

Summary of TenSquare Assessment of CWCKC Readiness for Acceleration of Growth

TenSquare, a national charter school consulting firm was engaged by SchoolSmart Kansas City to evaluate certain aspects of the CWC-KC program with a goal of understanding the readiness for the school to accelerate its expansion to a full complement of grades by opening a middle school program in fall 2019.

The report “includes... many strengths of the program and also points to areas where... the school will need to continue to grow. The question... is if the school, as it approaches its third year of operation, is capable of taking on a more rapid growth model. Our opinion is yes, with a few additional recommendations.” (p.3)

Strengths

Leadership - The board and the Executive Director are well positioned to lead the school through an accelerated growth phase - they are among the best and most well-versed charter school board members and leaders that we have encountered.

Faculty and Staff - The staff possesses a problem-solving, persevering mentality.

Parent Opinions - Families all report extremely high levels of satisfaction with the school.

Commitment to Diversity - Students and their diversity (cognitively, economically, and racially) are at the heart of decisions and processes in classrooms and in the school at large.

Integrated Curriculum - The social - emotional curricular focus and constructivist approach are visible and provide a framework for alignment of instructional actions.

Leveled Reading - Reading groups are carefully constructed across grade levels. Students are targeted for these skills-based reading groups as a means of remediation and reinforcement of necessary skills.

Mathematics Curriculum - The methodical curriculum, Everyday Math, has a clear pacing guide and has math concepts and skills spiraled throughout each unit.

Areas for Continued Growth and Attention

Parental concerns - include the lack of transportation, the lack of a gymnasium and additional athletic space, the lack of a preschool program and a worry that the oldest students are always the “pioneers” for new ideas that have not yet been fully thought through.

Consistency of ELA curriculum - The ELA curricular focus seems to be less comprehensive and orchestrated than math.

Teacher Feedback and Professional Growth Opportunities - There is no clear structure for consistent coaching and feedback to teachers beyond electronic lesson plan feedback. Teacher and staff development should be modified.

Communications - As the school enters its next phase of growth, they will need to pay careful attention to communications both within the school and to the larger community/stakeholders.