

May 17, 2016

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY

FROM: MICHAEL A. GREGO, Ed.D., SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: Request Approval of Issuance of a Ninety (90) Day Notice to Terminate the Charter Agreement with Florida Virtual Academy at Pinellas

BACKGROUND:

In December, 2013 the Pinellas County School Board approved a five-year charter agreement for the Florida Virtual Academy at Pinellas. The school currently serves 150 students in grades K-9. The school was issued a corrective action plan in November, 2015 for violation of its Governance Structure (7.0), along with other concerns. A Letter of Resignation was sent to the Charter School Office on March 1, 2016 stating that the required parent liaison was resigning from the charter school's board. It was later verified that this person had actually resigned in January. Following this resignation, a new board chair was appointed, however, this person resigned on May 5, 2016. The school is currently operating with only one board member and has had one board member since January. The school is also in violation of its charter agreement for Assessment Programs (3.3.1) resulting in a school grade of "I" (Incomplete) for not meeting state required testing percentages (only 78% of students tested), and Automated Data Systems (5.3.1) for repeated inaccurate reporting in multiple surveys.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION: Student Achievement

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the issuance of a ninety (90) day Notice to Terminate the Charter Agreement with Florida Virtual Academy at Pinellas.
2. Do not approve the issuance of a ninety (90) day Notice to Terminate the Charter Agreement with Florida Virtual Academy of Pinellas.

RECOMMENDATION:

Alternative No. 1 is recommended.

RATIONALE:

The school is in violation of its Charter Agreement with the District in the areas of Governance Structure (7.0), Assessment Programs (3.3.1), and Automated Data Systems (5.3.1). In addition, the school has not met all the requirements of the corrective action plan it submitted to the district in November, 2015. Pinellas Virtual will be presented as an alternative placement to allow seamless transition.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The school's current enrollment is 150 students; however, it cannot be determined how many of the students currently attending the school will enroll in a District school. The Financial Impact cannot be determined at this time.

DATA SOURCES:

Heather Wallace, Assistant School Board Attorney
Kevin Smith, CPA, Associate Superintendent, Finance and Business Services

Richard Wolfe, Director, Charter Schools and Home Education
Amy Hayes, Senior Coordinator, Charter Schools and Home Education

SUBMITTED BY:

Lori Matway, Associate Superintendent, Student and Community Services

DRAFT