
AGENDA ITEM: Good Cause Extension Request – Ball Charter Schools (Westside)

Issue

Ball Charter Schools (Westside) was granted a charter on November 27, 2007 to serve grades K-8 through the Replication Application process for the replication of Ball Charter School - Dobson. The application included a start date of August 2008.

As part of the replication application, the applicant agrees and signs a statement acknowledging that the charter must execute the charter contract within twelve months of the date of approval.

- On November 21, 2008, the Board granted Ball Charter Schools (Westside) a Good Cause Extension until November 27, 2009
- On November 20, 2009, the Board granted Ball Charter Schools (Westside) a Good Cause Extension until November 27, 2010.

As a condition to signing the charter contract, the charter must provide proof of a secured facility. Due to difficulty finding an appropriate facility, Ball Charter Schools (Westside) is requesting a third Good Cause Extension to the signing and execution of the charter contract to begin providing services for the 2012-2013 school year, four years beyond the date in the initial application.

If the Board approves the extension of the execution of the charter contract or an extension of the opening of the charter school, Board staff must review the charter holder's approved replication application and the current application administrative checklist to determine whether additions or substantive changes are necessary to bring the application current with policy, rule, state or federal law. The holder must submit the requested changes to the Board staff 90 days prior to the opening of the school. State aid funding will not be initiated until the Board staff has determined that the requested submission is complete and sufficient and all other requirements of the Board have been fulfilled.

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

Board Options

1. Approve the Good Cause Extension to the signing and execution of the charter contract for Ball Charter Schools (Westside) until August of 2012 with a planned opening date of Fall 2012-2013. The Extension is granted based on the applicant's submission of any documentation necessary to bring the application current with policy, rule, state or federal law at least 90 days prior to the signing of the contract. This includes uploading the replication application through the Board's web-based application system. Should the charter holder not meet the replication application requirements at the time of the web-based submission, the matter must be brought back to the Board prior to the execution of a charter contract.
2. Deny the request for a Good Cause Extension. If the request is denied, the charter holder has the option to reapply for a charter through the replication application process at such time as a facility has been secured.

Staff Recommendation

Staff's recommendation is option 1 above.

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Arizona Ball Charter Schools Governing Board
Dobson Academy * Hearn Academy
"Where Children Are the Priority"

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June 14, 2010

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Contracts & Administrative Services Manager
Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
1700 W. Washington Street, Room 164
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Ball Charter Schools (Westside)

Dear Ms. Kelley,

This letter is to request a Good Cause Extension for the signing and execution of the charter contract for Ball Charter Schools (Westside). We are asking to delay the signing, no later than November 27, 2011, one year from our current date for signing. The Governance Board anticipates opening the replication charter school for the 2012-2013 school year.

We have narrowed our focus and target areas based on the experiences we have had during this due diligence period. School representatives and members of the School Expansion Committee of the Governing Board are currently meeting with land owners and have also appointed Ben Barcon from the ADM Group as the architect for the school expansion project. "Letters of Intent" are being prepared for several properties and should we open escrow to move forward on the purchases, then we will sign the contract for the appropriate opening date prior to the deadline you set.

Please consider our request for the Good Cause Extension, as we continue to strive to open Ball Charter Schools (Westside).

Sincerely,

Michael Larrabee
President, Governance Board
Ball Charter Schools

Cc: Board file
Westside replication file