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Board Cover Memorandum

To Board of Education

From Dr. Denise Saddler, Interim Superintendent
Jenine Lindsey, General Counsel
Kelly Krag-Arnold, Director, Office of Charter Schools

Meeting Date October 21, 2025

Subject Charter Renewal Decision Hearing – **Lodestar**

Ask of the Board Vote

Background On November 18, 2020, the OUSD Board of Education voted to approve a two-year term for Lodestar (“Lodestar”). Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Education Code Section 47607.4 extended this term an additional three years, resulting in a charter term which currently expires on June 30, 2026.

On August 15, 2025, Lodestar submitted its renewal petition to OUSD. On September 25, 2025, the OUSD Board of Education held an Initial Public Hearing, where Lodestar staff had the opportunity to present to the Board. In accordance with California Education Code, the OUSD Office of Charter Schools prepared a Staff Report which was posted publicly by October 6, 2025.

Lodestar was placed in the Middle tier by the State and is consequently eligible for a 5-year term.

Discussion The Charter Schools Act of 1992 established the criteria by which charter renewal applications must be evaluated. A charter school must meet the requirements set forth in Education Code (Ed Code) Sections 47605, 47607, and 47607.2. Specifically, a charter school is evaluated on the following renewal criteria:

- I. Has the Charter School Presented a Sound Educational Program?
- II. Is the Charter School Demonstrably Likely to Successfully Implement the Proposed Educational Program?
- III. Is the Petition Reasonably Comprehensive?
- IV. Is the School Serving All Students Who Wish to Attend?

Based on the analysis in the attached Staff Report, the OUSD Office of Charter Schools (OCS) Staff recommends **approval** on the basis that the school has adequately met each of the four renewal criteria.

If the renewal petition is approved, Staff recommends a Performance and Fiscal Benchmark as detailed on Page 42 of the Staff Report.

Fiscal Impact

No direct fiscal impact.

Attachment(s)

- Lodestar – Renewal Staff Report
- Lodestar – Renewal Staff Presentation
- Lodestar – Charter School Presentation
- Lodestar – Charter School Renewal Petition
- Lodestar – Charter School Performance Report
- Lodestar – Charter School Fiscal Packet

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
OF THE OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Resolution No. 2526-0005

**APPROVING CHARTER PETITION OF
Lodestar: A Lighthouse Community Charter Public – GRADES TK-12
AND WRITTEN FINDINGS OF SUPPORT THEREOF**

WHEREAS, the Charter Schools Act (Ed. Code §47600, et seq.) establishes the criteria by which charter school renewals are to be approved or denied; and

WHEREAS, Education Code Section 47605(c) charges school district governing boards with the responsibility of reviewing charter petitions to determine whether they meet the legal requirements for a successful charter petition; and

WHEREAS, on August 15, 2025, the District received a renewal petition for Lodestar: A Lighthouse Community Charter Public (“Petition”), a public charter school currently serving 755 students in grades TK-12 and authorized to serve grades TK-12; and

WHEREAS, the law outlines a three-tier system for most charter schools seeking renewal, including additional requirements for evaluating the soundness of the school’s educational program depending on the school’s renewal tier; and

WHEREAS, Lodestar: A Lighthouse Community Charter Public was placed in the Middle tier by the California Department of Education based on its State Dashboard data; and

WHEREAS, a charter school placed in the Middle tier shall not be renewed if the chartering authority makes *all* of the following written factual findings, setting forth specific facts to support the findings:

1. The charter school has failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards that provide a benefit to the pupils of the school; and
2. The closure is in the best interest of the pupils; and
3. The decision provided greater weight to performance on measurements of academic performance (if applicable); and

WHEREAS, a charter school placed in the Middle tier shall not be renewed if the chartering authority makes a written factual finding, setting forth specific facts to support the finding:

- A. Substantial fiscal or governance concerns; or

- B. The school is not serving all pupils who wish to attend, as documented by data provided by the CDE or by any substantiated complaints that the charter school has not complied with suspension, expulsion, or involuntary disenrollment procedures.

And the chartering authority has provided at least 30 days' notice to the charter school of the alleged violation and provided the charter school with a reasonable opportunity to cure the violation, including a corrective action plan proposed by the charter school, AND the chartering authority makes a written factual finding, setting forth specific facts to support the finding:

- A. The corrective action proposed by the charter school has been unsuccessful; or
- B. The violations are sufficiently severe and pervasive as to render a corrective action plan unviable; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board did not issue a notice to the charter school which set forth specific facts to support the above findings; and

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2025, the Governing Board held an initial public hearing on the renewal petition as required by Education Code Section 47605(b); and

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2025, the Governing Board held a decision public hearing on the renewal petition as required by Education Code Section 47605(b); and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board, under Education Code Section 47605(b), is obligated to take action to grant or deny the renewal petition within 90 days of submission, unless Petitioner agrees to an extension of up to 30 days;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL HEREBY FINDS that Lodestar: A Lighthouse Community Charter Public has met the requirements of Education Code Section 47605(c) and 47607(e) and the District's Charter Renewal Standards in that:

- 1) The Petition presents a sound educational program for the pupils to be enrolled in the Charter School; and
- 2) The Petitioners are demonstrably likely to successfully implement the program set forth in the Petition; and
- 3) The Petition has reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all required elements; and
- 4) The Charter School appears to be serving all students that wish to attend; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governing Board establishes monitoring benchmarks as set forth in the Staff Report dated October 21, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Governing Board that the Charter Petition of **Lodestar: A Lighthouse Community Charter Public – GRADES TK-12** be and is hereby approved (renewed) for a term of five (5) years commencing July 1, 2026, and concluding June 30, 2031.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Oakland Unified School District this 21st day of October, 2025, by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE:

PREFERENTIAL NOE:

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION:

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

RECUSED:

ABSENT:

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution passed at a Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of the Oakland Unified School District, held on October 21, 2025.

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OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jennifer Brouhard
President, Governing Board

Dr. Denise Saddler
Interim Superintendent and Secretary, Governing Board