



**RED CLAY CONSOLIDATED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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January 5, 2007

Charles W. Baldwin, Commandant, DMA
Delaware Military Academy
112 Middleboro Road
Wilmington, DE 19804

Dear Commandant Baldwin:

This letter is to inform you that the Red Clay Consolidated School District, at the regular Board of Education meeting of November 15, 2006, renewed the Delaware Military Academy charter for a period of five (5) years, effective July 1, 2006.

Best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Andrzejewski

/sg
cc: Delaware Dept. of Education Charter Office

Criterion 1

The individuals and entities submitting the application are qualified to operate a charter school and implement the proposed educational program and the proposed board of directors includes representation from teachers and parents of students at the school and that certified teachers, parents and community members were involved in the development of the proposed charter.

Committee Summary:

The Delaware military Academy Board of Directors includes parents, teachers and members of the school community who have children currently enrolled in the school. The Board also includes retired military personnel who have experience in ROTC programs, as well as business professionals with considerable experience in management and finance.

The DMA by-laws include a process for replacing Board members who retire as well as recruiting new members to fill the parent and teacher requirements in the charter school law.

Criterion 2

The chosen form of organization, identified in the articles of incorporation and by-laws, or the membership agreement, conforms to the Delaware General Corporation Law.

Committee Summary:

A valid Certificate of Incorporation dated 10/19/01 is on file with the Secretary of State, Division of Corporations, and a copy is included in the original charter application. DMA by-laws are available upon request.

Criterion 3

The mission statement, goals and educational objectives are consistent with the description of legislative intent set forth in §501 of this title and the restrictions on charter school operations set forth in §506 in this title.

Committee Summary:

The stated mission, goals and objectives of the Delaware Military Academy are consistent with those of the Red Clay Consolidated School District. DMA's mission is to "develop and promote integrity, citizenship, service, fitness, patriotism, leadership, teamwork, and self esteem" in a rigorous educational setting that includes a strong emphasis on academic achievement.

The Delaware Military Academy has been rated as "Commendable" and has consistently meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act.

Criterion 4

The school has set goals for student performance and will utilize satisfactory indicators to determine whether its students meet or exceed such goals and the academic standards set by the State. The indicators shall include the assessments required for students in other public schools, although the charter school may adopt additional performance standards or assessment requirements, and shall include timelines for the achievement of student performance goals and assessment of such performance.

Committee Summary:

Satisfactory indicators, including the Delaware Student testing Program, are used to determine whether Delaware Military Academy students meet or exceed the institutional goals and the academic standards set forth in the school's charter and required by the State of Delaware. Consistent with the school's military orientation, more traditional assessment tools (SAT 9 and SAT 10) are integrated with the National Junior ROTC curriculum that emphasizes academic and disciplinary rigor. The school requires a minimum of 26 credits to graduate as opposed to the State's 22. Other evaluative indicators, both formal and informal, that assess the success of students include: (a) parent/teacher satisfaction surveys; (b) teacher and student awards; (c) student attendance and dropout rate; (d) enrollment applications; and, (e) post-secondary acceptances to a variety of colleges and universities across the United States.

Criterion 5

The school proposes a satisfactory plan for evaluating student performance and procedures for taking corrective action in the event that student performance at the charter school falls below such standards that are reasonably likely to succeed.

Committee Summary:

The Delaware Military Academy evaluates student progress at the end of each marking period using a numerical grading scale consistent with other Red Clay comprehensive high schools. It does differ in the use of (+/-) to further define student performance as below or above the more generic grade average of A/B/C, etc.

For students in need of remediation/academic support, assistance is available after school, on Saturdays, and during the summer. Students who fail to meet the established academic standards are afforded only limited participation in extra-curricular activities and are placed on individual improvement plans.

Criterion 6

The school's educational program, including curriculum and instructional strategies, has the potential to improve student performance.

Committee Summary:

The Delaware Military Academy requires its students to enroll in a minimum of 26 credits over a period of 4 years. This requirement currently exceeds the State of Delaware requirement by 4 credits (22) and that of the chartering district (Red Clay) by 2 credits. Primary differences are in Computer Literacy and Naval Science. As stipulated, driver education is integrated into the curriculum for all 10th grade students.

