Santa Clara County Office of Education

RESOLUTION APPROVING WITH CONDITIONS FOR A TERM OF JULY 1, 2027, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2032, THE CHARTER RENEWAL FOR ROCKETSHIP FUERZA COMMUNITY PREP CHARTER SCHOOL, AND, ALTERNATIVELY, MAKING WRITTEN FACTUAL FINDINGS SUPPORTING DENIAL AND DENYING THE ROCKETSHIP FUERZA COMMUNITY PREP CHARTER RENEWAL IF THE CONDITIONS ARE NOT MET

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No.

RESOLVED by the Santa Clara County Board of Education, County of Santa Clara, State of California, that:

WHEREAS, Rocketship Fuerza Community Prep Charter School ("RFZ" or "Fuerza") is a Santa Clara County Board of Education ("County Board") is an independent authorized district appeal charter school governed and operated by Rocketship Education (RSED) doing business as Rocketship Public Schools (RPS), a California non-profit public benefit corporation, operating within the boundaries of the authorized district appeal charter school, operating within the boundaries of the Alum Rock Union School District ("ARUSD"). Fuerza serves students in TK-5 and its current charter term runs through and includes June 30, 2027. Rocketship Fuerza Community Prep Charter School and Rocketship Education dba Rocketship Public Schools are referred to herein individually, collectively, and interchangeably as "Charter School" and/or "RFZ," and, for purposes of convenience, Rocketship Education dba Rocketship Public Schools may be referred to herein as "RPS," and all references to one herein apply with full force and effect to both the school and the corporate entity; and

WHEREAS, on September 3, 2026, petitioners for the Charter School submitted to the Santa Clara County Office of Education a petition requesting renewal of its charter ("Charter"). For purposes of convenience, the County Board, the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools, and the Santa Clara County Office of Education may be collectively or separately referred to herein as "SCCOE"; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Education ("CDE"), on its list of Charter School Performance Categories, has designated the Charter School as a "middle" performance level charter school for purposes of this renewal request. As such, the Charter School's request for renewal was considered and is being acted on in accordance with the standards and requirements in Education Code Section 47607.2(b), applicable to middle performance level charter schools; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Education Code Section 47607.2(b) for a middle performance tier charter, the chartering authority shall consider the following factors: (1) The schoolwide and subgroup performance on the state and local indicators on the California School Dashboard, giving greater weight to measurements of academic performance and (2) clear and convincing evidence, demonstrated by verified data, showing either the school achieved measurable increases in academic achievement defined by at least one year growth for each year in school or strong post-secondary outcomes. Because the Charter School offers only grades TK-5, strong post-secondary outcomes are not applicable to it; and

WHEREAS, the chartering authority may deny a "middle" performing school on these grounds by making written factual findings that the school: 1) failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards that provide a benefit to the pupils of the school; 2) closure of the school is in the best

interest of pupils; *and* 3) if applicable, the decision provided greater weight to performance on measurements of academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, the Charter School submitted NWEA assessment growth verified data for Charter School students showing positive cohort growth trends across the charter term and one year's growth for each year of the charter term; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Education Code Sections 47605 and 47607, the County Board held a public hearing on the provisions of the renewal Charter on October 7, 2026, at which time the County Board considered the level of support for the Charter by teachers employed by ARUSD, other employees of ARUSD, and parents/guardians; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Education Code Section 47607(d), SCCOE requested, received from CDE, and reviewed aggregate data reflecting pupil enrollment patterns at the Charter School and reviewed other data from CDE; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE and Charter School entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in 2018 ("2018 MOU") and the Addendum there to ("Addendum") outlining agreements among the parties and governing their respective fiscal, operational, and administrative responsibilities and their legal relationship. By its terms, this 2018 MOU and Addendum remain in full force and effect during the period of any renewal granted by the SCCBOE unless and until such time as the Parties enter into a replacement MOU or specifically agree in writing that this MOU is terminated; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE provided the Charter School an updated memorandum of understanding ("2026 MOU") that is consistent with changes to law since entering into the 2018 MOU and Addendum and reflects SCCOE's current best practices; and

WHEREAS, the Charter School has agreed to the 2026 MOU language and expressed its desire to enter into the 2026 MOU, pending RPS Board approval on December 9, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Staff has reviewed and analyzed the renewal Charter pursuant to the standards and requirements of Education Code Sections 47605, 47607, and 47607.2, including the factors and findings required for renewal of a middle performing charter school. Staff has also reviewed the requested material revisions pursuant to the standards and requirements of Education Code Sections 47605 and 47607. Staff's analysis, recommendations, and recommended findings regarding the request for renewal and the requested material revisions based on its review and analysis are set forth in the written Staff Analysis, Recommendations, and Proposed Findings of Fact Regarding Review of Rocketship Fuerza Community Prep Charter School Renewal Petition, dated November 18, 2026, and published November 3, 2024, (hereinafter "Staff Report, Analysis & Findings," attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by this reference); and

