

AGENDA ITEM: Charter Renewal – Discussion and possible action to approve the Agreements for the charter renewal of the following: Montessori House, Inc.; Omega Alpha Academy

Background

Charter Holders conditionally renewed at the May 16, 2015 meeting - At its public meeting held on May 18, 2015, the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (“the Board”) denied the request for charter renewal and voted not to grant a renewal contract to Montessori House, Inc. and Omega Alpha Academy based on the charter holders’ failure to meet or make sufficient progress toward the academic performance expectations set forth in the Board’s academic performance framework as reflected in the Renewal Executive Summary for each charter holder. Arizona Revised Statutes § 15-183(I)(1) authorizes the Board to deny a request for renewal if, in the Board’s judgment, the charter holder has failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward the academic performance expectations set forth in the performance framework.

The Board’s decision, however, granted the charters the opportunity for a renewal contract for the continued operation of their schools if the charter holders agreed to:

1. be subject to specific monitoring and reporting requirements to ensure the Charter Holder immediately creates and implements a Performance Management Plan to make systemic changes that will align with the Performance Management Plan evaluation criteria and that these changes result in improved academic performance for FY2016 and FY2017; and
2. operation under the renewal contract contingent on meeting the terms of the monitoring and reporting requirements for FY2016 and FY2017.

The Board also required that the terms of the monitoring and reporting requirements must, however, be reached within 60 days of May 18, 2015 or it is the Board’s decision that the request for charter renewal is denied.

Montessori House, Inc. and Omega Alpha Academy timely submitted to Board staff a complete PMP template and a proposal for negotiation that establishes reasonable performance goals that will be sufficient to demonstrate improved academic performance at the end of FY 2016 and FY 2017.

In July 2015 the PMPs submitted were evaluated. Both were evaluated as Not Acceptable. Evaluations were sent to each of the charter holders accompanied by feedback for consideration in making revisions to the PMP.

Board approves changes to the PMP template - In August 2015, the Board approved revisions to the Performance Management Plan. Montessori House, Inc. and Omega Alpha Academy submitted revised PMPs. The PMPs were evaluated as Not Acceptable. Evaluations were sent to each of the charter holders.

On September 29, 2015, Board staff published revisions to the Performance Management Plan template and instructions. Montessori House, Inc. and Omega Alpha Academy have not had the opportunity to utilize the revised PMP template or instructions.

Proposed Changes

Eliminate the monitoring and reporting requirements of the Performance Management Plan and approve the attached Agreements that include monitoring and reporting requirements to ensure improved academic achievement as agreed to by the Charter Holder and specified in the Agreement.

Board Options

Item N.2.a. Montessori House, Inc.

1. Eliminate the reporting requirements of the Performance Management Plan as part of the condition for renewal and approve the Agreement attached for the renewal of Montessori House, Inc.
2. Eliminate the reporting requirements of the Performance Management Plan as part of the condition for renewal and approve the Agreement attached for the renewal of Montessori House, Inc. with the incorporation of the modifications discussed (provide specific information as necessary).
3. Deny the Agreement for the renewal of Montessori House, Inc. (provide specific information as to why the Agreement was not approved).

Item N.2.b. Omega Alpha Academy

1. Eliminate the reporting requirements of the Performance Management Plan as part of the condition for renewal and approve the Agreement attached for the renewal of Omega Alpha Academy.
2. Eliminate the reporting requirements of the Performance Management Plan as part of the condition for renewal and approve the Agreement attached for the renewal of Omega Alpha Academy with the incorporation of the modifications discussed (provide specific information as necessary).
3. Deny the Agreement for the renewal of Omega Alpha Academy (provide specific information as to why the Agreement was not approved).