



Determination Hearing for the Charter Renewal for George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science

Board Meeting
April 10, 2025
Agenda Item No. 11.6

Presented by:

Amanda Goldman, Ed.D. - Director, Innovative Schools
La Niecia Kobelt, Principal

Process for Determination Hearing

- **Presentation: Equal Time and Process for District and Charter**
 - High Level Summary (Specifics available in renewal report)
 - 10 minutes split between District (5 min) and Charter (5 min)
- **Public Comment (15 min)**
- **Board Questions and Discussion**
- **Board Action**
 - Board has been provided with possible resolutions. The Board will need to approve one of them by the end of this item.

Review of Timeline

Petition Submitted:

→ **January 31, 2025**

Initial Public Hearing to Determine
Level of Support

→ **March 6, 2025** (34 days)

Publication of Staff Renewal Report:

→ **March 19, 2025** (47 days)

Determination Hearing / Board Vote:

→ **April 10, 2025** (69 days)



a.k.a. "GWC"
a.k.a. "Carver"

3 Tiers for Renewal

Tier is determined based on the previous 2 years of published CA Dashboard Data



High Tier

Blue or Green

on all schoolwide indicators OR Schoolwide indicators are the same / **higher than State** and subgroups are **higher than State**

Middle Tier

All other schools falls in the middle tier

Low Tier

Red or Orange

on all schoolwide indicators OR Schoolwide indicators are the **same or lower than State** and subgroups are **lower than State**

Potential Denial Findings by Tier



- Can only deny with a finding that school is either
 - (A) unable to implement program due to fiscal/governance concerns OR
 - (B) is not serving all students who wish to attend.
- Can deny for the reasons in High OR can deny if:
 - (A) school has failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards that provide a benefit to the students AND
 - (B) Closure is in the best interest of students AND
 - (C) Decision provided greater weight to academic performance
- Presumptive denial, but may renew for 2 years if:
 - (A) the charter school is taking meaningful steps to address the underlying cause of low performance (with a written plan) AND
 - (B) Verified data shows 1 year progress for students OR strong postsecondary outcomes



Carver has been placed in the Middle Renewal Tier based on 2022-23 & 2023-24 Data.

SCUSD Renewal Report for Carver

Published March 19, 2025

| Did the charter petition meet all primary requirements for renewal? | | YES |
|---|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Does this charter present an <u>unsound</u> educational program? | <u>NO</u> |
| 2 | Are the petitioners demonstrably <u>unlikely</u> to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition? | <u>SUBSTANTIALLY</u> |
| 3 | Does the petition contain the necessary affirmations and assurances of the Charter Schools Act? | <u>YES</u> |
| 4 | Does the petition contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all 15 elements described below? | <u>SUBSTANTIALLY</u> |
| 5 | Does the petition contain a declaration of whether the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public employer of the charter school's employees? | <u>YES</u> |
| Were there any findings that could trigger a notice to cure an alleged violation under either of the following? | | NO |
| 6 | Is the charter school demonstrably <u>unlikely</u> to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition <i>due to substantial fiscal or governance factors</i> ? | NO |
| 7 | Does the charter school serve the pupils who wish to attend, as documented by E.C. Section 47607(d)? | YES |

| ELEMENT | TOPIC | MEETS STANDARD | KEY FINDINGS |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Element 1/A | Educational Program | YES | |
| Element 2/B | Measurable Student Outcomes | <u>SUBSTANTIALLY</u> | LCAP lacks some key elements |
| Element 3/C | Student Progress Measurement | <u>SUBSTANTIALLY</u> | |
| Element 4/D | Governance | <u>SUBSTANTIALLY</u> | Advisory Council needs procedural improvements |
| Element 5/E | Employee Qualifications | YES | |
| Element 6/F | Health and Safety | <u>SUBSTANTIALLY</u> | Clarity between District policies and Charter School procedures |
| Element 7/G | Racial/ Ethnic Balance | YES | |
| Element 8/H | Admissions | YES | |
| Element 9/I | Independent Audits | YES | |
| Element 10/J | Suspension/Expulsion | <u>SUBSTANTIALLY</u> | Clarity between District policies and Charter School procedures |
| Element 11/K | STRS | YES | |
| Element 12/L | Attendance Alternatives | YES | |
| Element 13/M | Post-Employment Rights | YES | |
| Element 14/N | Dispute Resolution | YES | |
| Element 15/O | Closure Procedures | YES | |
| REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION | | MEETS STANDARDS | KEY FINDINGS |
| Financial/ Administrative Plan | | <u>SUBSTANTIALLY</u> | |
| Facilities | | YES | |
| Impact Statement | | YES | |
| Special Education | | YES | |

Small fixes related to relationship to and collaboration with District can be addressed in an MOU.

