

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Alabama Public Charter School Commission (the “Commission”) was established by the 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, in evaluating and reviewing charter applications, the Commission is charged with the responsibility of employing procedures, practices, and criteria consistent with nationally recognized principles and standards for quality charter authorizing; and

WHEREAS, in order to overrule the decision of a local school board and authorize a public charter school, the Commission is charged by law with doing all of the following:

- a. Find evidence of a thorough and high-quality public charter school application from the applicant based on the authorizing standards in subdivision (8) of subsection (a) 16-6F-7.
- b. Hold an open community hearing opportunity for public comment within the local school system where the application was denied.
- c. Find that the local board’s denial of an original charter application was not supported by the application and exhibits.
- d. Take into consideration 1. other existing charter school applications, 2. the quality of school options existing in the affected community, 3. the existence of other charter schools, and 4. any other factors considered relevant to ensure the establishment of high-quality charter schools in accordance with the intent of this chapter.
- e. Find evidence that the local school board erred in its application of nationally recognized authorizing standards.

WHEREAS, on **March 4, 2022**, Red Tails Preparatory Academy appealed to the Commission the denial of its application to the Macon County Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Commission held an open community hearing on **May 4, 2022**, that provided for public comment; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has evaluated the original application submitted to the Macon County Board of Education by Red Tails Preparatory Academy, assessing the applicant’s overall capacity to implement its proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Commission took into consideration existing charter school

applications, the quality of the school options existing in the community, the existence of other charter schools, and any other factors considered relevant to ensure the establishment of high quality charter schools in accordance with the intent of this chapter; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has engaged The University of Alabama, College of Education, Office of Evaluation Research and School Development (the “External Evaluator”) to assist with the evaluation process and to provide information, analysis, and guidance to assist the Commission in determining whether the charter application has met the standards for approval under state law and nationally recognized principles and standards; and

WHEREAS, the External Evaluator has evaluated Red Tails Preparatory Academy’s application, has assessed the applicant’s overall capacity to implement its proposal, and has issued an analysis to the Commission regarding the application; and

WHEREAS, Red Tails Preparatory Academy was given an opportunity to respond to the External Evaluator’s evaluation and chose not to respond; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is most appreciative of the efforts of Red Tails Preparatory Academy as reflected in the submitted application.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alabama Public Charter School Commission, after review of the charter school application and the related materials of the Macon County Board of Education, and after applying procedures, practices, and criteria consistent with nationally recognized principles and standards for quality charter authorizing, does hereby deny the appeal submitted by Red Tails Preparatory Academy and determines at this time as follows:

Red Tails Preparatory Academy failed to garner enough affirmative votes of the Commission for the decision of the Macon County Board of Education to be overruled, and Red Tails Preparatory Academy’s application to be approved, in accordance with the requirements of the Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act of 2015 and the Commission’s Bylaws. The Commission’s debate on this issue, including reasons for denial of Red Tails Preparatory Academy’s appeal as articulated by certain Commissioners, was recorded and is available as a public document and is incorporated herein by reference.

Specifically, and among other articulated reasons, the Commission identifies the following deficiencies in the application submitted by Red Tails Preparatory Academy:

- a. The application does not demonstrate verifiable fiscal viability either to start or on a continuing basis and, in fact, the proposed budget for the school depends heavily on support from Macon County Schools (for which evidence of support was not presented) and variable funding opportunities.
- b. The applicant’s educational program and facilities plans are lacking in several key components necessary to operate a successful public charter

school, including reflecting an over-dependency on external partnerships that evidently have not been solidified.

- c. The application reflects a well-qualified and experienced leadership team; however, the Commission is concerned about the commitment of said team given that only the executive director participated in the capacity interview or the public hearing.
- d. The applicant failed to demonstrate a sufficient level of community support and interest for the operation of a successful charter school in Macon County, Alabama.

Red Tails Preparatory Academy is invited and encouraged to make further refinement to its application and program and to submit an updated application during a subsequent application cycle.

Resolution adopted and approved by the Alabama Public Charter School Commission at its meeting of May 20, 2022.



Its Chairman