Stanley-Boyd Charter School Proposal

In 1993, the Wisconsin State Legislature created the Charter School Program under Act 16. As a result of that action and a variety of additional actions since including Act 27 in 1995, and Act 55 in 2015, a school board may, of its own initiative, establish a contract for a charter school. The purpose of this document is to provide the Stanley-Boyd Area Schools Board of Education with talking points as to what a charter school is, what requirements we have to meet to become a charter school, and why we are proposing we become one.

1. Charter school legislation is intended to accomplish four primary objectives:
    a. To encourage the development and implementation of innovative teaching;
    b. To improve the educational system as a whole by increasing competition;
    c. To provide increased accountability for accomplishing educational goals; and
    d. To offer additional educational options to pupils and parents.

2. School districts are allowed to distribute school funds to charter schools in the same manner used to distribute funds to any school in the District. As a result, per pupil spending for charter school pupils, may be more, less, or the same as spending for non-charter school pupils. Pupils are enrolled in the charter school and are counted by the school district for revenue limits and general aid purposes.

3. The District must provide alternative public school attendance arrangements for pupils who do not wish to attend or are not admitted to a charter school. Local alternative options would include:
    a. Individualized parent contracts.
    b. Open Doors Academy
    c. Stanley-Boyd Online School

4. There are two methods by which a local school board may authorize a charter school and or convert all of the District's schools to charter schools..
    a. A school board may contract with a person to operate a school as a charter school.
        i. At least 30 days before entering a contract that would establish a charter school that is not an instrumentality of the school district, the board must hold a public hearing on the contract.
        ii. At the hearing, the board must consider employee and parental support for the charter school and the fiscal impact of the charter school on the District.
    b. A school board may authorize the establishment of a charter school upon receipt and approval of a written petition requesting the board to do so.
        i. The petition must be signed by at least 10% of the teachers employed by the school.
        ii. The steps under "a" above must be followed once a petition is received.

5. A District must notify DPI of its intention to create a charter school and include a description of the school in the notice. The Department of Public Instruction does not have the authority to approve or deny charter school requests.

6. The school board in which a charter school is located determines whether or not the charter school is an "instrumentality of the District." If the board determines that the charter school is an instrumentality of the District, then the board must employ all personnel for the charter school. SBSD charter schools would be Instrumentalities of the District.

7. A charter school cannot be converted to a private school or charge tuition. A charter school must be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and other operations. If a charter school replaces a public school, in whole or in part, the school must give preference in admission to any pupil residing within the current or former attendance area of the public school.

8. Charter School Requirement Include:
    a. Administer state standardized pupil assessments;
    b. Adopt academic standards in math, science, reading, writing, geography, and history;
    c. Develop and enforce a promotion policy;
    d. Be included in a schools annual school performance report;
    e. Participate in the DPI educator effectiveness evaluation system;
    f. Assess pupils enrolled in 4K through 2nd grade for reading readiness;
    g. Ensure that all school instructional staff hold a DPI license.

9. DPI has established a charter school instructional staff license which allows an individual to essentially teach anything within the school as long as they hold any DPI teaching license.

10. The charter school contract with the public school may be for any term not to exceed five school years. The contract must specify the amount to be paid to the charter school during each school year. The board of the District may cancel the agreement with the charter school at any time, effective immediately.

11. Since 1996, DPI has awarded federal grants through the U.S. Department of Education to provide funds to local school districts for charter school planning and implementation. Stanley-Boyd Area Schools would be eligible for those grant opportunities. For example, our charter school programs would be based on providing a professional learning team culture. Could we apply for a grant to pay for Dave Ludy's salary and benefits for a year to help guide the charter schools during this first year?

12. The charter school must have a governance plan which includes a governance board with duties as per Act 55. The governing board may have no more than a minority of the

governing board members be employees or officers of the school district. The charter school has all the powers necessary to carry out the terms of its contract.

a. Each SB charter school governing board would consist of seven members; three of which would be employees of that school. Members would serve for no more than two, three year terms.
b. In specific to SBSD, no substantive change would be made in our present programming. With our present structure including PLC and the Dave Ludy position, we are perfectly situated to split the two administrator duties with one being "superintendent to the board" and other being "superintendent to the charter schools."

13. Charter Schools in Wisconsin are exempt from state statutes in Chapters 115 through 121 regarding public education unless specifically referred to in state statute.
    a. Charter schools may develop their own attendance schedule to include
        i. determining the length of the school day;
        ii. determining the days and hours of instruction;
        iii. determining the total clock hours of instruction;
        iv. determining the days of instruction including start date.

14. School District intending to start a charter school must notify the DPI by February 1 of the year in which the charter school will begin.

<u>Recommendation:</u>

1. Notify the DPI of our intent to establish an elementary, middle, and high school charter school. This would be done to meet the notification deadline as we can determine not to proceed at any point thereafter.

2. The administration will develop charter school agreements for the board to have approved prior to July 1.

3. The school board will approve a 2018-2019 school calendar.

4. Once the charter school agreements have been approved, the agreements will be provided to DPI and individual governing boards will be established.

5. There is an assumption that a "charter school" would be different than a normal public school. The Wildlands Charter School in Augusta, for example, is based on teaching all subjects through conservation and environmental science. Our "difference" would be that students and teachers would be working in a Professional Learning Community.