

# VIII.D.

## CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Hartford

### TO BE PROPOSED:

March 3, 2021

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes and the Charter Contract with Stamford Academy, Inc., accepts Stamford Academy Inc.'s surrender of its Charter and directs the Acting Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ this 3rd day of March, Two Thousand Twenty-one.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Secretary  
State Board of Education

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Hartford**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education

**DATE:** March 3, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Acceptance of Surrender of the Charter of Stamford Academy, Inc.

**Executive Summary**

**Introduction**

Stamford Academy Inc. (Stamford Academy) is a state charter school previously located in Stamford. The school had 147 students enrolled in grades 9-12 during the 2019-2020 academic year. Due to lack of financial viability, Stamford Academy notified the State Board of Education (SBE) and the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) that it would discontinue operations and surrender its charter at the conclusion of the 2019-2020 academic year. This pending action is for the SBE to accept the surrender of the charter of Stamford Academy.

**History/Background**

The SBE initially granted the Stamford Academy charter in 2004, and the school has been in continuous operation ever since through the 2019-2020 school year. Stamford Academy was managed by Domus Kids, Inc., a Charter Management Organization (CMO). The SBE last renewed Stamford Academy's charter in 2019, resulting in a two-year charter renewal through June 30, 2021.

In December of 2019, representatives of Stamford Academy notified the SBE and CSDE that Stamford Academy intended to discontinue operations at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year and met with representatives of the SBE and CSDE to discuss its decision. Stamford Academy also publically announced its decision shortly after notification to the SBE and the CSDE. The CSDE then, on January 16, 2020, wrote a detailed letter to Stamford Academy in which the CSDE set forth its expectations as to actions that Stamford Academy would take to ensure students were promptly enrolled in new schools for the upcoming academic year. At that time, Stamford Academy had already started the process of working with students and their parents to address the issues raised by its decision to cease operations. In this letter the CSDE also outlined ongoing obligations related to student records, finances, and other transitional requirements and activities.

The CSDE has now received a detailed letter from counsel for Stamford Academy and Domus Kids, Inc. reporting on actions that have been taken with respect to fulfilling the requirements previously outlined by the CSDE. Stamford Academy reported that it graduated its final senior class at the end of the 2019-2020 school year and had enrolled students that had not graduated in other public or private schools. The majority of these students were placed in their local high

school within the Stamford Public Schools. Stamford Academy also reported that it provided all the recipient school districts with the original student records for students who transferred to other secondary schools, and that the educational records of graduating seniors and former students of Stamford Academy were transferred to Domus Kids, Inc. which will maintain the records in accordance with applicable retention requirements.

Stamford Academy has also completed a physical inventory of tangible property and has provided this to the CSDE. An audit of Stamford Academy's financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2020 was completed and was made available to the CSDE and reviewed by CSDE personnel. As it is anticipated that Stamford Academy will terminate its corporate existence, Domus will be responsible for completing federal tax filings for the 2020 tax year.

Stamford Academy gave appropriate notice of its intention to terminate operations to the CSDE and fulfilled its obligations with respect to termination as requested by the CSDE.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the SBE accept the voluntary surrender of the Stamford Academy, Inc. charter.

Prepared by: Robert E. Kelly  
Charter School Program Manager

Louis Todisco, Attorney  
Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs

Approved by: Lisa Lamenzo, Division Director  
Turnaround Office

Jessa Y. Mirtle, Director  
Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs