Brookhaven Innovation Academy: Petition Denied, Applicants Urged to Re-Apply

Brookhaven, GA – The State Charter Schools Commission today denied the application of the Brookhaven Innovation Academy to open a charter school but encouraged City officials to re-apply next year.

"Even though we asked for the State Charter Schools Commission to give us more time to address the issues and their concerns in their recommendation, they chose not to do that. We respect that decision and feel we will be able to satisfy and address their concerns in our petition next year," said Brookhaven Councilmember Bates Mattison. Three of the seven members of the State Charter Schools Commission Board spoke in favor of the Brookhaven Innovation Academy and strongly encouraged them to come back next year for the 2015 petition cycle.

"We will begin working with the State Charter Schools Commission staff immediately, and feel very optimistic that we will be able to address their concerns in our 2015 petition," Mattison said.

Although the charter application was made to the State Charter Schools Commission, The Brookhaven Innovation Academy (BIA) has earned the support of DeKalb County Schools Superintendent, Michael Thurmond, who has described BIA as "an innovative idea with tremendous potential."

Current plans call for the BIA to open with 420 students in grades k-6, and ultimately educate up to 1300 students as a K-12 public charter school with multiple campuses and a virtual component. BIA will offer a student-centered learning environment, implementing a combination of STEM focused, project-based and blended learning curricula.

"We're going to continue to meet with Superintendent Thurmond quarterly, and deepen our relationship with DeKalb County Schools," Mattison said. "This is a State process, but we'll be working in partnership with DeKalb going forward."

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