

**AGENDA ITEM: Academy of Mathematics and Science South, Inc. (Academy of Mathematics and Science South)– Request for a Good Cause Extension**

**Issue**

Due to difficulty obtaining financing for the full amount of tenant improvements on a property currently in escrow, Academy of Mathematics and Science South, Inc. (AMSS) is requesting a Good Cause Extension to the signing and execution of the charter contract to begin providing services for the 2012-13 school year.

[Policy Statement for a Good Cause Extension to the Charter Contract](#)

**Background**

AMSS (Academy of Mathematics and Science South) was granted a charter on January 10, 2011 to serve grades K - 5 through the Replication Application process for the replication of Academy of Math and Science. The application package included a start date of 2011-12 school year. As part of the replication application package, the applicant agrees and signs a statement acknowledging that the approved applicant must execute the charter contract within twelve (12) months of the date of approval. As a condition to signing the charter contract, the approved applicant must provide proof of a secured facility.

On December 2, 2011, Board staff sent a letter to Tatyana Chayka, authorized representative of AMSS, informing the applicant that the charter replication application for Academy of Mathematics and Science South would expire on January 10, 2012. The letter also reminded the approved applicant that, as part of the application, the authorized representative signed a statement acknowledging that if approved to operate a charter school, the contract must be executed within twelve months of the date of approval by the Board and that a one-time good cause extension request could be submitted within two months of the charter's expiration.

On January 30, 2012, Board staff received a letter from Ms. Chayka with a request for a Good Cause Extension. The letter stated that due to difficulty obtaining financing for the full amount of tenant improvements on a property currently in escrow, AMSS is requesting a Good Cause Extension to the signing and execution of the charter contract to begin providing services for the 2013-14 school year. The letter also states that AMSS has been aggressively looking for a building since the charter was granted, and is still actively looking for a solution which would allow it to open for the 2012-13 school year.

**Board Options:**

Option 1: The Board may approve the Good Cause Extension. Staff recommends the following language for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, that the Board approve the Good Cause Extension to the signing and execution of the charter contract for Academy of Mathematics and Science South, Inc. such that the contract is executed in time for the 2013-14 school year. Further that, as a condition of signing, the approved applicant shall submit any documentation necessary to bring the replication application package current with policy, rule, state or federal law at least 90 days prior to the signing of the contract. Should the approved applicant not meet the replication application requirements at the time set for the signing of the contract, the matter must be brought back to the Board prior to the execution of a charter contract.

Option 2: The Board may deny the request for a Good Cause Extension. The following language is provided for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, that the Board deny the request for a Good Cause Extension to the signing and execution of the charter contract for Academy of Mathematics and Science South, Inc. If the request is denied, Academy of Mathematics and Science South, Inc. has the option to reapply for a charter through the replication process.

# Academy of Mathematics and Science South

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**SENT VIA FACSIMILE TO: (602) 364-3089  
AND U.S. CERTIFIED MAIL**

January 27, 2012

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools  
1700 W. Washington Street, Room 164  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Good Cause Extension, Academy of Mathematics and Science South

The Academy of Mathematics and Science South, Inc. (AMSS, CTDS 108510000) respectfully requests a Good Cause Extension for the execution of the Charter contract which has a deadline of January 10, 2012 for a full additional 12 months.

## **Background and Performance of Existing Charter Schools**

The Academy of Math and Science South is a replication of an "A" rated and "Excelling" Charter School, the Academy of Math and Science (AMS, CTDS **108713000**) serving a 70% minority and free and reduced lunch population. Shortly after receiving the charter, AMSS was awarded the Arizona Charter School Program Grant in the amount of \$700,000 based on its excellent grant application, history of performance, and dedication to the underserved populations in Tucson, Arizona.

The Academy of Math and Science, founded in 2001, has been consistently identified as "Highly Performing" or better and has been the recipient of many awards. The school is one of three k-12 schools in Arizona to be awarded with the Blue Ribbon Medal for exceptional performance with Title I students. Prior to replicating in 2011, AMS has also been successfully replicated in 2008, under the school name the Math and Science Success Academy (CTDS 108798000). Serving a student population of 250, the School has in just over 3 years grown enrollment by nearly 400%. Although 70% of MASSA's students qualify for free and reduced lunch and 90% of MASSA's students are minorities, MASSA received a "B" rating in 2011 with mathematics and reading AIMS scores qualifying the school in the top 4 performers in the 85706 and Sunnyside Unified School District boundaries (out of nearly 30 schools).

## **Reasons for Good Cause Extension**

Due to difficulties in obtaining financing for the full amount of the tenant improvements on a property currently in escrow, AMSS is requesting a good cause extension for execution of the charter contract to January 1, 2013. The school will delay its opening

from Fall of the 2012-2013 school year to Fall of the 2013-2014 school year. AMSS has constructed a budget and timeline to obtaining financing by October 2012, with closing of the new escrow occurring by January 1, 2013. The school has also contacted several charter school developers who are ready to step in the case that financing is not obtained by proposed timeline.

The team at the school has also been proactive with various other options such as through submitting a proposal to lease the closed Tucson Unified School District Roger's site. The school was aggressively looking for a building since it was granted a charter. The School is also still actively looking for a solution which would allow it to open for the 2012-2013 SY.

The mission of AMSS is to enable students to succeed in the world of tomorrow through a strong education in math and science. We believe that all students can be successful and a comprehensive education includes a constant examination of thoughts and beliefs, a cultivation of identity and purpose, opportunities for service, internships, and real world application of knowledge. AMSS was established for the purpose of providing an excellent education to a very at-risk area of Tucson, Arizona, and with your help, our purpose can be a reality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tatyana Chayka". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Tatyana Chayka  
Executive Director