WHEREAS, Staff have reviewed and analyzed the renewal Charter pursuant to the renewal standards and requirements in the Charter Schools Act. Staff's analysis, recommendations, and recommended findings regarding the request for renewal, based on Staff's review and analysis are set forth in the written Staff Report, Analysis & Findings); and

WHEREAS, for all of the reasons set forth in the Staff Report, Analysis & Findings, Staff has recommended that the County Board of Education approve the request for renewal of the Charter for a

term of five years (July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2032) on the condition that the Charter School and SCCOE enter into an addendum to the 2026 MOU on or before January 31, 2027, or such later deadline as may be agreed to by the County Superintendent or designee, that addresses each of Staff's concerns and recommended conditions as identified in the Staff Report, Analysis & Findings, including those as specifically reviewed in the Staff Report, Analysis & Findings, as well as any additional conditions identified by the SCCBOE, and has further recommended that the County Board adopt alternative written findings of denial because Staff believes that all of the issues and concerns noted in the Staff Report, Analysis & Findings must be remediated, in order for renewal of the Charter to be consistent with sound educational practice and the interests of the community in which the Charter School is located; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has taken into consideration the information and documents submitted, including the renewal Charter, statements and information presented at the public hearing, performance data, the Notice and Response including the Charter School's corrective action plan, and the Staff Report, Analysis & Findings; and

WHEREAS, the County Board reviewed and deliberated on the renewal Charter pursuant to the standards and procedures set forth in the Charter Schools Act; and

WHEREAS, the County Board specifically notes that this Resolution No. _____ does not necessarily include findings relative to every defect in the renewal Charter submitted, and that the findings set forth herein are sufficient to support denial of the renewal Charter if the conditions for approval are not met, and it is the findings set forth and adopted herein, including all of those incorporated herein by reference from the Staff Report, Analysis & Findings, on which the denial of renewal findings are based; now

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that the County Board of Education hereby adopts and incorporates herein by this reference as though set forth in full herein the written factual findings and specific facts supporting those findings as contained in the Staff Report, Analysis & Findings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that the County Board, having fully considered and evaluated the renewal Charter, and the application to the Charter of the Charter Schools Act's standards and criteria for renewal, hereby finds that compliance with each of the conditions set forth below is necessary to the sound operation of the Charter School and for the renewal Charter to comply with the standards for renewal, and renewal of the Charter is consistent with sound educational practice and with the interests of the community in which the Charter School is located only if the Charter School complies fully with each of these conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that the County Board of Education hereby approves with conditions the Charter for the renewal of Rocketship Fuerza Community Prep Charter School for a period of five years, commencing on July 1, 2027, and continuing through and including June 30, 2032. The renewal Charter that the Governing Board is hereby approving with conditions is attached hereto as Exhibit "B." This approval is conditional on the Charter School complying with all the following conditions:

1. On or before January 31, 2027, or such later deadline as agreed to in writing by the County Superintendent or designee, the Charter School and the SCCOE shall enter into and execute an addendum to the 2026 MOU in the form and including the terms satisfactory to the County Superintendent or designee, in their sole discretion, that will address all of Staff's concerns with and recommended conditions for the renewal Charter, including but not limited to those specified in the Staff Report, Analysis & Findings and any additional conditions as noted by the County Board. The 2018 MOU and Addendum shall be coextensive with and remain in full force and effect throughout the term of the Charter School's Charter and during the pendency of any appeal of a denial of a renewal request or a revocation of the Charter. Further, the term of the addendum shall continue in full force and effect beyond the current Charter term during any period when the County Board is the Charter School's chartering authority (whether approved directly or if the County Board is designated by the State Board of Education to serve as the chartering authority) including during the pendency of any appeal of a denial of a renewal request or a revocation of the charter, unless and until such time as (a) the Parties agree that a replacement MOU/addendum shall supersede and replace the MOU/addendum and that replacement MOU/addendum becomes effective; (b) the parties agree in writing that the MOU/addendum is terminated; or (c) the Charter School ceases operating and relinquishes/loses its Charter for any reason and complies with all applicable closure procedures and any ongoing requirements of the Charter, the 2026 MOU/addendum, and/or the 2018 MOU and Addendum should that agreement be in effect. The 2026 MOU and addendum shall be incorporated into the Charter and made a part thereof as if set forth in full in the Charter itself for all purposes, including for purposes of Education Code Section 47607 controlling charter revocation for material violations. In the event of a conflict between the law and the terms of the MOU and/or addendum, the law shall prevail, and any such conflicting terms shall be revised by mutual agreement of the parties. To the extent that there are any inconsistencies or conflicts between the 2026 MOU, the addendum to the 2026 MOU, and/or the 2018 MOU and Addendum (to the extent that agreement is in effect), and the approved renewal Charter, the order of precedence shall be as follows: (1) addendum; (2) 2026 MOU, (3) 2018 MOU and Addendum, (4) renewal Charter, and the terms shall control and prevail in this precedence order, and the terms of the addendum, 2026 MOU, and 2018 MOU shall be interpreted and deemed to be updates and clarifications to the Charter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education finds that if the conditions described above are not timely complied with to the satisfaction of the County Superintendent or designee, approval of the renewal Charter is not consistent with sound educational practice and the interests of the community in which the Charter School is located, and the Charter renewal can and shall be denied, based upon numerous grounds and factual findings including, but not limited to, the following:

