



MONTGOMERY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County Board of Education (MCBOE) has registered and been approved as a charter school authorizer according to Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act of 2015 with a mission to authorize high-quality public charter schools in accordance with state law; and

WHEREAS, the MCBOE has participated in the annually required public charter school authorizer training; and

WHEREAS, if a charter school applicant wishes to open a start-up or conversion public charter school within the boundaries of a local school system whose local school board has registered as an authorizer, then the applicant must file its public charter school application with that registered authorizer; and

WHEREAS, in evaluating and reviewing public charter school applications, the MCBOE is charged with the responsibility of employing procedures, practices, and criteria consistent with state law and nationally recognized principles and standards for quality charter authorizing; and

WHEREAS, the public charter school application review process includes a thorough evaluation of each written application, an in-person interview with the applicant group, and a public forum for local residents; and

WHEREAS, the MCBOE grants public school charters only to applicants that have met the standards for all criteria and are likely to open and operate a high-quality public charter school; and

WHEREAS, the MCBOE must base its decisions on documented evidence collected through the public charter school application review process; must follow policies and practices that are transparent and based on merit; must avoid conflicts of interests or any appearance thereof; and must require significant and objective evidence of interest for a public charter school from the community the public charter school wishes to serve; and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2023, Freedom Preparatory Academy submitted an application with the MCBOE to establish a start-up public charter school within the boundaries of the Montgomery Public Schools (MPS) system; and

WHEREAS, the MPS internal review team evaluated Freedom Preparatory Academy's public charter school application and secured an independent evaluator; and

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2024, during a public Board meeting, the Freedom Preparatory Academy leadership presented an overview of their public charter school application to the MCBOE and responded to questions from Board members; and

WHEREAS, on January 17, 2024, a capacity interview was conducted with Freedom Preparatory Academy to review the application and allow the leaders to address concerns identified during the review process, and provide clarification and additional information to support the application; and

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2024, a public forum was held for local residents in Montgomery County, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, during the capacity interview, Freedom Preparatory Academy responded to and addressed concerns identified during the review process in which they provided answers, qualifications, and additional information as requested; and

WHEREAS, the MCBOE independently reviewed the Freedom Preparatory Academy's public charter school's application; and

WHEREAS, at the Montgomery County Board of Education's public meeting on February 13, 2024, the Montgomery County Board of Education approved a motion to **deny** Freedom Preparatory Academy's public charter school application at a meeting at which a quorum was present and the vote was taken.

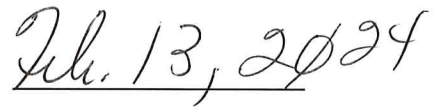
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montgomery County Board of Education, after review of the public charter school application, and after applying procedures, practices, and criteria consistent with state law and nationally recognized principles and standards for high quality charter school authorizing does hereby deny the application submitted by Freedom Preparatory Academy's.

Be It Further Resolved as follows:

1. The applicant has not met the standards in each element of MCBOE's established approval criteria and the MCBOE is uncertain whether the applicant could open and operate a high-quality public charter school.
2. After a complete and comprehensive review, the following concerns remain:
 - a. The application does not demonstrate verifiable fiscal viability either upon startup or on a continuing basis.
 - b. The application's Community Engagement does not reflect current, consistent, or continuous efforts to engage the targeted community that is originally stated in the application. Additionally, the stakeholder engagement does not reflect the newly targeted community that the applicant intends to serve.
 - c. The applicant's Educational Program and Capacity needs additional refinement and focus necessary to operate a high-quality public charter school.
3. The applicant may submit an updated application during MCBOE's next application cycle.

Resolution adopted and approved by the Montgomery County Board of Education at its meeting of February 13, 2024.


MCBOE Chairman


Date