Course offerings across the curriculum are aligned to both national and state standards. The number of science and mathematics courses is comparable to offerings in other comprehensive high schools across the state. All courses within the core curriculum are offered at 2 levels, i.e., college prep and honors. Advanced Placement courses are also available in English and Mathematics with other AP offerings being added each year.

Criterion 7

The schools educational program sets forth strategies to be employed, as it deems necessary, to accommodate the needs of at-risk students and those needing special education services.

Committee Summary:

Certified special education teachers have the responsibility, along with administration, of implementing and monitoring IEP's and providing educational services. Psychological testing is on a contractual basis. All students entering DMA with an already established IEP will have all services stated in the Plan followed. Psychological, social and psychiatric services are available to students through school or community based services.

All students are evaluated after each marking period and referred to either an extra tutoring program and/or further testing after a parent conference to discuss an academic plan. This area was rated at 3.7 out of 4 for their Middle States Evaluation by teachers and 3.2 by parents—both scores in the high range.

Criterion 8

The plan for the school is economically viable, based on a review of the school's proposed budget of projected revenues and expenditures for the first 3 years, the plan for starting the school, and the major contracts planned for equipment and services, leases, improvements, purchases of real property, and insurance.

Committee Summary:

After careful review of the Delaware Military Academy's financial statements for 2003, 2004 and 2005 DMA has been able to meet current-operating expenses annually. DMA has started making principal payments on one of their fit-out loans and is currently developing a plan for repayment and management of long-term debt.

Criterion 9

The school's financial and administrative operations meet or exceed the same standards, procedures and requirements as a school district. If a charter school proposes to operate outside the State's accounting, payroll, purchasing, compensation, pension and/or benefits systems, a specific memorandum of understanding shall be developed and executed by the charter school, the approving authority, the Budget Director, the Controller General, and the Secretary of Finance to assure that the State's fiduciary duties and interests in the proper use of appropriated funds and as a benefits and pension trustee are fulfilled and protected, the State's financial reporting requirements are satisfied, and the interests of charter school employees are protected.

Committee Summary:

The school's financial and administrative operations meet or exceed the same standards, procedures and requirements as a public school district. They operate within the state system for accounting, payroll and benefits and purchasing.

Criterion 10

The assessment of the school's potential legal liability, and the types and limits of insurance coverage the school plans to obtain are adequate.

Committee Summary:

The assessments of the school's potential legal liability, and the types and limits of insurance coverage are adequate.

Criterion 11

The procedures the school plans to follow to discipline students and ensure its students' adherence to school attendance requirements comply with state and federal law.

Committee Summary:

The school has a strict attendance and discipline policy which is outlined in the DMA Cadet Handbook. It is a requirement that each cadet read the handbook and be able to refer to it.

The Student Code of Conduct is listed in the Cadet Handbook. Students have both rights and responsibilities. They must understand that these two areas go hand in hand. Their rights include: the right to an education, to due process of law, to free speech and to privacy. Responsibilities include: active participation, which first and foremost includes attending school regularly and on time; obedience to rules; responsible exercise of free speech and avoidance of illegal or dangerous materials or objects.

Presently the attendance rate is higher than the state average and disciplinary incidents are infrequent.

Criterion 12

The procedures the school plans to follow to assure the health and safety of students, employees, and guests of the school while they are on school property are adequate and that the charter school will comply with applicable provisions of Chapter 85 of Title 11. (70 Del. Laws, c.179, sec. 2, 71 Del. Laws, c. 180, sec. 29.)

Committee Summary:

The Delaware Military Academy has on staff a certified registered nurse who is responsible for the administration of medication, medication plans, student health records, duty plans, and routine nursing services. Students receive immediate attention when there is a medical problem. She also supports the health education program at the school. The staff continues to get annual certification in CPR.

School Safety is a top priority and policies are created and strictly followed to ensure optimal safety. A crisis plan has been developed and is reviewed with the students. Practice drills (evacuation, fire, etc.) are done monthly throughout the school year. The school also has a plan in place for regular health and safety inspections of the school site.

In a recent Middle States review teachers and parents rated this area very high--3.8 out of 4.0.

Recommendation to the Board of Education

The Accountability Committee recommends that the Red Clay Board of Education renew the Delaware Military Academy Charter School for five (5) years effective July 1, 2006.