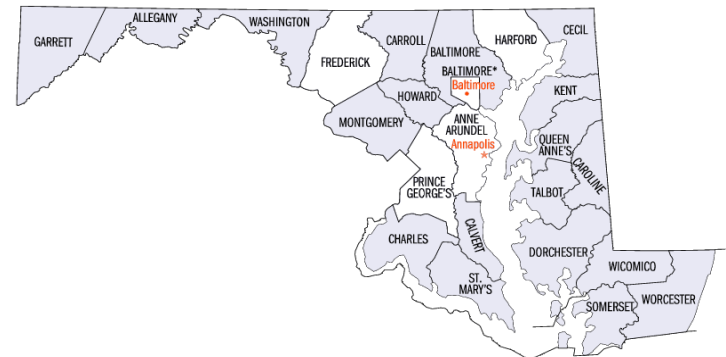




The Little Red Schoolhouse of Tomorrow

# Maryland Charter School Authorizers Conference

November 29, 2006



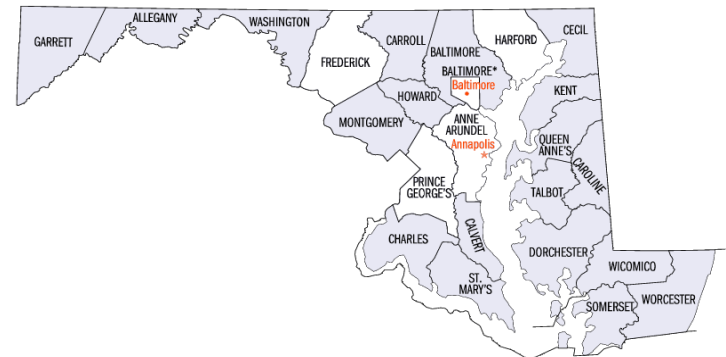


## The Little Red Schoolhouse of Tomorrow

# Demographics, Key Findings and New Initiatives

Patrick Crain

Director, Office of School Innovations  
Maryland State Department of Education





# Overview

- 2006-2007 Charter School Demographics
- State Board of Education Opinions
- Maryland State Department of Education Charter School Initiatives
- Grant Summary

