

Santa Rosa City Schools  
Board of Education  
February 14, 2018

# Petition to Form the Pivot North Bay Charter School ("Pivot 2")

# Pivot Charter Schools

- Pivot submitted Petition to Santa Rosa City Schools on September 13, 2017
- Board denied Pivot Petition 7-0 on November 15, 2017
- Pivot submitted second Petition on December 20, 2017 (“Pivot 2”)
- Pivot operated charter schools authorized by four (4) school districts

# Pivot Charter Schools

- Pivot has operated a Resource Center in Santa Rosa since 2009 under a charter authorized by the Oak Grove School District (2999 Cleveland Avenue, Suite D)
  - Approximately 390 students in 2017-2018 (4 from Santa Rosa Elementary School District, 167 from Santa Rosa High School District)
- *Anderson Union High School District v. Shasta Secondary Home School* (2016) 4 Cal.App.5th 262 prohibited resource centers outside the jurisdiction of the authorizer
- Pivot charters obtained waivers from the SBE to operate their resource centers through 2017-2018 pending submission of petitions to the District where the resource centers were located.
- Pivot has asked the District to waive application of the *Anderson* rule.

# Standard of Review Applicable to Petition

- Statutory grounds:
  - Unsound educational program
  - Petitioners demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement program
  - Signatures insufficient (if applicable)
  - Affirmations not “clear, unequivocal”
  - Lacks reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the 15 charter criteria
  - Lacks declaration regarding collective bargaining
  
- If Board denies Petition, it must make findings in support of denial

# The Review Process: Content of Charter

- **“Reasonably comprehensive” descriptions of 15 criteria:**
  - Description of educational program
  - Measurable pupil outcomes
  - Method for assessing pupil progress
  - Governance structure of the school
  - Employee qualifications
  - Health & safety procedures
  - Means to achieve race/ethnic balance
  - Admission requirements, if applicable

# The Review Process:

## Content of Charter

- Charter criteria (cont.):
  - Manner in which annual independent financial audits shall be conducted
  - Student suspension & expulsion procedures
  - Staff coverage by State Teachers' Retirement System, Public Employees' Retirement System or Social Security
  - Public school attendance alternatives
  - District employee leave & return rights
  - Dispute resolution process
  - Procedures for closure of school

# Legislative intent

- “The chartering authority shall be guided by the intent of the Legislature that charter schools are and should become an integral part of the California educational system and that establishment of charter schools should be encouraged. The governing board of the school district shall grant a charter for the operation of a school under this part if it is satisfied that granting the charter is consistent with sound educational practice.” (Ed Code 47605(b).)

# Areas Not Cured

Area of Petition - Pivot 1 Findings	Cured?
Petitioner Capacity – Student Attrition	No.
Petitioner Capacity – Credit Deficiency in returning students	No.
Educational Program – Description of curriculum	No. Some areas elaborated, but pupil performance still below standard on CAASPP across the board.
Educational Program -- Less than 50% of Pivot students scored “Standard Exceeded” or “Standard Met” on the CAASPP	No.
Strategies for Low-Achieving Students, Special Education and English Language Learners	No.
Measurable Pupil Outcomes -- Pupil Growth by subgroup	No.
Governance – Location of Board Meetings	No.
Racial and Ethnic Balance – Outreach measures	No.
Suspension and Expulsion Procedures	No.
District Impact – Indemnification of District	No.



