

April 12, 2016

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY

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

SUBJECT: Request Approval of a Five-Year Charter Renewal for Discovery Academy of Science Charter School and Add Second Location

**BACKGROUND:**

The School Board approved Discovery Academy of Science Charter School's application in November 2011. The original K-12 charter was approved for 900 students. Currently, there are 156 students enrolled in grades K-5. The school requests the approval of their charter renewal for a five-year term. In addition, the school plans to move their upper grades to a new location at St. Mark's Church in Dunedin while maintaining their lower grades at their current location. According to the school's charter, a move beyond two miles requires School Board approval.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION:** Student Achievement

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the five-year charter renewal and second location.
2. Do not approve the five-year charter renewal and second location.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Alternative No. 1 is recommended.

**RATIONALE:**

The school received a state grade of A for the 2014-2015 school year. The current facility will not accommodate the projected growth of the school.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

If approved, the impact to the district will result in a loss of FTE dollars for each additional Pinellas County School student who chooses to enroll in Discovery Academy of Science Charter School.

**DATA SOURCES:**

Heather Wallace, Assistant School Board Attorney  
Kevin W. Smith, CPA, Associate Superintendent, Finance and Business Services  
Dan Evans, Ed.D., Executive Director, Assessment, Accountability and Research  
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 Support Services