AGENDA ITEM: Request to Expand Charter School Operations – Camino Montessori

Issue

Camino Montessori did not have sufficient academic performance data to demonstrate meeting the Board's academic performance expectations for 2014, and was required to submit a Demonstration of Sufficient Progress (DSP) Report with any expansion request. Camino Montessori submitted a request to add grades 3-4 to its charter on February 25, 2015.

Summary of Narrative Provided

Rationale for Expansion Request

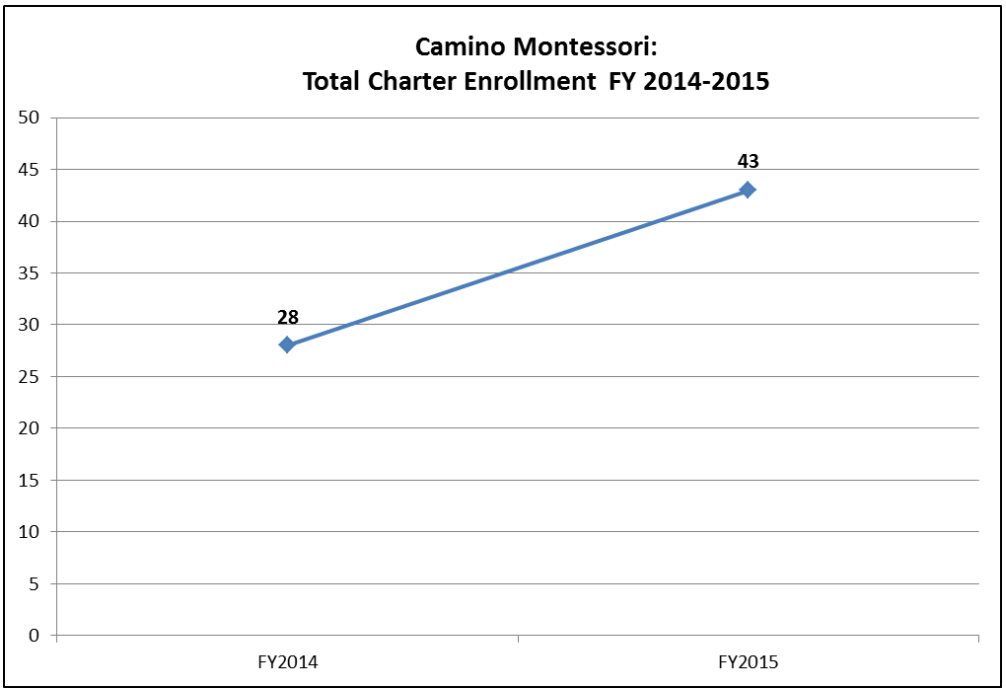
According to the narrative (presented in the portfolio: b. Amendment Request), Camino Montessori is requesting expansion to its grade levels in order to allow the matriculation of its current 2nd grade students, to allow the school to move towards the plan described in the charter application to serve grades K-6, with an authentic Montessori multi-age classroom structure, and to improve sustainability. The charter was approved in 2012 to serve grades K-2. The charter currently serves grades K-2, and there are 16 students in 2nd grade who, according to the narrative, intend to continue with the school in 3rd grade.