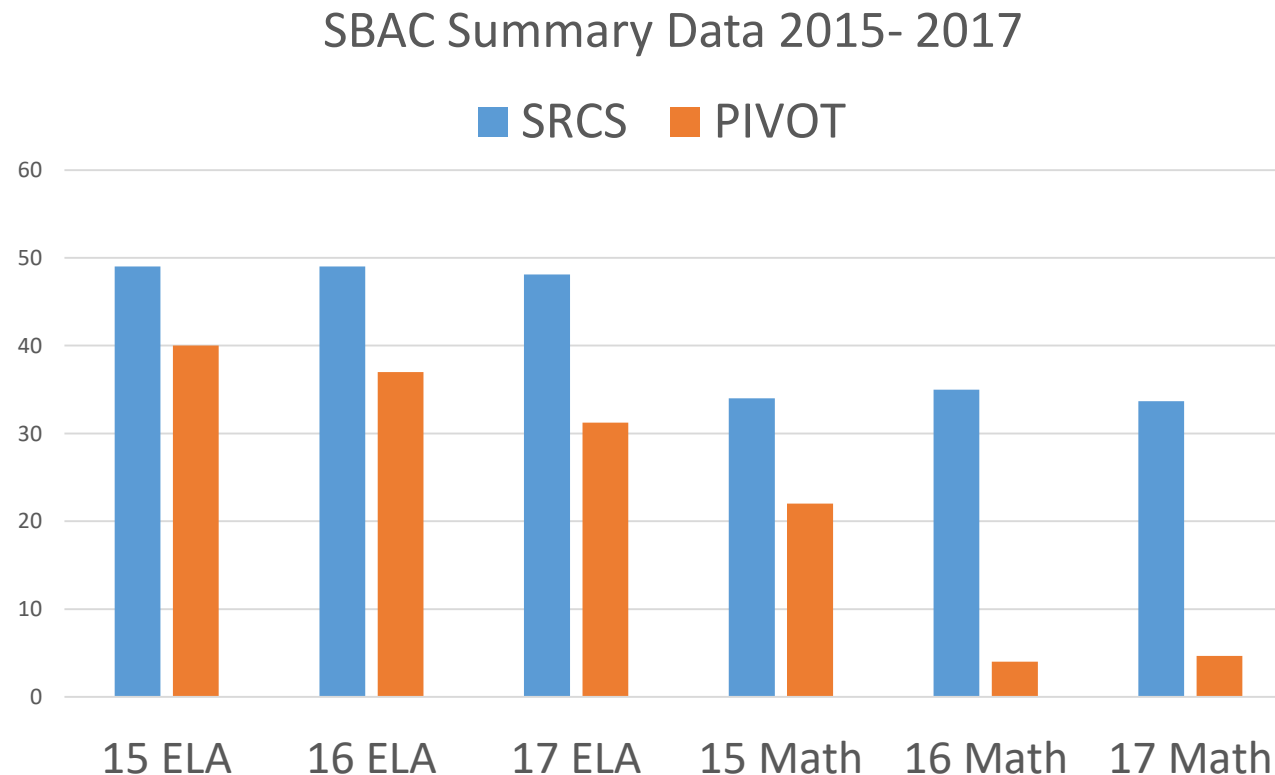
# Areas Cured

Area of Petition - Pivot 1 Findings	Cured?
Petition Signatures – First petition identified wrong district	Yes.
Employee Qualifications - Missing	Yes
Admissions Requirements – Details on implementation	Yes.
Employee Retirement – Eligibility Threshold	Yes.
Dispute Resolution – Inappropriate binding of authorizer	Yes.

# Summary of Findings

Demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement program set forth in the Petition

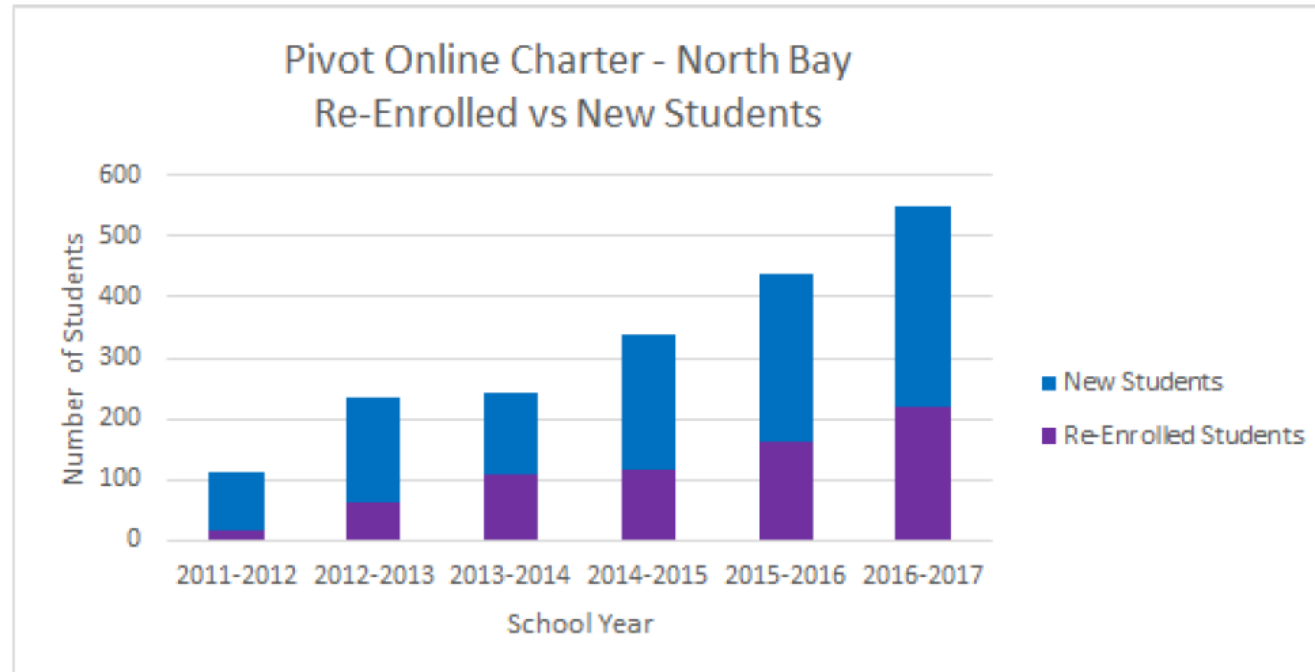
Pivot does not match the performance of local schools on the SBAC ELA and math



