



Regional charter school OK'd

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The vote was unanimous - 9-0 in favor of the YorkCounts Regional Charter School proposal by the York City school board.

Honestly, that comes as a bit of a surprise.

It was just a few months ago that city school board members were questioning this charter proposal.

City school board members and officials have historically been less than enthusiastic about charter schools, which they say siphon money from the district. On the YorkCounts proposal, some board members have voiced concerns about the curriculum, the location, a supposed lack of information about the proposal, and so on.

But it appears YorkCounts officials have done an outstanding job of addressing those questions. There's no other way to account for a unanimous vote of support from the city board.

Congratulations to YorkCounts officials who have been working on this project.

Congratulations also to the Central York and York Suburban school boards for realizing early on that this was an excellent opportunity for our community.

And, of course, congratulations to the city school board for coming to embrace the idea.

This charter school has so much potential to broaden educational horizons in our community.

It will bring together students from urban and suburban districts, breaking down class, racial and social barriers.

The school will be near the downtown, which should prove attractive to suburban professionals who work in the city.

The location near the Northwest Triangle redevelopment project will give a boost to that exciting mixed housing, commercial and office space initiative.

And most importantly, of course, the school will offer a curriculum unique to the county - the International Baccalaureate program.

No doubt, there are critics of that program, which focuses heavily on intercultural learning. But it is widely considered to be an academically rigorous curriculum that offers a clear pathway to college.

In the end, the school will succeed or fail based on the efforts of administrators, teachers, students and their parents - or lack thereof. Expectations should be high, and the charter school should face uncompromising assessments - like any other public school.

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For now, though, it's just cause for celebration that we have three local schools districts working together to offer new opportunities in our community. They're pulling in the same direction, proving that everyone in the York area really does count.

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