

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Title: H.Y.P.E. Leadership Academy's Request for 2nd Delay**

#### **Detailed Item Description**

H.Y.P.E. Leadership Academy ("HYPE") is a K-5 public charter school approved to open in Hoke County and currently in the Ready to Open (RTO) process. HYPE's original opening date was August 2025. The Office of Charter Schools (OCS) approved a one-year delay in September 2024 to open in Fall 2026. HYPE is requesting a second delay, which CSRB must approve, for an August 2027 opening.

#### **Background**

Despite sustained and proactive efforts, the school was unable to secure a suitable facility in Hoke County for the upcoming school year. Over the past year, the school identified a potential existing facility (church) and engaged in discussions with the pastor and the church's trustee board. Initial conversations indicated support for leasing the building to house the school. Following these discussions, HYPE submitted a formal written request outlining facility needs, the Ready to Open process, and the school's mission and operational commitments. Lease negotiations subsequently commenced.

During negotiations, communication paused for approximately two weeks. When communication resumed, the pastor indicated that negotiations had been halted pending a vote by the full congregation, noting that some members had expressed concerns regarding the school and the proposed partnership. While the congregation had reportedly been briefed and expressed support before the start of negotiations, the final congregational vote resulted in a decision not to lease the facility to the school. This decision occurred after several months of planning and materially affected the school's ability to secure a facility within the required timeframe.

HYPE has continued to actively pursue alternative facility options and remains committed to securing a compliant, long-term location that supports student success and sustainable growth. However, without additional time, the school is unable to meet the Ready to Open requirements. Financial commitments remain in place, including an agreement with HJ Sims Financial Services and a \$300,000 financial commitment from The Romine Group. The HJ Sims loan remains contingent upon the school's initially approved enrollment.

For these reasons, HYPE seeks approval for a second-year delay to responsibly secure a facility and proceed toward a successful opening.

**HYPE is also requesting a change in grade levels served or projected student enrollment. See enrollment projection charts below:**

**Currently Approved Fall 2026 Enrollment Chart**

Academic School Year	Grade Levels	Total Projected Student Enrollment
Year 1 (SY: 2025-2026)	K-5	310
Year 2 (SY: 2026-2027)	K-6	385
Year 3 (SY: 2027-2028)	K-7	460
Year 4 (SY: 2028-2029)	K-8	535
Year 5 (SY: 2029-2030)	K-9	610

**Proposed (pending approval) Fall 2027 Enrollment Chart**

Academic School Year	Grade Levels	Total Projected Student Enrollment
Year 1 (SY: 2027-2028)	K-5	320
Year 2 (SY: 2028-2029)	K-6	395
Year 3 (SY: 2029-2030)	K-7	480
Year 4 (SY: 2030-2031)	K-8	545
Year 5 (SY: 2031-2032)	K-9	620

**Board of Directors Update**

When HYPE requested the first-year delay, Bradford Gaddy, Michael Burns, and Jason Poole stepped down from the board. Kendra Whitney, who served as a non-voting member, is no longer associated with The Romine Group. HYPE has requested official resignation letters from the departing members but has not received a response. Dr. Tremaine Canteen was subsequently elected to the board and currently serves as Secretary. Below is a table that summarizes the changes in the Board of Directors.

<u>Original Board</u>				
<u>Board Member Name</u>	<u>Board Title</u>	<u>County of Residence</u>	<u>Current Occupation</u>	<u>Present Professional Licenses Held</u>
Robert "Jason" Poole	Treasurer	Cumberland County	CPA/Partner - TRP Sumner	CPA Licensure
Brandon Price	Member	Hoke County	Attorney - CEO of Habitat for Humanity	Law License
Dr. Rodney McCrowre	Vice President	Cumberland County	Asst. Professor of Management - FSU	None
Bradford Gaddy	Secretary	Cumberland County	Retired Military	None
Michael Burns	Member	Cumberland County	Public Relations - US Military	None
Alberta Lampkins	President	Hoke County	Adjunct Professor - FSU	None
Kendra Whitney	Non voting Member	Robeson County	Student Success Coach/Educational Coach	None
<u>Current Board</u>				
<u>Board Member Name</u>	<u>Board Title</u>	<u>County of Residence</u>	<u>Current Occupation</u>	<u>Present Professional Licenses Held</u>
Jimia Brantley	Chairperson	Hoke County	Assistant Principal - TCEA	None
Brandon Price	Treasurer	Hoke County	Attorney - CEO of Habitat for Humanity	Law License
Dr. Rodney McCrowre	Vice President	Cumberland County	Asst. Professor of Management - FSU	None
Alberta Lampkins	President	Hoke County	Adjunct Professor - FSU	None
Dr. Tremaine Canteen	Secretary	Cumberland County	Principal - Cumberland County Schools	None

HYPE has submitted all required documentation to the Office of Charter Schools and requests approval for a 2nd delayed opening.

## Input Process

H.Y.P.E. Leadership Academy's Board of Directors