# Summary of Findings

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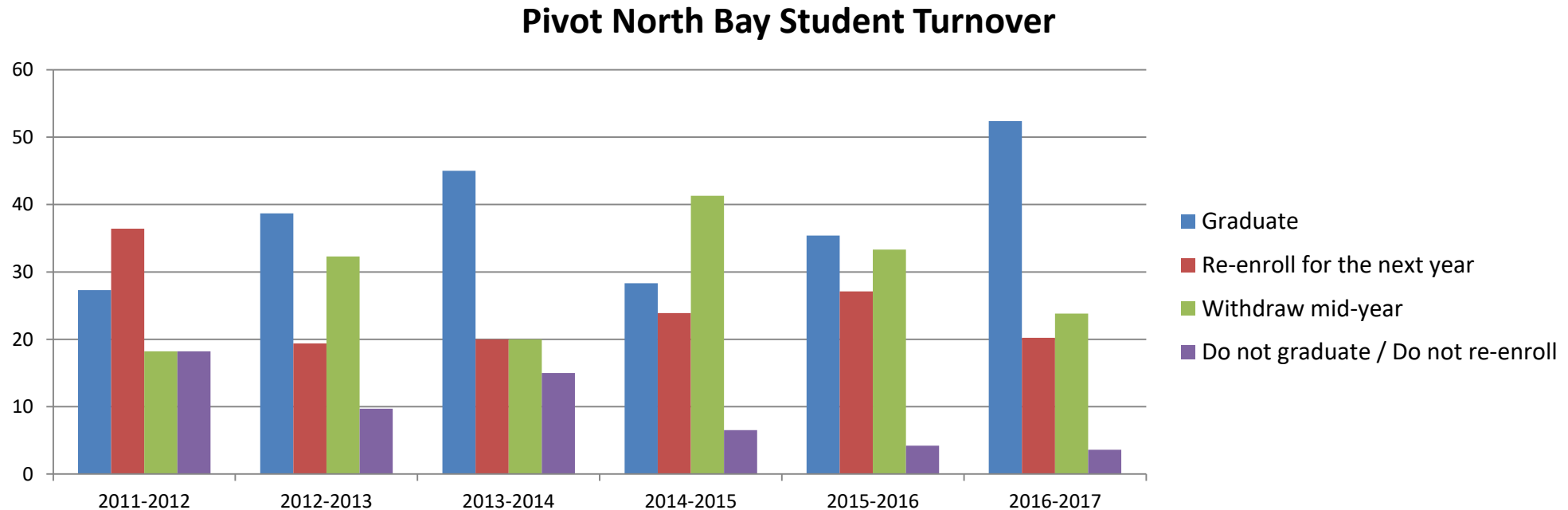
Pivot North Bay experiences significant student turnover annually.



# Summary of Findings

Demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement program set forth in the Petition.

Pivot North Bay experiences significant student turnover annually.



# Staff Recommendation

Deny the Petition to form the Pivot North Bay Charter School

- Substandard student performance
- High student attrition
- Lack of rigor in educational program
  - As described in Petition
  - As observed during site visit
- Lack of access to governing board

# Overview of Findings

- The Petition Fails to Contain a Reasonably Comprehensive Description of all 15 Required Elements set forth in Education Code § 47605(b). (Education Code § 47605(b) (5)(A)-(O)).
  - Six (6) of the 15 required elements have been found deficient in the Pivot Charter petition.
- The Petition fails to contain a sound educational program.
- The Petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the Petition
- Staff recommends that the Board DENY the Petition to form the Pivot North Bay Charter School (“Pivot 2”)