessments.

FINDING:

The charter does not address any Federal funding.

RECOMMENDATION:

The charter school participates in all federal funding programs for which it is eligible.

Please refer any questions regarding bus transportation and reimbursement to Rod McKnight, Supervisor of Support Services, Idaho Department of Education.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MERIDIAN CHARTER SCHOOL PETITION

ABSENCE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

This area was not intentionally left out. The Meridian Charter School will accept special education students and provide services as required by state and federal laws. If this population is very small then a contract will be established between the Charter School and the Meridian School District to provide the necessary services.

STANDARDS OF DISCIPLINE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Meridian Charter School has set high standards for discipline and zero tolerance. However, it is understood that procedural safeguards in discipline matters as defined in Section 504 and IDEA will be followed just as they are in other public schools.

PROVISIONS FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

It is certainly recognized and hoped that there will be gifted and talented students attending the charter school. We suspect that with 50 students per grade level attending this school that it will not be feasible to offer AP classes or any other class specifically designed for gifted and talented students. However, it is the intent of the charter school to handle gifted and talented students on an individual basis. Personal Education Profiles will be developed for each student with input from the parents, student, and teacher. This plan will include course outline, student goals and enrichment activities. Students will have the opportunity to work at their own pace and also to enroll in cyberschool courses offered over the Internet. These courses include advanced placement opportunities. In addition to cyberschool, students will have the opportunity to attain 12 college credits through dual credit options, tech prep agreements, and challenging college course requirements. Idaho Code 33-5205, section 3, does not require that this issue be addressed.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Students will demonstrate they have attained knowledge and skills through assessments such as ITBS, ACT, SAT, portfolio, and projects. The expected outcomes, as outlined in the charter on page nine are as follows:

1. Students will be able to enter academic and vocational post secondary educational programs or enter the work force with the skills necessary to be successful. Students will receive credits that meet college requirements.
 - English 8 credits

- Math 6 credits
- Science 6 credits
- Humanities 2 credits
- Social Studies 5 credits
- Speech/Debate 1 credit

In addition, credits in the following will be required for high school graduation:

- Physical Education 2 credits
- Health 1 credit
- Study/Life skills 2 credits

Technical skills from chosen focus area will be attained. A minimum of 9 credits will be required electives.

The academic grading scale at the charter school will be as follows:

A = 92 - 100%
 B = 83 - 91%
 C = 74 - 82%
 Work in Progress

Students will be expected to maintain a C or better. If a C has not been achieved, students will continue working until a satisfactory level has been achieved in order to receive credit. Students will also be expected to pass proficiency assessments in order to obtain credit.

MEASUREMENTS OF SUCCESS

1. Higher test scores on tests as ITBS, ACT, SAT, etc as compared to other high school students. Level testing will also be utilized to determine growth.

Meridian Charter High School Board Meeting Minutes
July 19, 1999
7:00 P.M.

Vice-president Wally Hedrick called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the Meridian School District Office at 911 Meridian Road. Board members in attendance were Wally Hedrick, Sam Johnson and Sally Harris. Bob Haley was also present.

Sam Johnson moved and Sally Harris seconded the motion with the voting unanimous to approve the minutes for the June 21, 1999 regular board meeting.

Reorganization of the Board:

President Steve Mann's resignation was accepted. Sam Johnson moved and Sally Harris seconded the motion to appoint Wally Hedrick as interim president pending a board reorganization following new appointments in September. Sally Harris moved and Sam Johnson seconded the motion for Alecia Baker to serve as interim vice-president pending board reorganization. Voting was unanimous. New board members will be appointed at the September 20th board meeting. Names of interested people will be taken prior to that meeting.

Dates, times and locations for board meetings for the following year are as follows:

August 16, 1999 – 7:00 P.M. Meridian School District Office, 911 Meridian Road
September 20, 1999 – 7:00 P.M., Church of Christ, 2000 N. Eldorado St., Boise
October 18, 1999 – 7:00 P.M., Church of Christ, 2000 N. Eldorado St., Boise
November 15, 1999 – 7:00 P.M., Charter High School, 3800 N. Locust Grove, Meridian
December 20, 1999 – 7:00 P.M., Charter High School, 3800 N. Locust Grove, Meridian
January 17, 2000 – 7:00 P.M., Charter High School, 3800 N. Locust Grove, Meridian
February 21, 2000 – 7:00 P.M., Charter High School, 3800 N. Locust Grove, Meridian
March 20, 2000 – 7:00 P.M., Charter High School, 3800 N. Locust Grove, Meridian
April 17, 2000 – 7:00 P.M., Charter High School, 3800 N. Locust Grove, Meridian
May 15, 2000 – 7:00 P.M., Charter High School, 3800 N. Locust Grove, Meridian
June 19, 2000 – 7:00 P.M., Charter High School, 3800 N. Locust Grove, Meridian
July 17, 2000 – 7:00 P.M., Charter High School, 3800 N. Locust Grove, Meridian

Meeting notices will be posted at the Meridian School District Office, 911 Meridian Road, the Church of Christ, 2000 N. Eldorado St. until the school site is ready and then at the Charter School, 3800 N. Locust Grove Road, Meridian, and at Meridian Elementary School, 48 W. State Ave., Meridian.

Discussion and Action:

A ruling from the Attorney has indicated that there is no conflict of interest with a member of the Meridian School District Board of Trustees sitting on the Meridian Charter School Board of Directors as long as it is public knowledge.

Amendments to the charter to address areas of concern as expressed by the State Department of Education were explained. Sam Johnson moved and Sally Harris seconded that the amendments be adopted as presented. Voting was unanimous.

Sally Harris moved, Sam Johnson seconded and voting was unanimous that we accept the initial lease for the temporary site at Church of Christ, 2000 N. Eldorado St., Boise, pending the completion of the office document to be presented at the August board meeting.

Sam Johnson reported on the work being done by the parent committees. Groups are working to obtain donations for landscaping and sprinkler systems. Lists of equipment needs will not be complete until questions concerning access to water have been answered.

There has been no further notification concerning the National Grants for Charter Schools. The funding from the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation is being held until there is clarification on 501C3 status.

Sam Johnson moved, Sally Harris seconded and voting was unanimous to accept the employment recommendation for Bob Peterson to fill the last teaching position.

In additional business, Sally Harris moved, Sam Johnson seconded, and voting was unanimous to have Sam Johnson as the name imprinted on Charter School checks with the principal, president or vice-president of the board of directors as the second signature on the check.

Sam Johnson moved, Sally Harris seconded and voting was unanimous for adjournment at 7:55 P.M.