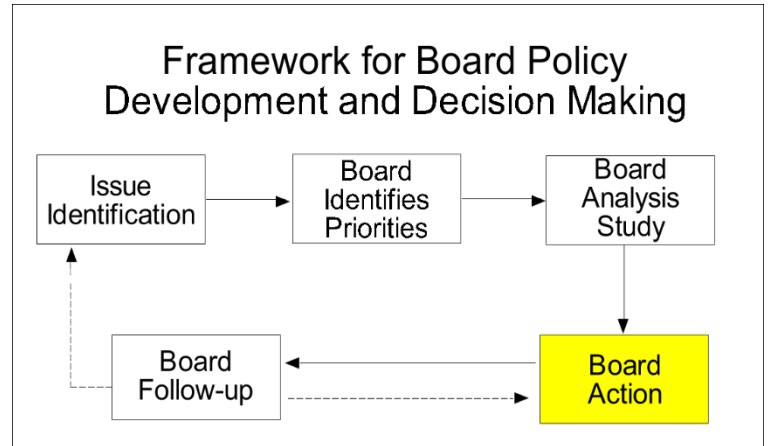


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

January 9, 2025



Agenda Item: Charter School Application Recommendation, Red Barn Schoolhouse

State Board Priority: Goal 5

State Board Role/Authority: The State Board of Education is the sole authorizer of Iowa charter schools 256E.1(4).

Presenter(s): Deborah Elder
Chief Operating Officer

Attachment(s): One

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board approve the application for Red Barn Schoolhouse charter school.

Background: The Iowa State Board of Education “shall employ procedures, practices, and criteria consistent with nationally recognized principles and standards for reviewing charter school applications.” 256E.1(5). As the authorizing agent for the State Board, the Department of Education has reviewed the charter school application and provides an evidence-based recommendation in alignment with nationally recognized standards.

Red Barn Schoolhouse

Charter Overview

Location Crescent

Grades K - 5

Education Service Provider N/A

Opening Year for Students 2025-2026

	Year 1	Year 5
Projected Staff	8	9.5
Projected Student Enrollment	40 (Grades K - 3)	83 (Grades K – 5)
Projected Revenue	\$1,456,895	\$829,494
Projected Expenses	\$759,600	\$969,900
Projected Balance	\$697,295	\$372.959

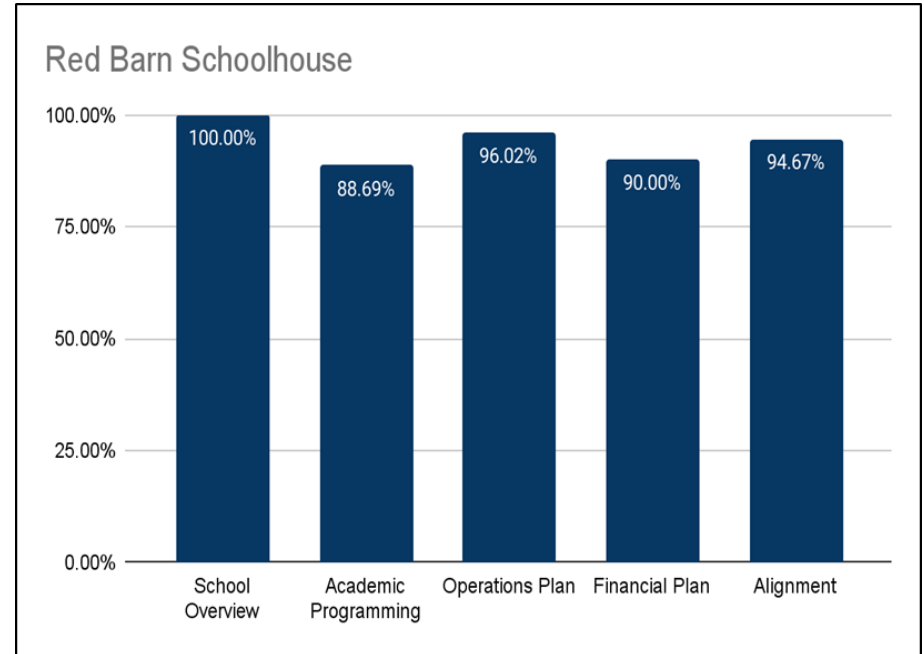
Environmental Scan and Summary of Need

- 65% of survey respondents interested in attending an elementary school in the target area (93% strongly interested)
- Developed partnership with Hitchcock Nature Center to further enhance nature-based learning curriculum
- Utilized local demographic data in designing programming and identifying the community need for an elementary school

Review Team Recommendation: Approval with Condition

Provide status updates of initiative implementation via quarterly meetings with the Charter School Team

Charter Application Review Scores



Innovative Model Description	Requested Waivers
<p>The Red Barn Schoolhouse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nature-based learning, project and inquiry-based learning, collaborative instruction, and integrated curricular practices within dynamic student bands ➤ Year-round calendar, with a four-day student week, reserving Fridays for professional development 	<p>Provision of instruction for at least the number of days or hours required by Iowa Code section 279.10(1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed four-day student week reserves for consistent, in-depth teacher development, planning, and student evaluation aligned to the unique academic programming ➤ The year-round calendar supports the viability of the four-day student week, while also providing opportunity to combat student regression over long school breaks

Academic Program

- Partnership with Green Hills AEA to support special education, gifted/talented, at-risk, and English learner identification and services
- **Concern:** The application proposes an unrealistic number of classroom initiatives to implement with integrity

Operations Plan

- The founding group indicates expertise in a wide variety of innovative school approaches
- Environmental scan data indicates significant community support, indicating likelihood of attracting students to enroll
- Administrative, teacher, and governing board evaluation plans are comprehensive and aligned to Iowa Education Standards
- Comprehensive recruitment plans for administrators, teachers, governing board, and students

Financial Plan

- The founding group secured a line of credit from American National Bank to provide financial assistance in both startup and ongoing operational expenses
- The application details contingency plans to remain financially and operationally viable if fundraising and awarded grants don't meet original projections
- The founding group presented evidence of a realistic and viable five-year budget

Five-Year Projected Budget	Year One 2026-2027	Year Two 2027-2028	Year Three 2028-2029	Year Four 2029-2030	Year Five 2030-2031
Projected Enrollment	40	50	60	75	83
Total Revenue	\$ 1,456,895.81	\$551, 530.33	\$866,954.76	\$1,002,655.39	\$829,494.68
Total Expenditures	\$759,600	\$826,730	\$862,450	\$915,891	\$969,900
Net Revenue/Expenditures	\$697,295.81	(\$275,199.67)	\$4,504.76	\$86,764.39	(\$140,405.32)
Prior Year Surplus/Deficit		\$697,295.81	\$422,096.14	\$426,600.90	\$513,365.29
Remaining Balance	\$697,295.81	\$422,096.14	\$426,600.90	\$513,365.29	\$372,959.97