

MONARCH ACADEMY
PUBLIC CHARTER
SCHOOL,

Appellant

v.

BALTIMORE CITY BOARD
OF SCHOOL
COMMISSIONERS,

Appellee.

BEFORE THE

MARYLAND

STATE BOARD

OF EDUCATION

Order No. OR 19-17

ORDER

This Board, like the State Boards in the past, has focused its attention on fairness in the process of granting and renewing charters, and the precedent that the Board will set in this and other charter school appeals. After reviewing the Proposed Decision issued in *Monarch Academy Public Charter School v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners*, the State Board determined that it needs additional information before it can issue a final decision. Therefore, we remand this case to the Office of Administrative Hearings for the limited purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence on the following matters:

- (1) The role that Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) has defined for charter schools in the context of all other schools in the school system. For example, is it the role of a charter school to “improve” or “enhance” BCPS performance as Christopher Wohn testified. If so, please explain.
- (2) The notice *Monarch* had of the renewal criteria. Specifically, what was the renewal criteria that governed the *Monarch Academy* renewal? When was it established? When was it provided to *Monarch*? Also, please identify where in the renewal criteria it requires the charter school to be above the 50th percentile of all BCPS schools in terms of achievement as testified by Christopher Wohn. Explain the basis and rationale for establishing that criteria.
- (3) The schools in *Monarch*'s economic disadvantage group. Please identify the comparison schools, set forth the data that was considered for each school, and explain the analysis that was done to develop the achievement comparison.

It is so Ordered this 22nd day of October 2019,

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Signature on File:

Warner I. Sumpter
President