

Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into and is effective as of January 26, 2022 (the "Effective Date") by and between the Woodland Park School District (the "District") and Merit Academy ("Merit") referred to herein each, as a ("Party"), and together, as the ("Parties").

Recitals

WHEREAS, Merit previously applied to the District for charter authorization; and

WHEREAS, Merit was approved as a contract school by ERBOCES; and

WHEREAS, Merit now desires to transfer to District authorization as a charter school; and

WHEREAS, as a contract school, Merit opened successfully in the fall of 2021 Merit asserts that it functions operationally and academically in the manner proposed in the original application (as a classical academy); and

WHEREAS, the Parties agree that a pathway involving a brand new application process would, in many respects, be unnecessary and artificial; and

WHEREAS, the boards of directors of the Parties agree that any and all requirements to ensure future success can be included in the resulting charter contract; and

WHEREAS, because the District staff and community wish to move forward with attention on consequential matters in this time of great pressure and change in public education, the District board wishes to move directly to the contracting phase;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing recitals, the Parties hereby:

1. Establish a period of no longer than 90 days to complete and sign a charter contract for a term of five years to begin on July 1, 2022; and
2. Agree that reasonable pre-opening and operating conditions, to include finance, staffing, exceptional student services, enrollment, and educational program plans acceptable to the District board will be included in the charter contract; and
3. Agree that the essential elements of the previous charter application will be incorporated in the resulting charter contract; and
4. Agree that if the Parties are unsuccessful in reaching agreement on a charter contract, the District board will open a charter application window within fifteen days and Merit will be provided the opportunity to submit an original application and accorded every opportunity to be fairly and fully considered within the standard charter application process.

[Signature Page Follows]




Woodland Park School District

Dr Mathew Neal

Name (print):

Superintendent


Signature:

1/26/2022
Date:

DAVID RUSTENHOLTZ

Name (print):

President of the Board



Signature:

JANUARY 26, 2022
Date:

Merit Academy

Barry Arrington
Name (print):

[Attorney]


Signature:

1/24/2022
Date: