

## 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, the application review process must include 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 Commission may grant charters only to applicants that have demonstrated competence and are likely to open and operate a successful public charter school; is to base its decision on documented evidence collected through the 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 the public charter school from the community the public charter school wishes to serve; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has engaged SchoolWorks to assist with the evaluation process and to provide information, analysis, and recommendations 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:

WHEREAS, Knowledge Unlimited Foundation filed a public charter school application with the Commission on **July 13, 2020** to operate a charter school known as Knowledge Unlimited Public Charter School; and

WHEREAS, in-person interviews of Knowledge Unlimited Public Charter School were conducted on **August 11, 2020**; and

WHEREAS, a public forum was held for local residents in Bessemer, Alabama on **August 5, 2020**; and

WHEREAS, additional in-person interviews of Knowledge Unlimited Public Charter School were conducted in a public meeting of the Commission on **September 10, 2020**; and

WHEREAS, SchoolWorks has evaluated the application, has assessed the applicant's overall capacity to implement its proposal, and has issued an analysis and a recommendation to the Commission regarding the application; and

WHEREAS, Knowledge Unlimited Public Charter School was given an opportunity

to respond and, in fact, did respond to SchoolWorks' evaluation; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is most appreciative of the efforts of Knowledge Unlimited Public Charter School 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 after applying procedures, practices, and criteria consistent with nationally recognized principles and standards for quality charter authorizing does hereby deny the application submitted by Knowledge Unlimited Foundation and determines at this time as follows:**

1. The applicant has not demonstrated competence in each element of the Commission's established approval criteria and the Commission is uncertain whether the applicant could open and operate a successful public charter school.
2. The application is further denied for the following reasons:
  - a. The application does not sufficiently describe the school's financial plans and policies. A fully developed and viable financial plan was not provided and, in fact, certain material calculation errors were made in the school's financial plan that masked a FY22 budget deficit.
  - b. The application does not demonstrate verifiable fiscal viability either to start or on a continuing basis.
  - c. The application's educational program and discipline plan are lacking in several key components necessary to operate a successful public charter school.
3. The application demonstrates a unique, hands-on, and holistic instructional approach to education and a school that is well supported by an experienced Board, with parents and members of the community with a wide range of education and business expertise that, with program refinement, enhancement of the governing standards for the school, and additional financial resources, would comprise a charter school program that meets the objectives under state law and nationally recognized standards.
4. The applicant is invited and encouraged to make further refinement to the program, obtain additional financial resources, to address items identify by the Commission and SchoolWorks as needing further development, and then to submit an updated application during the 2021 submission process.

**Resolution adopted and approved by the Alabama Public Charter School Commission at its meeting of September 17, 2020.**



Its Chairman