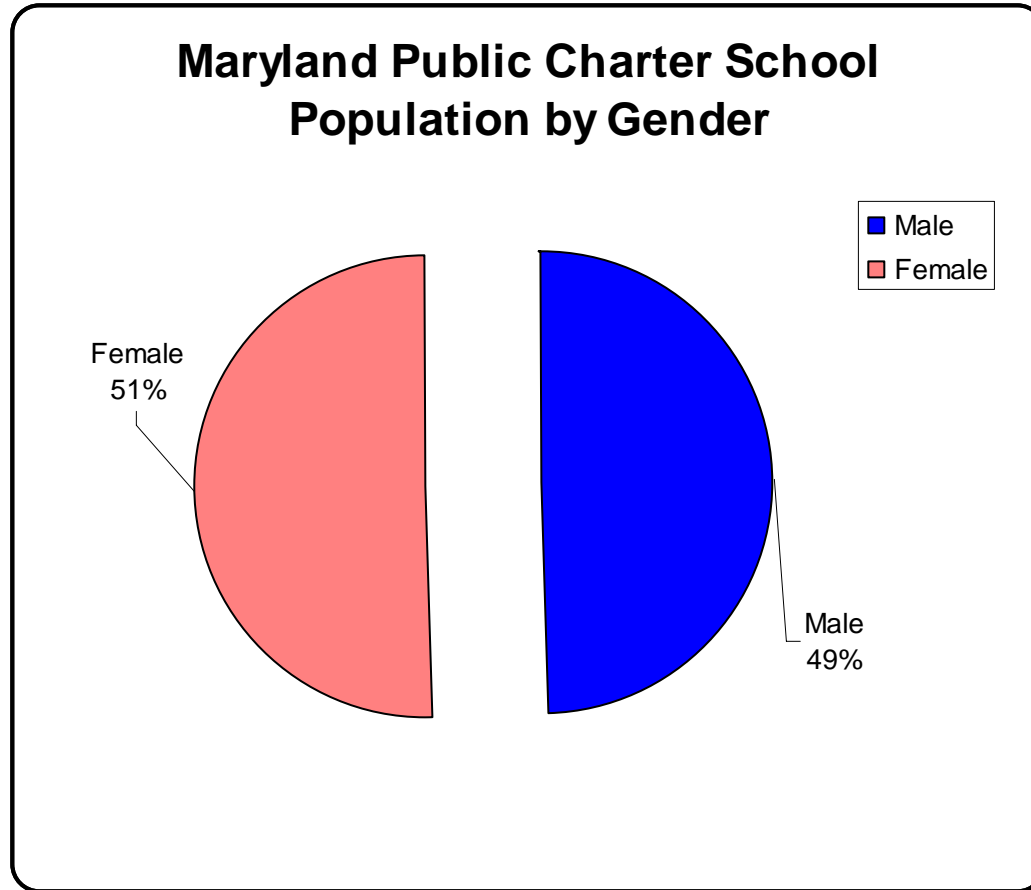


# 2006-07 Enrollment Demographics

	<b>Number of Schools</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>
Baltimore City Public School System	16	4,777
Prince George's County Public School System	3	553
Anne Arundel County Public School System	2	296
Frederick County Public School System	1	283
Harford County Public School System	1	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5,935</b>