1. The Charter School failed to update its Charter to include a reasonably comprehensive description of all new requirements of charter schools enacted into law since the Charter was last renewed and/or the renewal Charter does not contain a reasonably comprehensive description of all of the required charter elements [Ed. Code §§ 47605(c)(5) and 47607(b)].

2. The Charter School is demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program as set forth in the petition [Ed. Code § 47605(c)(2)].

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that the County Board hereby determines, if the conditions described above are not satisfied to the satisfaction of the County Superintendent or designee, that the foregoing findings are supported by specific facts, including the following facts and findings:

1. **The Charter School failed to update its Charter to include a reasonably comprehensive description of all new requirements of charter schools enacted into law since the Charter was last renewed and/or the renewal Charter does not contain a reasonably comprehensive description of all the required charter elements.**

   As detailed in the Staff Report, Analysis & Findings, multiple required charter elements in the renewal Charter were not properly updated to include a reasonably comprehensive description, including to comply with all new requirements of law. These elements include, but are not limited to, the required description of the admission policies and procedures and employee rights of return, as set forth in the adopted and incorporated Staff Report, Analysis & Findings.

2. **The Charter School is demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program as set forth in the petition.**

   The concerns and deficiencies regarding implementation of the program set forth in the renewal Charter as described in the adopted and incorporated Staff Report, Analysis & Findings are incorporated herein by this reference, specifically the need to update and remediate provisions of the Charter as described in the Staff Report, Analysis & Findings in order for the program described in the Charter to be complete and legally compliant such that implementation is consistent with law and Charter School's obligations pursuant to the 2018 MOU and Addendum, sound educational practice, and the interests of the community in which it is located.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that the Charter School shall comply with the conditions by the dates and times specified above. The County Board hereby delegates to the County Superintendent or designee authority to extend the deadline for compliance with a condition(s) should the County Superintendent or designee determine that an extension of the timelines is consistent with sound educational practice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that should the Charter School not comply with all of the conditions to the County Superintendent or designee's sole satisfaction, on or before the dates and times specified above, or such later deadline as agreed to in writing by the County Superintendent or designee, the approval with conditions of the renewal Charter is terminated and withdrawn and the renewal Charter is denied based on the written factual findings set forth above and adopted hereby, unless the County Board, in its sole discretion, deletes the requirement or extends the deadline for compliance therewith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that the terms of this Resolution, and incorporated Staff Report, Analysis & Findings, setting forth the factual findings supporting denial of the renewal are severable. Should it be determined that one or more of the findings is invalid, the remaining findings, and the approval with conditions or denial for failure to comply with the conditions, shall remain in full force and effect. In this regard, the County Board specifically finds that each factual finding is, in and of itself, a sufficient basis for denial of the Charter renewal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that approval of the renewal Charter is explicitly and necessarily based on the Charter School's compliance with the conditions imposed by the County Board pursuant to this Resolution, and should it be determined that a conditional approval of the renewal Charter is not permissible pursuant to the Charter Schools Act of 1992, the approval is withdrawn and the renewal Charter is denied based on the factual findings specific to the renewal Charter set forth and adopted by the County Board herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on November 18, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

_____	_____
Victoria Chon, President	Dr. David M, Toston, Sr.
Santa Clara County Board of Education	County Superintendent of Schools

EXHIBIT A

INSERT STAFF REPORT, ANALYSIS & FINDINGS

EXHIBIT B

CHARTER