

AGENDA ITEM: BASIS Schools, Inc. - Request for a Good Cause Extension

Issue

BASIS Schools, Inc. (BSI) has submitted a request for a one-time Good Cause Extension to the signing and execution of the charter contracts for the operation of BASIS Mesa K-6.

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

Background

BSI was granted a charter through the new charter application process at the December 8, 2014 Board meeting to open a school in Mesa for the 2015-2016 school year, serving grades K-6. On November 18, 2015, BSI submitted a request for a Good Cause Extension.

Summary of Letter Provided

The request states that BSI, was expecting to open up to six schools for the 2016-2017 school year. However, two events in the last 12 months led to changes in that plan. The first event described by BSI is the change to school funding that resulted funding cuts to the network of schools it operates. The second event described by BSI is the decision to focus on schools in its network with high unmet demand. In the narrative provided, the BSI states that BASIS schools in Chandler and Scottsdale are at capacity with large waiting lists. BSI indicated that the scope of the construction projects to expand school site to address demand in Scottsdale and Chandler are large and complex and will result in the largest buildings in the BASIS network. Because of this, BSI chose not to manage additional school openings during the same timeframe.

According to the narrative, BSI has planned to open BASIS Mesa in time for the 2017-2018 school year. The additional time provides an additional year to plan, hire best-in-class school staff, and build up additional interest through marketing efforts and word-of-mouth in the Mesa area.

The narrative includes a set of action steps that will enable BSI to open the school for operation in fiscal year 2018. The action steps include hiring a Head of School, Head of Operations and other key school staff by July 2016. BSI also plans to conduct a real estate search for viable parcels with a plan to purchase by September 2016 and begin construction by February 2017. Public information sessions are planned for October and November 2016 with Open Enrollment beginning by December 2016.

Based on the documents submitted, staff determined the timeline and action steps provided will enable the Charter Holder to provide educational instruction by August, 2017.

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 a one-time Good Cause Extension to the execution of the charter contract for BASIS Schools, Inc. for the operation of BASIS Mesa K-6 such that the contract is executed in time to begin providing instruction to students in the fall of the 2017-2018 school year. Further that, as a condition of signing, the approved applicant shall, submit any documentation necessary to bring the new charter 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 new charter application requirements at the time set for the execution 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 execution of the charter contract for BASIS Schools, Inc. for the operation of BASIS Mesa K-6, for the reasons that the charter holder failed to provide:

- Evidence to support the reasons given for not opening timely;
- A viable and adequate timeline with action steps;
- (Other specific reasons the Board may have found during its consideration including...)

If the request is denied, BASIS Schools, Inc. has the option to reapply for a charter through the new charter application process.