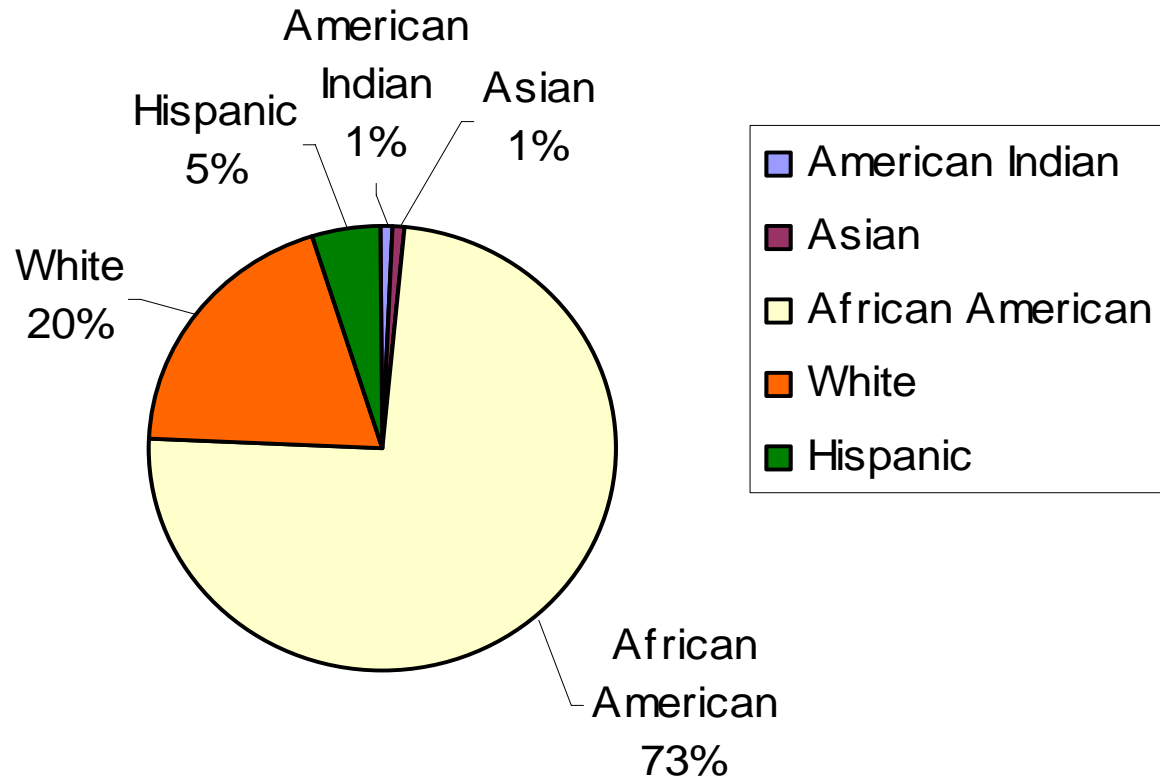
# 2006-07 Demographics- Gender





# 2006-07 Demographics- Ethnicity

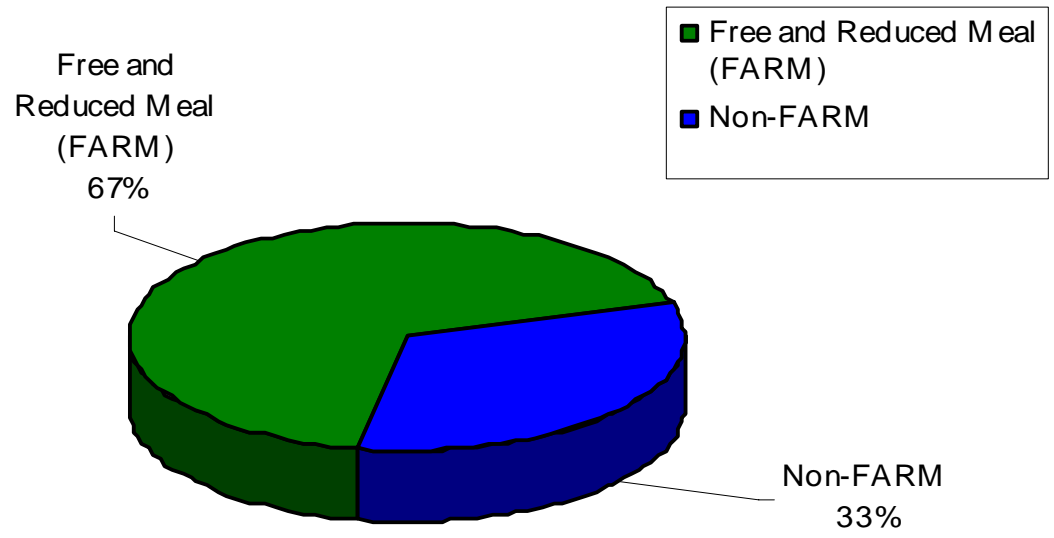
## Maryland Public Charter School Population by Ethnicity





# 2006-07 Demographics- FARMS

## Maryland Public Charter School Population by FARM





# Number of Appeals

<b>Reason for Appeal</b>	<b>Number of Appeals</b>
Denial of Application	9
Funding	4
Delay review of an application	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>



# Critical Issues to LSS

## **Deadline for Review of Application:**

§9-104(a) mandates that a local board review a charter school application and render a decision on the application within 120 days of its receipt.

In the case at hand the (SBOE) found that delaying the process for an additional ten months for consideration of an application is not in compliance with the intent of the Maryland charter school law.

**Opinion 4-32: Potomac Charter School v. PG County Board of Education**

**Date: August 4, 2004**

**Page 3**



# Critical Issues to LSS

## **Deadline for Review of Application:**

There is nothing in the law that permits a local board to defer consideration of an application for a public charter school or to defer the establishment of charter schools generally until a future date. As the State Board has already determined, the legislature intended for local boards to proceed with all deliberate speed in receiving and reviewing charter school applications.

**Opinion: 4-38 City  
Neighbors Charter  
School v. Baltimore City  
Board of School  
Commissioners**

**Date: October 6, 2004  
Page 5**



# Critical Issues to LSS

## **Deadline for Review of Application:**

The SBOE finds that nothing in the Maryland Public Charter School Act that authorizes a local board to impose a two-year delay between approval of an application and the opening of a charter school

**Opinion 05-23 Chesapeake  
Public Charter v. St. Mary's  
County Board of Education  
Page 8**



# Critical Issues to LSS

## **Setting limits for the establishment of charter schools:**

The SBOE found no basis in the Maryland Public Charter School Act that authorizes the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to adopt a policy not to charter more than three schools in the first three years of the charter school program. There is nothing in the Act that permits the arbitrary setting of a limit on the number of charters that are granted.

