**Board of Education Agenda Item**

**Item:** H.  
**Date:** February 23, 2005

**Topic:** Report from the Board of Education’s Charter School Application Review Committee on a Proposed Public Charter School Application

**Presenter:** Mrs. Eleanor Saslaw, Board of Education Member and Chair of the Charter School Application Review Committee

**Origin:**  
- _____ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)  
- **X** Board review required by  
  - _____ State or federal law or regulation  
  - _____ Board of Education regulation  
  - ____ Other: _____________

- ____ Action requested at this meeting  
- ____ Action requested at future meeting: _____________

**Previous Review/Action:**  
- **X** No previous board review/action

- ____ Previous review/action  
  - date _____________
  - action _____________

**Background Information:** Section 22.1-212.9 of the *Code of Virginia* provides that a public charter school applicant may submit its proposed charter application to the Board of Education for review and comment. The law stipulates that the board shall examine the application for feasibility, curriculum, and financial soundness. At its July 21, 2004, meeting, the Board of Education adopted a process and approved criteria for examining charter school applications. As part of the process, a committee was established to evaluate applications based on the established criteria. The committee is required to submit a report to the Board of Education.

**Summary of Major Elements:** The Charter School Application Review Committee met on January 19, 2005, to examine the public charter school application submitted by The Waddell International Academy in Danville, Virginia. The committee reviewed the application based on the criteria established by the Board and stipulated in the law. Attachment A contains the summary report prepared by the committee.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** N/A

**Impact on Resources:** There is a minimum impact on resources. The agency’s existing resources can absorb costs at this time.

**Timetable for Further Review/Action:** Following the Board of Education’s receipt of the summary report, a full report will be transmitted to the Waddell International Academy in Danville.
The Charter School Application Review Committee met on January 19, 2005, to examine the public charter school application submitted by The Waddell International Academy in Danville, Virginia. The committee reviewed the application, for the following criteria established by the Board of Education and stipulated in the *Code of Virginia*: 1) feasibility, 2) curriculum, and 3) financial soundness. A summary report of the committee’s findings is submitted below.

**Area 1: Feasibility**

Under the area of feasibility, the applicant addressed the four required topics. These topics were: 1) mission statement; goals and educational objectives that meet or exceed the Standards of Learning; 3) evidence of support from parents, teachers, pupils, and residents of the school division in support of the formation of the charter school; and 4) statement of need. The committee made suggestions for the applicant in each of these areas.

**Area 2: Curriculum**

Under the area of curriculum, the applicant addressed the four required topics. These topics were: 1) the public charter school’s educational program; 2) pupil performance standards; 3) pupil evaluation including assessments, timeline, and corrective action; and 4) a timeline for the achievement of the stated standards and goals and a procedure for corrective action if student performance falls below the stated standards and goals. The committee made suggestions for the applicant in each of these areas.

**Area 3: Financial Soundness**

Under the area of financial soundness, the applicant addressed the one required topic: the financial plan that included evidence of economical soundness, the proposed budget, and annual audit. The committee made suggestions for the applicant in this area.