I. Background

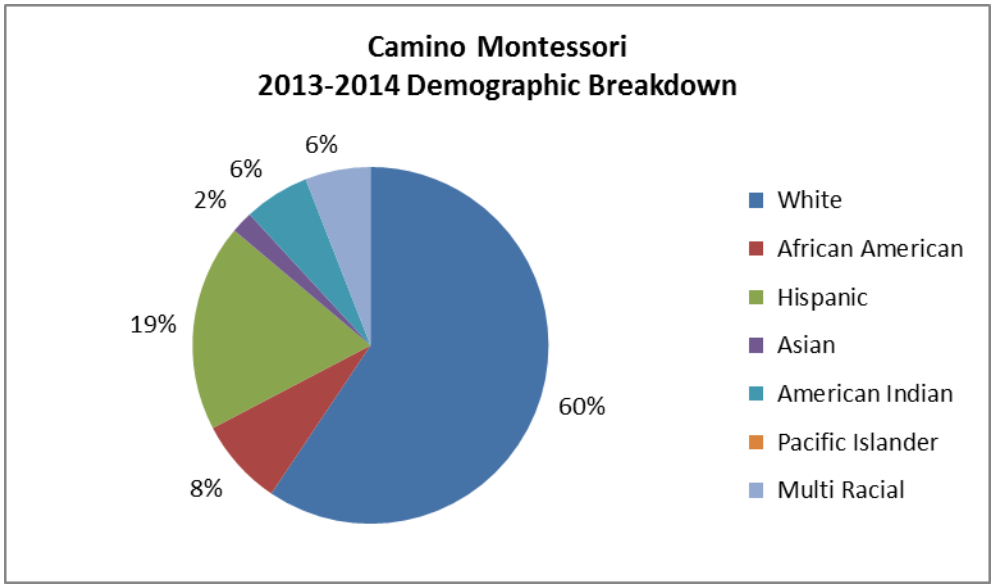
Camino Montessori was granted a charter in 2012, which is currently approved for grades K-2. Camino Montessori operates 1 school. See table below. The school operates on a 182 day calendar.

School Name	Month/Year Open	Location	Current Grade Levels Served	Current Status	2015 100th Day ADM
Camino Montessori	August 2013	Maricopa	K-2	Open	43

The enrollment cap for Camino Montessori is 65. The graph below shows average daily membership (ADM) for the charter based on 100th day ADM for fiscal years 2014- 2015**.**



The demographic data for Camino Montessori from the 2013-2014 school year is represented in the chart below.[1]



The percentage of students served by Camino Montessori who are classified as English Language Learners, are eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch (FRL), or classified as students with disabilities in the 2014-2015 school year are represented in the table below.[1]

School Name	English Language Learners (ELL)	Free or Reduced-Price Lunch (FRL)	Students with Disabilities
Camino Montessori	2%	42%	15%

As stated in Board policy, prior to a request being considered by the Board, staff conducts a compliance check as part of the amendment and notification approval process. The Charter Holder is in compliance in all areas.

II. Academic Performance

As stated in the Board's *Academic Performance Framework and Guidance* ("*Guidance*") document, a Charter Holder's academic performance will be evaluated by the Board when considering expansion requests. The academic performance of Camino Montessori is not available, as the school does not serve any tested grades

The website of Camino Montessori states that the mission of the school is to provide a high quality Montessori school in the City of Maricopa area that empowers every child to realize their fullest potential through active, reflective and creative education, that fosters a love for learning through active partnerships involving students, parents, teachers, staff and community, that embraces our diversity and unique talents in a safe, challenging, respectful and supportive environment, and that recognizes that personal growth involves responsibility towards ourselves, others and the earth, thus becoming self-determined, self-motivated and contributing members of society.

[1] Information provided by the Research and Evaluation division of the Arizona Department of Education. If the percentage of students in a non-ethnicity-based demographic group is 0% or 100%, the percentage for that demographic group was redacted.

At the site visit, Charter Representative Judith Webster described how the intent of the corporate board has always been to provide an authentic Montessori multi-age experience, including primary (pre K-K), lower elementary (grades 1-3) and upper elementary (grades 4-6) programs. She also stated that Camino Montessori offers the only public Montessori program in the town of Maricopa.

III. Additional School Choices

Camino Montessori is located in Maricopa near the intersection of Arizona Highways 238 and 347. The following information identifies additional schools within a five mile radius of the school and the academic performance of those schools.