**Opinion 4-38: City  
Neighbors Charter  
School v. Baltimore City  
Board of School  
Commissioners**

**Date: October 6, 2004**

**Page 5**



# Critical Issues to LSS

## Funding:

Regarding the appropriate level of funding for charter schools. ***Refer to pages 6-7 in the following opinions:***

Application should specifically ask for a budget based on specific per pupil figure

## Opinions:

**05-17 City Neighbors Charter School v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners**

**05-18 Lincoln Charter Public School, Inc v. PG County Board of Education**

**05-19 Patterson Park Public Charter School v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners**  
**Date: May 26, 2005**

**06-16 Imagine Belair Edison Charter School v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners**  
**Dated: May 24, 2006**  
**Page 9**

**16-17 Monocacy Montessori Communities, Inc. v. Frederick County Board of Education**  
**Dated: May 24, 2006**



# Critical Issues to LSS

## **Timeline for finalizing the charter agreement:**

The thoroughness of the application process should pave the way for the incorporation of the approved application into the body of the charter school agreement with the need for minimal additional negotiation in completing the charter agreement; therefore, the charter agreement must be completed within 30 calendar days from the date of the decision approving the charter application

**Opinion 05-17: City Neighbors  
Charter School v. Baltimore City  
Board of School  
Commissioners**

**Date: May 26, 2005**

**Page 3**



# Critical Issues to LSS

## **Standard of Review/Evaluation of an Application:**

The SBOE found that if a numerical rating scale is used to evaluate an application, the local board must provide an analytical key that describes with specificity what is necessary or adequate to achieve each point on the scale and that the 3-page evaluation letter should have included as an attachment a copy of the complete charter school evaluation and recommendation prepared by the local superintendent and staff.

**Opinion 05-08: Potomac Public Charter School v. PG County Board of Education**

**Date: March 11, 2005**

**Page 7**



# Critical Issues to LSS

## **Non Profit Status:**

The SBOE believes that if an entity has obtained a federal tax identification number, it will have sufficiently demonstrated its non-profit status for the purpose of applying to be a charter school

\* *Will affect charter school applicants*

**Opinion 05-21: Dr. Ben Carson  
Charter School v. Harford County  
Board of Education**

**Date: June 7, 2005**

**Page 4**



# Critical Issues to LSS

## **Comparing a grant approval to a charter approval:**

A grant application and a full blown charter school application are not comparable documents. A high score on one does not necessarily mean that a high score on the other must follow. Moreover, the grant approval letter makes clear that approval of the charter is a condition precedent to receiving the grant. In short, the grant score is not relevant in judging the sufficiency of the charter school application. Sufficiency of the application must be judged on the quality of the application alone.

***Will affect charter school applicants***

**Opinion 05-21: Dr. Ben Carson  
Charter School v. Harford County  
Board of Education**

**Date: June 7, 2005**

**Page 6**



# Critical Issues to LSS

## **Requirement of Superintendents Recommendation:**

The SBOE directs each local superintendent from now forward to provide to the local board a detailed recommendation for approval or denial of a charter school application.

## **Local Board's Explanation:**

The SBOE finds that in fairness to the applicants and members of the public, a local board must provide in addition to its decision approving or denying a charter application, an explanation or rationale for its decision. Furthermore, if a local board chooses to give its decision orally, it must also state the rationale for its decision at the public meeting.

**05-23 Chesapeake Public Charter v.  
St. Mary's County Board of  
Education  
Page 5**

**05-23 Chesapeake Public Charter v.  
St. Mary's County Board of  
Education  
Page 7**



# Critical Issues to LSS

## **Hearing on a Board Decision:**

There is no legal requirement that a charter school applicant be afforded a hearing prior to a decision on the merits of the application.

**Opinion: 05-21 Dr. Ben Carson  
Charter School v. Harford County  
Board of Education**

**Date: June 7, 2005**

**Page 8**



# Use of a Consultant

The SBOE concludes that the charter school applicants must reveal to the chartering authority both the financial and operational arrangements made with the educational management organization or consultant due to the implications such an arrangement can have on the daily and financial operations of a school

**06-14 UMOJA Academy v. Baltimore  
City Board of School  
Commissioners**

**Date: May 3, 2006**

**Page 6**



# Timeline/Deadline Documents

## Timeline/Deadlines Documents

It is the SBOE's opinion that for clarity and fairness in the process, the school system should inform charter school applicants of the purpose of a timeline document and whether or not there are immutable deadlines within it.

