



House Bill 514 – Permit Municipal Charter School/Certain Towns

To: Davidson Board of Commissioners
From: Jamie Justice, Town Manager
Date: May 18, 2018
Re: HB 514 – Permit Municipal Charter School/Certain Towns

1. OVERVIEW

House Bill 514 has been introduced in the North Carolina legislature. It has passed in the House and could be under consideration by the Senate in this year's short legislative session currently underway. The bill would permit the Towns of Matthews and Mint Hill to apply to open charter schools and grant priority enrollment to students living in those towns in those charter schools, and to use property tax revenue to support the charter schools operated by the towns. The Towns of Cornelius and Huntersville have both requested to be added to this legislation for the same authority.

The question before the Davidson Board of Commissioners is: Does Davidson want to be added to this bill to be granted this authority to be able to consider this charter school establishment option in the future? Receiving permission from the legislature to provide this authority to the town is not the same as actually exercising this authority sometime in the future. That is a separate decision that could be considered in the future.

As of this date, the bill has not been scheduled for consideration in the Senate. However, that could change very quickly, and potentially this bill could be voted on before this Tuesday's meeting and/or before the board of commissioners decides if it wants this authority, so time is of the essence.

Attached is a description of the bill, the resolution passed by Cornelius supporting the bill and requesting Cornelius be added to it, and an information sheet from Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools on the impacts of House Bill 514.

2. RELATED TOWN GOALS

List core value(s):

Citizens entrust town government with the stewardship of public funds, so government will provide high quality services at a reasonable cost.

Davidson exists in proximity to and is interdependent with other jurisdictions, so we strive for local, regional, state and federal cooperation.

List which constituents are served: All residents of Davidson could be impacted should the town ask for this authority and ultimately exercise it.

3. OPTIONS/PROS & CONS

Option 1: Support HB 514 and request the Town of Davidson be added to this bill to secure the authority.

Pros:

Provides the town this option to consider in the future.

Cons:

Public education is not a service that towns provide.

There is not a lot of information regarding how this option would work, but it does appear to be an expensive proposition for a small town.

Option 2: Do not support HB 514.

Pros:

Avoids the possibility of the town providing public education service and the costs associated with it.

We need to nurture our relationship with CMS at this time since we are negotiating on the joint-use agreement and lease for the IB School.

Cons:

We would lose the chance to be granted the authority to consider the establishment of a charter school in the future.

4. FYI or RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that, should the town board want to ask our legislators to add Davidson to this bill, that the town board take action to do that at this May 22nd board meeting, so that the state legislature could potentially approve it in this current short legislative session. Otherwise, if the town wanted to ask for this authority, and it was not considered at this short legislative session, the next opportunity would be the long legislative session starting in January 2019.

5. NEXT STEPS

Discuss this at the May 22nd meeting to determine if the board wants to request this authority from the legislature or if the board does not want this authority.