



DATE: June 16, 2022
TO: Members of the Boston School Committee
FROM: Dr. Caren S. Walker Gregory, Head of School, Kennedy Academy
RE: Kennedy Academy Charter Renewal Request

As you are aware, Kennedy Academy is a Horace Mann Charter School, chartered by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for a term of five years. Approved originally as a pilot school in 1995, and originally chartered by Massachusetts in 1998, our charter has been renewed four times without conditions. We are currently coming to the end of year four in a charter that expires in June 2023. As part of the charter school accountability process we are seeking renewal of our charter to permit our continued operation from July 2023 through June 2028.

The renewal process requires that we reflect on our progress over the current charter term, and lay out our plans for the future. Kennedy Academy is a strong and viable organization, with an important place in the Boston high school landscape. We are consistently among the highest performing high schools, just behind the exam schools, in terms of MCAS achievement, graduation and drop out rates, MassCore completion, and state accountability rating. Our dual mission of college readiness and health careers preparation has served Boston students well since our inception. We were the first charter school in Massachusetts to be designated as a chapter 74 vocational education program in Health Assisting, and we are working now to support our students in the pursuit of the Certified Nursing Assistant and EMT credentials. We have an extraordinarily skilled and committed faculty, and a long waiting list of families who wish to enroll their children at EMK. We are proud of our strong collaboration with both BPS and the BTU over many years, and look forward to future collaboration to best serve the students of the city.

Because we are a Horace Mann Charter School the application for renewal of our charter requires both the support of the Boston Teacher's Union and an affirmative vote of the Boston School Committee. Attached are draft materials for your review. We look forward to discussing our renewal application with you at the school committee meeting on Wednesday, June 21, 2022.

I am available to discuss these documents in advance of the meeting if that would be helpful. You may reach me at (617) 635-8450 or by email at cswalker@bostonpublicschools.org.

Dream. Grow. Excel.

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