Deadlines must be announced if it is to be useful and enforceable. **06-30**

**06-30 Lincoln Public Charter School, Inc. v. Prince George's County Board of Education  
Dated: September 26 2006**

**Lincoln Public Charter School, Inc. v. Prince George's County Board of Education  
Dated: September 26 2006  
Page 8**



# Notification of Application Denial

Notify applicant using one letter, on system letterhead, appropriately signed and dated and sent via U.S. mail.

**06-16 Imagine Belair Edison Charter  
School v. Baltimore City Board of  
School Commissioners  
Dated: May 24, 2006  
Page 5**



# Additional Information

Please go to:

[http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/stateboard/legalopinions/  
subject\\_index.htm](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/stateboard/legalopinions/subject_index.htm)



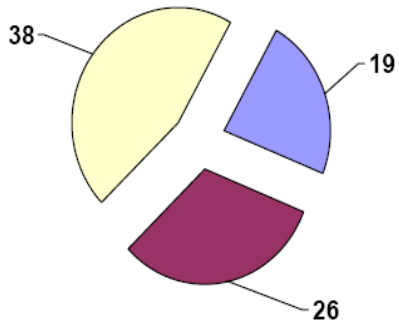
# Charter School Initiatives

- COMAR- Timeline, Waiver process
- Apply for Federal Grant
- Update Model Policy Guide
- Closing Guidance
- Statewide Model Application
- Continue contract with Maryland Charter School Network
- Longitudinal Evaluation of students attending charter schools
- Ongoing technical assistance
- Statewide special education conference



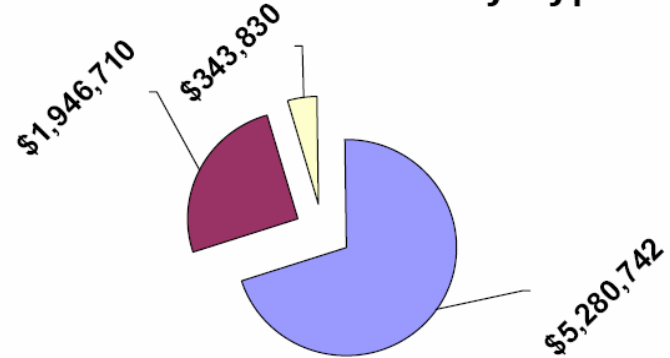
# Grants

Grants Issued by Type



Implementation      Planning and Design  
Preplanning

Total Funds Committed by Type



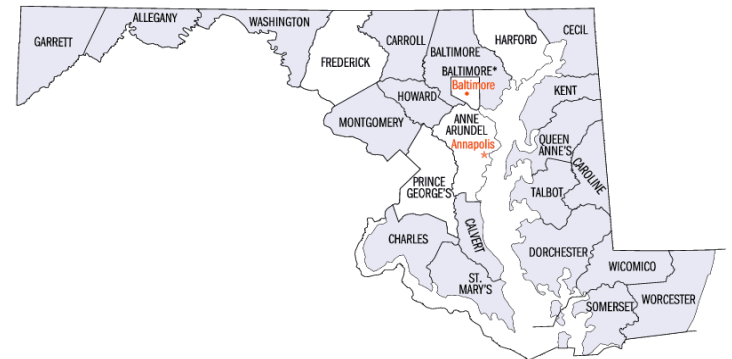
Implementation      Planning and Design  
Preplanning

- Jurisdictions That Have Received Grant Funds:
  - Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Prince George's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Wicomico



# The Authorizer's Role

## A Panel Discussion





# Core Responsibilities

Application process

Performance contracting

Ongoing oversight

Renewal decision-making



# The Panel

- **Michele Krantz** – Charter School Liaison – Frederick County Public Schools
- **Kathy Lane** – Director of Alternative Education and Safe Schools – Anne Arundel County Public Schools
- **David Stone** – Director of New, Charter and Community Schools – Baltimore City Public Schools