There are 8 schools serving grades in the range of 3-4 within a five mile radius of Camino Montessori. The table below provides a breakdown of those schools. Schools are grouped by the A - F letter grade assigned by the ADE. For each letter grade, the table identifies the number of schools assigned that letter grade, the number of those schools that are charter schools, the number of the charter schools that are meeting the Board's academic performance standard for FY14, and the number of schools serving a comparable percentage of students (± 5%) in the identified subgroups.[2]

	Camino Montessori			FRL %	ELL %	SPED %
Letter Grade	Within 5 miles	Charter Schools	Meets Board's Standard	Comparable FRL (± 5%)	Comparable ELL (± 5%)	Comparable SPED (± 5%)
A	3	2	2	1	3	1
B	3	0	0	0	2	3
C	2	1	0	1	0	2
D/F	0	0	0	0	0	0

IV. Demonstration of Sufficient Progress

Camino Montessori submitted a DSP Report with the Adding Grade Levels to Charter Amendment Request addressing the school's systems and data. The Charter Holder was provided a copy of the initial evaluation of the DSP Report prior to the site visit and informed that areas initially evaluated as not acceptable must be addressed with additional evidence and documentation at the time of the visit.

Following a preliminary evaluation of the DSP, staff conducted a site visit to meet with the school's leadership, as selected by the school, to confirm evidence of the processes described in the DSP and review additional evidence to be considered in the final evaluation of the Charter Holder's DSP submission. The following representatives of Camino Montessori were present at the site visit:

Name	Role
Judith Webster	Director, Charter Representative

At the site visit, Board staff completed a document inventory for all evidence presented by the Charter Holder (portfolio: c. Inventory Documents). The Charter Holder was provided a copy of the document inventory at the

[2] Information provided by the Research and Evaluation Division of the ADE. If the percentage of students in a non-ethnicity-based demographic group is not reported to ADE, or is 0% or 100%, the percentage for that demographic group is redacted.

end of the site visit. Following the site visit, Board staff completed a final evaluation of the DSP (portfolio: d. DSP Final Evaluation). The following is a summary of the final DSP Evaluation:

Evaluation Summary			
Area	**DSP Evaluation**		
	Meets	**Does Not Meet**	**Falls Far Below**
Data	☒	☐	☐
Curriculum	☒	☐	☐
Assessment	☒	☐	☐
Monitoring Instruction	☒	☐	☐
Professional Development	☒	☐	☐

After considering information in the DSP Report and evidence provided at the time of the site visit, the Charter Holder demonstrated evidence of a sustained improvement plan that includes implementation of a comprehensive curriculum system, a comprehensive assessment system, a comprehensive instructional monitoring system, and a comprehensive professional development system**.** In addition, data and analysis provided at the site visit demonstrated comparative year-over-year improvement in all required measures for at least the two most recent school years based on data generated from valid and reliable assessment sources.

Based on the findings summarized above and described below, staff determined that the Charter Holder has demonstrated sufficient progress towards meeting the Board's Academic Performance Expectations.

Data

In the area of Data, the Charter Holder's DSP is evaluated as Meets. As evidenced at the site visit, the Charter Holder provided data and analysis generated from valid and reliable assessment sources, provided sufficient comparative data and analysis for all required measures, and has provided data that demonstrates comparatively improving academic performance year-over-year for the two most recent school years for all required measures. For more detailed analysis see Data Inventory (portfolio: c. Inventory Documents, i. Site Visit Inventory -Data).

Question	Valid and Reliable Data	Comparative Data provided for Current Fiscal Year	Comparative Data Demonstrates Growth	Document Inventory Item
Student Median Growth Percentile (SGP) - Math	Yes	Yes	Yes	D1
Student Median Growth Percentile (SGP) - Reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	D2
Student Median Growth Percentile Bottom 25% - Math	Yes	Yes	Yes	D3
Student Median Growth Percentile Bottom 25% - Reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	D4
Percent Passing - Math	Yes	Yes	Yes	D5
Percent Passing - Reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	D6
Subgroup, ELL - Math	Yes	Yes	Yes	D7
Subgroup, ELL - Reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	D8
Subgroup, FRL - Math	Yes	Yes	Yes	D9
Subgroup, FRL - Reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	D10
Subgroup, students with disabilities - Math	Yes	Yes	Yes	D11
Subgroup, students with disabilities - Reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	D12

Curriculum

The area of Curriculum is evaluated as Meets. As demonstrated by the evidence provided at the DSP site visit, the Charter Holder has consistently implemented a comprehensive curriculum system that addresses each of the required elements. For more detailed analysis see Curriculum Inventory (portfolio: c. Inventory Documents, ii. Site Visit Inventory - Curriculum).

