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**AGENDA ITEM:** Good Cause Extension Request – PLC Arts Academy at Glendale, Inc.

**Issue**

PLC Arts Academy at Glendale, Inc. was granted a charter on January 26, 2010 to serve grades K - 8 beginning in the 2010-11 school year. As part of the new application, the approved applicant agrees and signs a statement acknowledging that they 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. Due to difficulty finding an appropriate facility in Glendale, PLC Arts Academy at Glendale, Inc. is unable to confirm if the school will open in the fall of 2011 or the fall of 2012. Therefore, they are requesting a Good Cause Extension to the signing and execution of the charter contract with the option of providing services for the 2011-12 or 2012-13 school year.

If the Board approves the extension of the execution of the charter contract or an extension of the opening of the charter school, in accordance with the Board's Policy Statement for a Good Cause Extension of a Charter Contract, Board staff shall review the approved new application and the current application administrative checklist to determine whether additions or substantive changes are necessary to bring the new application current with policy, rule, state or federal law. The approved applicant must submit the requested changes to the Board staff 90 days prior to the intended signing of the contract.

**Board Options**

1. Approve the Good Cause Extension to the signing and execution of the charter contract for PLC Arts Academy at Glendale, Inc. such that the contract is executed in time for the 2011-12 or 2012-13 school year. Further that, as a condition of signing, the approved applicant shall submit any documentation necessary to bring the new 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 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.
2. Deny the request for a Good Cause Extension. If the request is denied, the charter has the option to reapply for a charter through the application process.

Staff Recommendation

Staff's recommendation is Option 1 above.

**From:** Kim Steele [mailto:ksteele@plccharterschools.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 03, 2011 5:34 AM  
**To:** Deanna Rowe  
**Subject:** RE: Good Cause Extension

Deanna,

We are continuing to look for a location for the Glendale charter, as of yet we have nothing secured. We have our realtor looking at a couple of locations as we speak, at this time we can't be sure that a school will open fall of 2011. If the delay in finding a location causes us not to open this year, we will certainly have something by the fall of 2012.

Sincerely Yours,

Kim Steele

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**From:** Deanna Rowe [mailto:Deanna.Rowe@asbcs.az.gov]  
**Sent:** Wed 3/2/2011 3:22 PM  
**To:** Kim Steele  
**Subject:** Good Cause Extension

In preparing the materials for the Board meeting, it was noted that your request for a good cause extension to the signing of the charter contract for PLC Arts Academy at Glendale did not include an expected opening date. Please confirm that your intent is to open in the fall of 2011.

Thank you.

DeAnna

DeAnna Rowe, Executive Director  
Arizona State Board for Charter Schools  
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Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
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Kim Steele  
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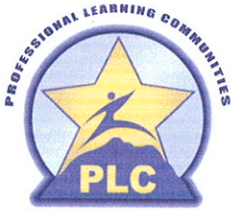


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# **PLC Charter Schools**

## **Corporate Headquarters**

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January 3, 2011

RECEIVED

JAN 21 2011

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

Re: PLC Arts Academy @ Glendale, Inc.

PLC Arts Academy @ Glendale, Inc. respectfully requests a Good Cause Extension for the signing of the charter contract which is due to expire on January 26, 2011. This request is due to a location change rather than a change to the standards-based curriculum or mission of the charter.

### ***Original Site Identification***

Originally, PLC Arts Academy at Glendale was anticipated to be located on the southwest corner of 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Myrtle. We were in negotiations for the rental and renovations of a church facility. At the time, the church was working with Chase Bank to refinance and renovate their building. Unfortunately, the church discovered that the equity value in their property plummeted due to the poor economy. It became apparent that the planned renovations and necessary upgrades to the facility were not going to be funded. Consequently, the church decided to decline having the school as a tenant.

### ***Alternate Site Searches***

Shortly after realizing that the 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Myrtle location was not going to develop, we began to pursue a property for lease in the Westgate Plaza. This property was located on the southwest corner of 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Coyote Lane (just south of Glendale Avenue). The discussions for a possible lease of this facility continued for about four months. The property owners then made a corporate decision to allow the building to go into foreclosure as they did not have enough equity to complete the necessary tenant improvements.

Subsequent to losing the Westgate property, we began to search in the Glendale area for a new site. We were able to make acquaintances with a developer who owned property on 47<sup>th</sup> and Glendale Avenues. We worked out an arrangement to lease some of their facilities and were to the point of layout and design when the City of Glendale planning department was contacted. The City of Glendale informed us that the area we were looking at was not properly zoned for a school. We met with the city to see if the new legislation would allow for zoning freedom. The city indicated that we would not be permitted to put a charter school at this location. This information was provided to us as recently as October 2010. The city did show us some parcels of land and possible rentals, but we would not have enough time to obtain funding and build for the 2011-2012 school year, and the rental properties were too small.

### ***Additional Site Opportunities***

A recent phone conversation on December 2<sup>nd</sup> with John Froke, Planning Director with the City of Glendale, resulted in a scheduled meeting on January 13, 2011 to discuss additional site potentials for our school. We can provide documentation of the results of our meeting with Mr. Froke as soon as they become available. In addition, we will be pursuing possible locations both in Peoria and Litchfield Park.

Our mission is to establish a Student-Family-Teacher-Civic relationship that develops and sustains a Professional Learning Community where arts and technology combine with academics and real life skills to educate and enrich the whole individual. We strive to teach all children the importance, value, and worth of: Care for Self, Care for Others, and Care for Community.

We are intent on locating a facility suitable to our needs and hope that the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools grants our request for a Good Cause Extension for the signing of the charter contract for PLC Arts Academy @ Glendale, Inc.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Steele  
Interim Operations Manager