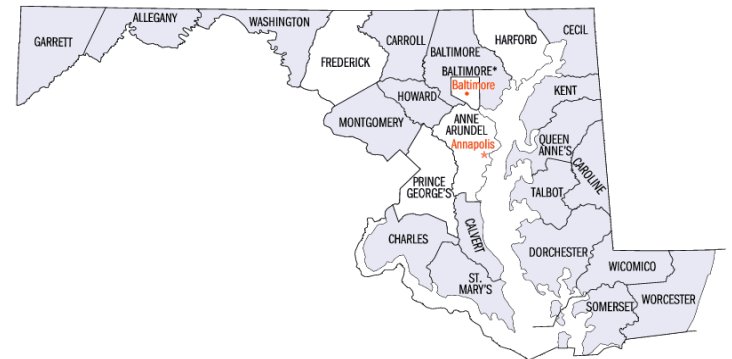
# Authorizers Role

- How do you see your role as an authorizer? Has this perception changed over time?
- What are the systems biggest challenges of being an authorizer? The greatest rewards?
- What advice or suggestions can you give regarding having a successful contract negotiation?
- How do you see charter schools adding value to the overall school system in which you work?
- Suggestions or lessons learned?



## The Little Red Schoolhouse of Tomorrow

# The Application Process





# Presenters

- **Laura Weeldreyer** – Coordinator of New, Charter and Community Schools – Baltimore City Public Schools
- **David Arnett** – Coordinator – Office of School Innovations – Maryland State Department of Education



# Overview

## The Charter School Application Process Stages to Opening

- Pre-submission Phase
- Application Evaluation Phase
- School Opening Phase



# The Pre-submission Phase

## Purpose

- Communicate with Potential Applicants
- Anticipate Evaluation Needs

## Activity

- Alert potential Applicants to LSS Expectations
- Review Prospectus/Letter of Intent
- Review Applicant's Draft Application
- Determine Evaluation Team Requirements

## Time Frame

- 2 – 4 Months prior to formal Application Submission



# The Application Evaluation Phase

- Actions
  - Submission
  - Review
    - Technical
    - Content
  - Approval
  - Time Frame – 120 days by Law





# The School Opening Phase

- The Charter
  - Application to Legal Contract
  - Everything Finished?
  - 30 Days by SBoE Decision



# The School Opening Phase

- Getting from the Contract to Opening Day
  - Time Frame – 8 to 10 Months prior to School Opening
  - The Challenges
    - The Building
    - The Curriculum
    - The Staff
    - The Unknowns



# For the Applicant

**The End is Now the Beginning!!!**





# The Timeline

(Based on Proposed COMAR Regulation)

		June 1st	July 1st	August 1st
Year 1	February 1	Pre-Submission Begins		
	March 1	↓	Pre-Submission Begins	
	April 1	(2 - 4 Months Prior)	↓	Pre-Submission Begins
	May 1	↓	(2 - 4 Months Prior)	↓
	June 1	Application Submitted	↓	(2 - 4 Months Prior)
	July 1	↓	Application Submitted	↓
	August 1	↓	↓	Application Submitted
	September 1	↓	↓	↓
	October 1	Application Approved	↓	↓
	November 1	Charter Signed	Application Approved	↓
	December 1	↓	Charter Signed	Application Approved
Year 2	January 1	↓	↓	Charter Signed
	February 1	↓	↓	↓
	March 1	↓	↓	↓
	April 1	↓	↓	↓
	May 1	↓	↓	↓
	June 1	↓	↓	↓
	July 1	↓	↓	↓
	August 1	↓	↓	↓
	September 1	School Opens	School Opens	School Opens
Total Months		17 - 19 Months	16 - 18 Months	15 - 17 Months

