



April 17, 2013

Dr. De La Torre & the Santa Clara County Board of Education (SCCBOE)
Santa Clara County Office of Education
1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, Ca 95131-2304

Dear Dr. De La Torre and the SCCBOE,

This letter serves to document Rocketship's interest in revising all charters currently authorized by the Santa Clara County Board of Education. This includes Rocketship charters 1-3 and 5-27.

The rationale for these changes includes a concerted effort to grow in a manner that does not compromise the quality of education RSED offers; to remain compliant with changing state regulations (e.g. offering transitional kindergarten); and to adopt a more efficient and consistent governance structure that provides parents with an opportunity to influence instructional and other school-related issues that impact students and families Rocketship serves.

A summary of the material revisions Rocketship seeks is included below:

Board of Directors (Section I. Introduction/Founding Group)

- An updated list of the Rocketship Education Board of Directors.

Opening Dates (Section I. Introduction/Founding Group, Section XI. Conclusion)

- The following charters have been updated to reflect new opening dates:
 - RS8: 2014
 - RS9: 2014
 - RS10: 2018
 - RS11: 2015
 - RS12: 2014
 - RS13: 2015
 - RS14: No change
 - RS15: 2016
 - RS16: 2018
 - RS17: 2017
 - RS18: 2016
 - RS19: No change
 - RS20: No change
 - RS21: 2017
 - RS22: 2018

- RS23: 2016
- RS24: No change
- RS25: 2018
- RS26: 2018
- RS27: 2017
- RS28: 2017

Enrollment (Section II. Educational Program)

- Rocketship will increase expected enrollment per school to between 600-700 students, and would like to reserve the right to add a Transitional Kindergarten class should there be demand or if it is mandated by the state.

Special Education (Section II. Educational Program)

- Edits clarify that Rocketship provides parents with a copy of our Child Find policy as a part of the Student Handbook.
- Rocketship no longer makes referrals to the county for mental health under AB3632.

Governance (Section IV. Governance)

- Rocketship has decided to consolidate all schools in the Bay Area under the governance of the Rocketship Education Board of Directors. This will allow for Rocketship to create more consistency across schools and expend fewer resources managing governance across the network. Rocketship also seeks to expand the role parents play in the governance of Rocketship schools.
- To promote parent participation in the governance process, Rocketship will create an Advisory board made up of parents and community leaders. The Advisory board will be populated so that each school in the Bay Area will be properly represented.
- The Executive Committee of the board will contain at least 2 members (as opposed to 3) as required by state law.

Fingerprinting/Background Check (Section V. Human Resources)

- Principals will report compliance with the Fingerprinting/Background check policies semi-annually (instead of quarterly) to the Director of HR (instead of to the Board President).

Lottery Policy (Section VI. Student Admissions, Attendance and Suspension/Expulsion Policies)

- Edits clarify the procedures for Rocketship's lottery during various years depending on funding streams.

Fiscal Audit (Section VII. Reporting and Accountability)

- The annual independent fiscal audit will be reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Business Committee of the RSED board of directors.

Closure Protocol (Section VII. Reporting and Accountability)

- Due to consolidation of all schools under RSED, if one Rocketship School closes, the corporation will no longer dissolve.

Organizational Purpose of Rocketship Education (Section VIII. Impact on the County)

- Rocketship is now organized for the purpose of operation of “public charter schools” as opposed to “a California public charter school”.

Change of Address (Appendix P)

- Rocketship Education’s home office is now located at:

350 Twin Dolphin Drive, Suite 109
Redwood City, CA 94065

Expulsion Policy (Appendix R)

- Rocketship Education will create a Student Discipline Committee (a committee of the RSED board of directors) which will be responsible for expulsions at all Rocketship schools. The committee will appoint a panel made up of Rocketship Education educators will hear expulsions and make recommendations to the Committee.
- The new policy also provides families of expelled students with two opportunities to appeal the decision. The previous policy did not allow for an appeals process.

Inclusion RSED Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation (Appendix W)

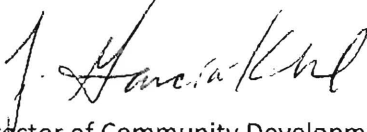
- The most updated versions of the RSED bylaws and articles of incorporation have been included. They have been inserted as “objects”, so please double click each item in order to view the full document.

Removal of Management Services Agreement/Fee (Appendix AE, Appendix AJ)

- RSED will now directly manage all schools, so the management services agreement and fee references have been removed.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to addressing any questions you may have.

Respectfully,
Jessica Garcia-Kohl



Director of Community Development
Rocketship Education