Question	Sufficient Evidence	Document Inventory Item
Evaluating Curriculum		
What is the Charter Holder's process for evaluating curriculum? How does the Charter Holder evaluate how effectively the curriculum enables students to meet the standards?	Yes	C1
How does the Charter Holder identify gaps in the curriculum?	Yes	C2
Adopting/Revising Curriculum		
What is the Charter Holder's process for adopting or revising curriculum based on its evaluation processes?"	Yes	C3
Who is involved in the process for adopting or revising curriculum?"	Yes	C4
When adopting curriculum, how does the Charter Holder evaluate curriculum options to determine which curriculum to adopt?	Yes	C5
Implementing Curriculum		
What is the Charter Holder's process for ensuring consistent implementation of the curriculum across the school(s) operated by the Charter Holder?	Yes	C6
What tools exist that identify what must be taught and when it must be delivered? How does the Charter Holder ensure that all grade-level standards are covered within the academic year?	Yes	C7
What is the expectation for consistent use of these tools? How are these expectations communicated?	Yes	C8
What evidence is there to demonstrate usage of these tools in the classroom and alignment with instruction?	Yes	C9
Alignment of Curriculum		
How does the Charter Holder know the curriculum is aligned to standards?	Yes	C10
Adapted to Meet the Needs of Subgroups		
How has the Charter Holder ensured that the curriculum addresses the needs of students with proficiency in the bottom 25%/non-proficient students?	Yes	C11
How has the Charter Holder ensured that the curriculum addresses the needs of English Language Learners (ELLs)?	Yes	C12
How has the Charter Holder ensured that the curriculum addresses the needs of Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) students?	Yes	C13
How has the Charter Holder ensured that the curriculum addresses the needs of students with disabilities?	Yes	C14

Assessment

The area of Assessment is evaluated as Meets. As demonstrated by the evidence provided at the DSP site visit, the Charter Holder has consistently implemented a comprehensive assessment system that addresses each of

the required elements. For more detailed analysis see Assessment Inventory (portfolio: c. Inventory Documents, iii. Site Visit Inventory - Assessment).

Question	Sufficient Evidence	Document Inventory Item
Assessment System		
What types of assessments does the Charter Holder use?	Yes	A1
What was the process for designing or selecting the assessment system?	Yes	A2
How is the assessment system aligned to the curriculum and instructional methodology?	Yes	A3
What intervals are used to assess student progress? How does the assessment plan include data collection from multiple assessments, such as formative and summative assessments and common/benchmark assessments?	Yes	A4
Analyzing Assessment Data		
How does the assessment system provide for analysis of assessment data? What intervals are used to analyze assessment data?	Yes	A5
How is the analysis used to evaluate instructional and curricular effectiveness?	Yes	A6
How is the analysis used to adjust curriculum and instruction in a timely manner? What intervals are used to adjust curriculum and instruction?	Yes	A7
Adapted to Meet the Needs of Subgroups		
How is the assessment system adapted to meet the assessment needs of students with proficiency in the bottom 25%/non-proficient students?	Yes	A8
How is the assessment system adapted to meet the assessment needs of English Language Learners (ELLs)?	Yes	A9
How is the assessment system adapted to meet the assessment needs of Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) students?	Yes	A10
How is the assessment system adapted to meet the assessment needs of students with disabilities?	Yes	A11

Monitoring Instruction

The area of Monitoring Instruction is evaluated as Meets. As demonstrated by the evidence provided at the DSP site visit, the Charter Holder has consistently implemented a comprehensive instructional monitoring system that addresses each of the following required elements. For more detailed analysis see Monitoring Instruction Inventory (portfolio: c. Inventory Documents, iv. Site Visit Inventory – Monitoring Instruction).

