

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CHARTER PETITION RENEWAL
OF ROCKETSHIP ALMA ACADEMY**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION NO.: 2199-2**

RESOLVED by the Santa Clara County Board of Education (“County Board” or “SCCBOE”), County of Santa Clara, State of California, that:

WHEREAS, pursuant to the procedures set forth in Education Code Section 47605.6(b) and its implementing regulations, petitioners for the Rocketship Alma Academy (“Alma”) delivered its Petition to renew a SCCBOE authorized, countywide charter school to the Santa Clara County Office of Education (“SCCOE”) on January 20, 2017.

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Board of Education (hereinafter “County Board of Education”) held a public hearing on this matter on February 15, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Education reviewed the renewal Petition taking into consideration the testimony and documents submitted, including the Rocketship Alma Academy Renewal Petition to the County Board of Education; the testimony presented at the public hearing; additional materials received from petitioners, local School Districts and the public; and the review of County Office of Education staff; and

WHEREAS, the County Board considered increases in pupil academic achievement for all groups of pupils served by Alma as the most important factor in determining whether to grant the requested renewal; and

WHEREAS, the County Board considered the past performance of Alma’s academics, finances, and operation, and future plans for improvement, in evaluating the likelihood of future success by Alma; and

WHEREAS, the County Board hereby adopts the information, recommendations, and proposed findings in the Staff Analysis and Proposed Findings of Fact Regarding Renewal of Rocketship Alma Academy Charter School Countywide Charter Petition (Exhibit A) on this matter, dated March 15, 2017 (“Analysis”), and incorporates the Analysis herein by reference; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the County Board of Education finds the above listed recitals to be true and correct and incorporates them herein by this reference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the County Board finds each of the following conditions constitutes an additional requirement beyond those specified in Education Code Section 47605.6 that is necessary to the sound operation of Alma as a countywide charter school. (Ed. Code § 47605.6(b).)

- A. By no later than May 1, 2017, Alma shall have its outside auditor, who meets the requirements for conducting Alma's annual audit, review the structure of its educational program, specifically including the roles to be played by credentialed teachers and noncredentialed employees, and Alma's proposed bell schedule, with the understanding that there is no flexibility in credentialing, to confirm that it complies with the annual instructional minutes requirements and provide the auditor's assessment to SCCOE. Further, Alma will be required to make any recommended adjustments to the schedule and program for the 2017-2018 school year and report them to SCCOE by June 15, 2017. Should the programmatic changes necessary to comply with the auditor's recommendations constitute material revisions to the Alma Charter, Alma shall seek approval of a material revision to its Charter from the SCCBOE.
- B. On or before May 1, 2017, Alma, Rocketship Education (Alma's governing entity), and the SCCOE shall enter into and execute a Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter "MOU") in the form and including the terms satisfactory to the County Superintendent or designee that will govern the SCCOE's oversight of Alma and clarify and provide greater specificity regarding Alma's operations pursuant to the renewal Charter which MOU shall remain in full force and effect throughout the term of the Charter. The MOU and the attachments/appendices/exhibits to the Charter shall be incorporated into the Charter and made a part thereof as if set forth in full in the Charter. A violation of the MOU shall constitute a violation of the Charter, including for purposes of Education Code Section 47607 controlling charter revocation. In the event of a conflict between the law and the terms of the MOU, the law shall prevail, and any such conflicting terms shall be revised by mutual agreement of the parties. In the event of a conflict between the Charter and the MOU, the terms of the MOU shall prevail and control. The MOU shall include, but not be limited to, the insurance and indemnification provisions specified by the SCCOE's risk management team.

A failure timely to comply with any of these conditions of approval shall result in the approval of the Alma Charter being automatically withdrawn and the Alma Charter being denied without further action by the SCCBOE. As noted above and in the Analysis and Memo, the SCCBOE finds that compliance with each and every one of these conditions is necessary to the sound and lawful operation of the proposed Alma renewal and the SCCBOE further finds a failure by Alma timely to comply with any such condition justifies

denial of the Petition, as provided for in Education Code Section 47605.6(b)(7). The SCCBOE has considered increases in pupil academic achievement as the most important factor in determining whether to grant the renewal of Alma's Charter, and is aware of and notes the academic improvements and achievements of Alma and its students. However, the above-described conditions are necessary in order to ensure that Alma complies with the unique legal requirements applicable to the special category of countywide charter schools, over which the SCCBOE has been granted wide discretion, and must comply with each of these requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED, the County Board of Education does hereby approve the renewal of the petition, and does hereby grant the renewal of charter subject to compliance with the above-described conditions. The charter is renewed for a period of five years of school operation, commencing on July 1, 2017, and continuing through June 30, 2022.

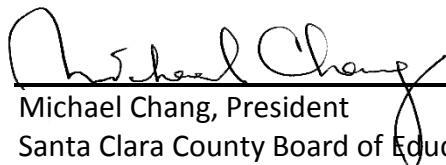
Passed and adopted by the Santa Clara County Board of Education at a meeting held on this 15 day of March, 2017, by the following vote:

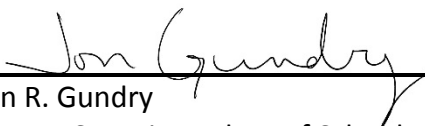
AYE: President Chang, Vice-President Kamei, members Di Salvo, Green, Mah and Song

NO: member Rossi

ABSTENTION: --none--

ABSENT: --none--


Michael Chang, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education


Jon R. Gundry
County Superintendent of Schools
Santa Clara County Office of Education