

## 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 The University of Alabama, College of Education, Office of Evaluation Research and School Development (the “External Evaluator”) 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; and

WHEREAS, Floretta P. Carson Visual and Performing Arts Academy filed a public charter school application with the Commission on **March 15, 2022**; and

WHEREAS, a public forum was held for local residents in Mobile County, Alabama on **April 19, 2022**; and

WHEREAS, a capacity interview of Floretta P. Carson Visual and Performing Arts Academy was conducted on **April 28, 2022**; and

WHEREAS, the External Evaluator has evaluated the application, has assessed the applicant’s overall capacity to implement its proposal, and has issued an analysis to the Commission regarding the application; and

WHEREAS, Floretta P. Carson Visual and Performing Arts Academy was given an opportunity to respond and chose not to respond to the External Evaluator’s evaluation; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is most appreciative of the efforts of Floretta P.

Carson Visual and Performing Arts Academy 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 of Floretta P. Carson Visual and Performing Arts Academy and determines at this time as follows:**

Floretta P. Carson Visual and Performing Arts Academy failed to garner enough affirmative votes of the Commission for its application to be approved, in accordance with the requirements of the Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act of 2015 and the Commission's Bylaws. The Commission's discussion on this issue, including reasons for opposition to and denial of Floretta P. Carson Visual and Performing Arts Academy's application as articulated by certain Commissioners, was recorded and is available as a public document and is incorporated herein by reference.

Specifically, and among other reasons for denial, the Commission identifies the following deficiencies in the application submitted by Floretta P. Carson Visual and Performing Arts Academy:

- a. The applicant's staffing plan relied too heavily on adjunct instructors, including instructors who were employed by a local theatre company.
- b. The applicant's facilities plan was not sufficiently defined and concerns were raised regarding the feasibility of using multiple facility locations to instruction on the various disciplines offered by the school.
- c. The applicant failed to demonstrate sufficient community support for the school through its application.
- d. The applicant financial plan was lacking in several respects, including reflecting a financial contingency plan that relied too heavily on variable incoming sources, such as grants and fund raising.

Floretta P. Carson Visual and Performing Arts Academy is encouraged to make further refinement to its application and program and to submit an updated application during a subsequent application cycle.

**Resolution adopted and approved by the Alabama Public Charter School Commission at its meeting of May 20, 2022.**

  
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Its Chairman