MARQUETTE
UNIVERSITY

The Institute for the Transformation of Learning

TO: Charter School Review Committee

FROM: Gayle Peay, Policy Analyst

DATE: January 16, 2019

RE: Charter School Application Process

Memo

In 2015 the CSRC began the process of updating and revising the charter school application process. According the minutes of the meeting on November 12, 2015, the Committee accepted a new process and made recommendations for small changes. To date, there hasn't been any other movement or discussion on the vision that the CSRC has for its application process or for accepting new applicants.

At your meeting on January 23, 2019 you will revisit the process of which I have made additional recommendations based on the Federal Charter School Grants- Wisconsin Charter Schools Program where The U.S. Department of Education awarded Wisconsin a five-year $95 million grant to support quality charter schools in the state.

Here are the goals of the grant:

- Support the growth of high-quality charter schools in Wisconsin, especially those focused on improving academic outcomes for educationally disadvantaged secondary students

- Strengthen and improve authorizing quality and promote the adoption of best practices for all authorizers in Wisconsin

- Promote and support collaboration and sharing of best practices between high-quality charter schools and other schools in the state, especially those that experience difficulty in adequately serving educationally disadvantaged students

Here are some guiding questions that you might consider during your discussion:

1. Does the CSRC have chartering priorities? What type of school(s) do you think would fill a need?

2. Does the CSRC have a goal for expanding the portfolio of its charter schools?

3. Is the CSRC aligned with the 12 Essential Practices recommended by NACSA and which areas could be strengthened? (see handout)

4. Should the CSRC vote not to accept charter school applications until the new process and application is fully updated? (vote needed)