Question	Sufficient Evidence	Document Inventory Item
Monitoring the Integration of Standards		
What is the Charter Holder's process for monitoring the integration of standards into classroom instruction? How does the Charter Holder monitor whether or not instructional staff implements an ACCRS-aligned curriculum with fidelity?	Yes	M1
How does the Charter Holder monitor the effectiveness of	Yes	M2

standards-based instruction throughout the year?		
Evaluating Instructional Practices		
What is the Charter Holder's process for evaluating the instructional practices? How does this process evaluate the quality of instruction?	Yes	M3
How does this process identify individual strengths, weaknesses, and needs?	Yes	M4
Providing Analysis and Feedback to Further Develop Instructional Quality		
How does the Charter Holder provide feedback on strengths, weaknesses, and learning needs based on the evaluation of instructional practices?	Yes	M5
How does this Charter Holder analyze this information? What does the data about quality of instruction tell the Charter Holder? What has the Charter Holder done in response?	Yes	M6
Adapted to Meet the Needs of Subgroups		
How does the Charter Holder monitor instruction to ensure it is meeting the needs of students with proficiency in the bottom 25%/non-proficient students?	Yes	M7
How does the Charter Holder monitor instruction to ensure it is meeting the needs of English Language Learners (ELLs)?	Yes	M8
How does the Charter Holder monitor instruction to ensure it is meeting the needs of Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) students?	Yes	M9
How does the Charter Holder monitor instruction to ensure it is meeting the needs of students with disabilities?	Yes	M10

Professional Development

The area of Professional Development is evaluated as Meets. As demonstrated by the evidence provided at the DSP site visit, the Charter Holder has consistently implemented a comprehensive professional development system that addresses each of the following required elements. For more detailed analysis see Professional Development Inventory (portfolio: c. Inventory Documents, v. Site Visit Inventory - Professional Development).

Question	Sufficient Evidence	Document Inventory Item
Professional Development System		
What is the Charter Holder's professional development plan?	Yes	P1
How was the professional development plan developed?	Yes	P2
How is the professional development plan aligned with instructional staff learning needs?	Yes	P3
How does this plan address areas of high importance?	Yes	P4
Supporting High Quality Implementation		
How does the Charter Holder support high quality implementation of the strategies learned in professional development sessions?	Yes	P5
How does the Charter Holder provide the resources that are necessary for high quality implementation?	Yes	P6
Monitoring Implementation		
How does the Charter Holder monitor the implementation of the strategies learned in professional development sessions?	Yes	P7
How does the Charter Holder monitor and follow-up with	Yes	P8

instructional staff to support and develop implementation of the strategies learned in professional development?		
Adapted to Meet the Needs of Subgroups		
How does the professional development plan ensure that instructional staff receives the type of development required to meet the needs of students with proficiency in the bottom 25%/non-proficient students?	Yes	P9
How does the professional development plan ensure that instructional staff receives the type of development required to meet the needs of English Language Learners (ELLs)?	Yes	P10
How does the professional development plan ensure that instructional staff receives the type of development required to meet the needs of Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) students?	Yes	P11
How does the professional development plan ensure that instructional staff receives the type of development required to meet the needs of students with disabilities?	Yes	P12

V. Board Options

Board Options – Adding Grade Levels to Charter Amendment Request

Option 1: The Board may approve the Adding Grade Levels to Charter Amendment Request. Staff recommends the following language for consideration: Charter expansion is based on consideration of academic and contractual compliance of the Charter Holder. In this case, as a K-2 school for FY14 and FY15, the Charter Holder did not have State assessment data available, but was able to demonstrate sufficient progress toward the Board's academic performance expectations. Data and analysis provided by the Charter Holder demonstrated improved academic performance based on data generated from valid and reliable assessment sources. In addition, the Charter Holder was able to provide evidence that it has consistently implemented a comprehensive curriculum system, comprehensive assessment system, comprehensive instructional monitoring system, and comprehensive professional development system. With that taken into consideration, as well as having considered the statements of the representatives of the Charter Holder today and the contents of the expansion portfolio which includes the Demonstration of Sufficient Progress, I move that the Board approve the request to add grades 3-4 to the charter contract of Camino Montessori.

Option 2: The Board may deny the Adding Grade Levels to Charter Amendment Request. The following language is provided for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, to deny the request to add grades 3-4 to the charter contract of Camino Montessori, for the reasons that:

- (Board member must specify reasons the Board found during its consideration.)