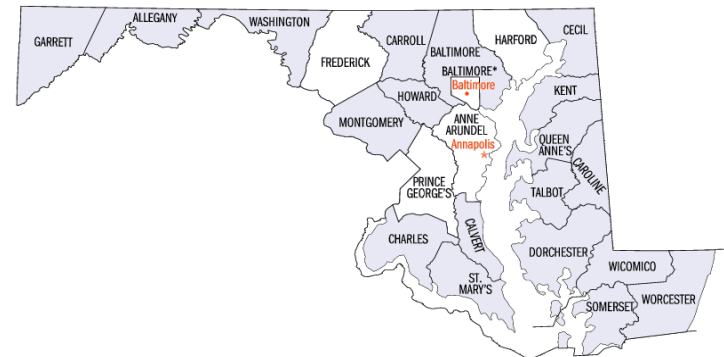


## Lessons Learned

# The First Year of Charter School Authorizing

Scott Hangey

Director, New and Charter Schools  
Prince George's County Public Schools





# Presentation Overview

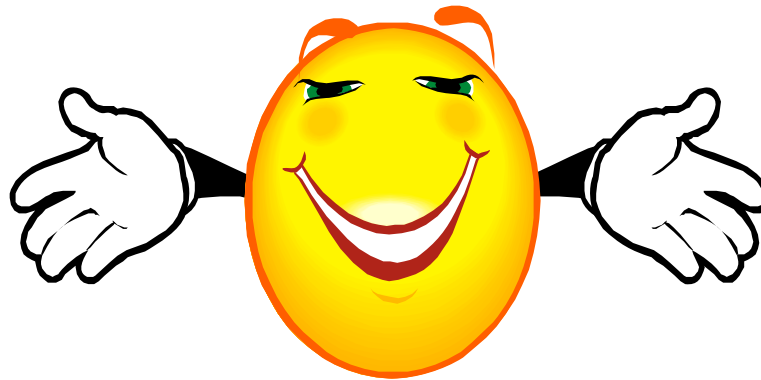
- Setting the Groundwork
- Hold Open Interest Meeting
- Reviewing the Applications
- The School Board and Charters
- Contract Negotiations
- Time Lines
- Charter School Enrollment
- Just before the Charter Opens
- The Charter is open, now what do you do with it?





# Setting the Groundwork

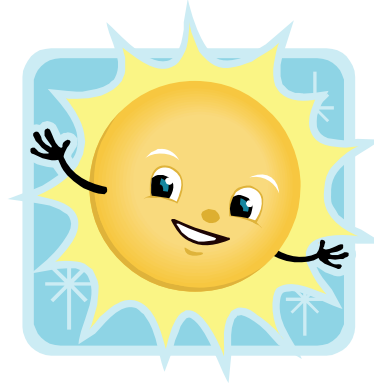
- Make sure you have talking points about:
  - Maryland Charter School Law
  - County Procedures
  - Answer questions openly and honestly





# Hold an Open Interest Meeting

- Review the Application
- Create a web site to post the meeting and post-meeting questions and answers





# Reviewing the Applications

- Establish a procedure for charter application review
  - Rubrics
  - We utilize representatives from each Division
  - Create a matrix of the reviews
  - We interview all applicants





# Interacting with the Board of Ed

- Report details to the CEO or Superintendent
  - Present a post interview matrix
  - Have frank discussions about pluses and minuses of applicants





# Contract Negotiations

- Once the Board takes action to approve a charter applicant for contract negotiations
  - Develop your negotiation team
  - Pre-conference with the team
  - Know where bending is allowed
  - If not sure in negotiations “say so” – you can’t know every issue that will arise





# Timelines

- Make a timeline part of your application and contract
  - Be open and honest about possible changes and due dates
  - Know the difference between negotiable and non-negotiable dates





# Other Timelines



- Furniture ordering and delivery dates
- Information on ordering food service equipment
- Instructional materials ordering and delivery dates
- Construction observation schedule
- Meetings with County inspectors, WSSC
- Construction project timeline
- Create monthly meetings to bring together charter applicants and school system personnel



# The Enrollment Process

- We use on-line registration
  - We worked with web services
  - Template for registration
  - Lottery (if needed)
  - Cross validation of information
    - We use student numbers
    - We can determine free and reduced meals (Title one status), Special Ed and 504 on an on-going basis





# Just Before the Charter Opens

- Refer to your timeline
- Script items with responsibilities
- Report to CEO on an on-going basis





# The School is Open - Now What?

- Our weakest point
  - Need accountability items and who is responsible
  - Need compliance items and who is responsible
  - Make sure all trainings are scheduled and attended





# Any questions?

- Scott Hangey
  - [shangey@pgcps.org](mailto:shangey@pgcps.org)
    - 301-952-6010
    - 301-646-2298
    - 301-643-8805 (for weekends)