The Charter
(A promise or roadmap for serving students)



**Students
at the Center**

School has taken significant steps in recent years towards improving outcomes for students and working towards fiscal sustainability. Despite these, long term financial viability may be a problem. Should the school be renewed, the Board will be provided with regular fiscal updates.

**Data and Oversight
Records**
(Track record of how charter has kept their “promises” over past term)

**Reflection and
Continuous
Improvement Efforts**
(Acknowledging that we are not perfect, that we are always improving)

Middle Tier Based on Academic Outcomes; some areas of growth identified.

Based on **Carver**' status in the **MIDDLE** renewal level, a comprehensive review of the charter petition, and a review of their most recent charter term, the review team has determined that **Carver met requirements** on all required criteria. **Carver is eligible for a 5-year renewal**

If approved, the term of the charter would be July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2030.

Next Steps / Suggestions

Should the board vote to renew, district staff suggest the following:

- The District and its Dependent charter schools (including Carver) develop an MOU specific to the unique nature of dependent charter schools with District employed staff
- Including language in the resolution to ensure that the board receives regular fiscal updates.

Important Note:

→ Even with a 5-year renewal, an authorizing board may take action toward charter revocation and school closure at any time if the charter school does not appear to be able to meet its financial obligations.

Options for the Board

The SCUSD Board of Education has several legally compliant options. The Board may also consider other options not listed here.

OPTION A

“Motion to Approve Resolution 3487-A to Renew the Charter of George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science for a term of 5 years, from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2030.”

Carver is permitted to continue operations through (at least) June 2030 (pending Board action related to fiscal insolvency), in line with the language submitted in their charter and not required to make any updates at this time.

Required development of and agreement to an MOU is included in this resolution.

OPTION B

“Motion to Approve Resolution 3487-B to Renew the Charter of George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science for a term of 5 years, from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2030 with conditions.”

Condition: The Charter School shall collaborate with District staff to regularly report to the Board on the Charter School's fiscal condition and steps taken to reach fiscal sustainability.

Carver is permitted to continue operations through (at least) June 2030 (pending Board action related to fiscal insolvency), and would be required to abide by the listed conditions.

Required development of and agreement to an MOU is included in this resolution.

OPTION C

“Motion to Deny the Renewal of George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science based on findings.

**Staff does not have any recommend findings for non-renewal at this time. Should the Board wish to deny this renewal, findings would need to be drafted from the dias.*

Carver would be scheduled to close by June 30, 2025, pending a change of decision.

A photograph of a school building at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The school building is a multi-story brick structure with a curved section on the right. There are trees in the foreground and background. The ground is covered with fallen leaves.

George Washington Carver School of Arts & Science

Charter Renewal Presentation

July 1 2025 - June 30, 2030



Carver

- **Waldorf-Inspired Curriculum:** Integrates arts, humanities, and sciences in a hands-on, developmentally aligned approach.
- **Head, Heart, Hands Pedagogy:** Balances intellectual, emotional, and practical learning for holistic development.
- **Experiential Learning:** Fieldwork, internships, and environmental stewardship deepen student engagement and real-world skills.
- **Strong Student-Teacher Relationships:** Small school setting fosters personalized learning and community bonds.
- **Inclusive and Restorative Culture:** Anti-bias education, community circles, and MTSS promote equity and belonging.
- **College-Prep Focus:** UC A-G aligned curriculum, AP courses, Dual Enrollment, and leadership opportunities.



Growth Areas

- Math scores remain low; new strategies
- Self-regulation skills dropped (-6%); enhanced SEL focus underway
- ELA performance decline in Hispanic subgroup; need for differentiated support
- Enrollment decline; increased recruitment efforts planned
- 27.8% of students college-ready; expanding college/career support



Highlights



- Graduation rate increased 97.4% (2024)
- Suspension rate significantly reduced to 2.7% (2023)
- Grants and partnerships secured for student programs
- Student Culture/Climate Survey: 85% favorable (MTSS /BIPOC Ach. Focus)
- EPOCH/ Anti Trauma PD
- U.S. News Best High Schools recognition (2023-2024)
- Building strong sports, science & arts program

Conclusion & Call to Action

- George Washington Carver is committed to continued student success.
- The school meets renewal criteria and remains a vital educational choice.
- Looking forward to working in partnership with SCUSD to ensure excellence.



GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER
SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCE