



OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Schools, Thriving Students

Summary of Community Engagement Feedback Regarding Proposed Changes to Board Policy 0420.4

Charter Matters Committee 2/24/22

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Summary of Engagements

Charter Committee members sponsored community engagement sessions regarding proposed changes to Board Policy 0420.4

- February 2: Director Gonzales
 - 78 attendees
- February 16: Director Thompson
 - 58 attendees

Participants: Charter leaders, staff, families, and students; OUSD principals and staff; community members

Note: the document with complete feedback from the sessions is available on the OCS website on the Engagements page.

What is Board Policy 0420.4?

- Board Policy, and specifically Board Policy 0420.4, is intended to describe the Board's general philosophy, goals, and objectives with regards to charter authorization.
- Board Policy typically does *not* contain detailed processes for administering a policy.
 - More detailed information about policy implementation can typically be found in Administrative Regulations documents (written by staff).
 - In the Office of Charter Schools, we create and publicly share Handbooks for renewal, new petitions, and material revisions.

Themes from the Feedback

Shared definitions	Timeframe	Tone	More family-focused language
<p>“Can the measurements be more specific - what does it mean to put students first, for example? We need a shared definition and to be less vague.”</p> <p>“What are the high levels of accountability, what are the conditions for this?”</p> <p>“What does significant degree of autonomy mean for charters?”</p> <p>[What’s missing?] “Charter schools are public schools”</p>	<p>“What happens when board makeup changes? Will language be changed again?”</p> <p>“What happens when the board changes and they are not there – will it change again? The emotional continuity constantly changes..so that is what is going to happen. Wanting to change the language on the back of teachers and community.”</p>	<p>“Want process to be neutral to whether we have pro-charter or anti-charter folks on the Board.”</p> <p>“The term “in exchange” doesn’t set a neutral tone”</p> <p>“What is missing in the language is the togetherness. For several decades we have been pitting ourselves against each other.”</p> <p>“Are we holding charters to a much higher standard? Seems like we’re playing charters against the public.”</p>	<p>“Overall, I feel like it (the proposed language) does not have language for parents to understand.”</p> <p>“Need a sentence that honors the family choice for the schools that families make”</p> <p>[New Petition] “Nothing about student centered in the first or second option”</p>

Some Additional Highlights from the Feedback

<p>“If the board adopts this language, what is the plan to implement the core values?”</p>	<p>“Are we holding charters to a much higher standard? Seems like we’re playing charters against the public. Serve the interests of the <i>entire</i> community in which the school proposes to locate – don’t see a history of that.”</p>	<p>“I like option number 2 [of Introductory language]. I feel that option number 2 is more proper and has more inclusive language.”</p>	<p>“Goal is sustaining the district system - need to open us up to new possibilities centering around families and what they want - not emphasizing new and different thinking around what our long term goals are.”</p>	<p>“Change is not necessarily a bad thing...focus should be on quality and students”</p>
<p>[New Petition Language] “First sentence - negative connotation - want to add collaboration; don’t like the sentence about working to make a new district program (does this language limit us?)”</p>	<p>“Concern around the [not seeking new petitions] language”</p>	<p>“Want to add face to face with community into this (it’s not right for board members to make policy based on their beliefs.”</p>	<p>“Parents just want quality education. No matter if it’s district and charter. No failing schools. Our children need better options and more resources so the can be successful.”</p>	<p>“(I am a) Policy student in education. Wanted to give voice, bring to light that they (charters) are managed differently. The language is not specific enough.”</p>

Committee Discussion and Questions

1. What are some initial takeaways from the community feedback?
2. Are there any comments or questions from the feedback sessions that you would like to discuss further?
3. Do you have any proposed edits to the Board Policy language based on the feedback?
4. How would the Charter Matters Committee like to move forward with updating the Board Policy?