



Ascent Classical Academies
601 Corporate Circle, Suite A
Golden, CO 80401

June 5, 2018

Boulder Valley School District
Board of Education
6500 Arapahoe
Boulder, CO 80303

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION TO THE COLORADO CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE

Dear Members of the Board of Education,

On behalf of Ascent Classical Academy Flatirons ("ACAF"), we are requesting the Boulder Valley School District ("BVSD") Board of Education allow ACAF to submit a charter application to open in the BVSD geographic area as a charter public school authorized by the Colorado Charter School Institute ("CSI"), as required under C.R.S. §22-30.5-504(8).

Ascent Classical Academies is a non-profit education service provider that operates classical, liberal arts charter schools in Colorado. Our flagship school is Golden View Classical Academy ("GVCA") and our first Ascent Classical Academy is opening in Douglas County this fall of 2018. Golden View Classical Academy, in Golden, Colorado, is a K-12 charter school currently transferring to CSI. GVCA just completed its 3rd year of operation, and has hundreds of children on its waitlist, that's re-established annually.

This specific classical school model is not currently available in your school district. The model is proven and our founding team has a demonstrated capacity to establish a new school.

We have collected over 230 Expressions of Interest over the past several months with minimal outreach to date, an unprecedented amount of early interest for one of our schools. These families primarily reside in the Boulder Valley, St. Vrain Valley, Jefferson County, and Adams 12 School Districts.

Several reasons for ACAF's request include:

- ACAF is attracting a significant number of children who are not currently in public schools. These students are being homeschooled or attending private schools.

Additionally, families interested in ACAF are spread among several different contiguous school districts. By transferring to CSI, the district will not be required to dilute its existing mill levy override (MLO) funds due to our new students.

- Ascent Classical Academy Flatirons is a part of a growing Colorado-based network of classical charter public schools with standardized operations. The school is able to operate with a high degree of autonomy. Working with CSI allows the network to better support children by more easily sharing staff, special education, and other resources across network schools and geographic district boundaries.
- ACAF offers a unique and niche program not offered by any other schools in your district. Working with CSI may better serve the interest of the district and ACAF given the wide geographic draw of families.

If BVSD supports this request, we ask that the Board of Directors adopt a resolution authorizing ACAF to submit an application to CSI, while otherwise retaining exclusive chartering authority. ACAF would like to begin the process to submit an application to CSI to open for the 2019-2020 school year. To meet this timeline, that will be heavily driven by facility development, we request you consider adopting the required resolution by the end of July 2018.

We look forward to any discussions and meeting with your staff to answer questions. I may be contacted at dshuler@AscentClassical.org or 303-900-2297.

Thank you for your consideration of our request that we believe is mutually beneficial and in the best interest of the children and families we both serve.

Sincerely,



Derec Shuler
CEO, Ascent Classical Academies

cc:

Dr. Cynthia Stevenson, Superintendent, BVSD
Heidi Ganahl, ACAF Steering Committee