Montessori House, Inc. - Entity ID 79548
School: Montessori House Charter School

Renewal Executive Summary

I. Performance Summary

Area	Acceptable	Not Acceptable
Academic Framework	☐	☒
Financial Framework	☒	☐
Operational Framework	Not Yet Rated See Section VII	Not Yet Rated See Section VII

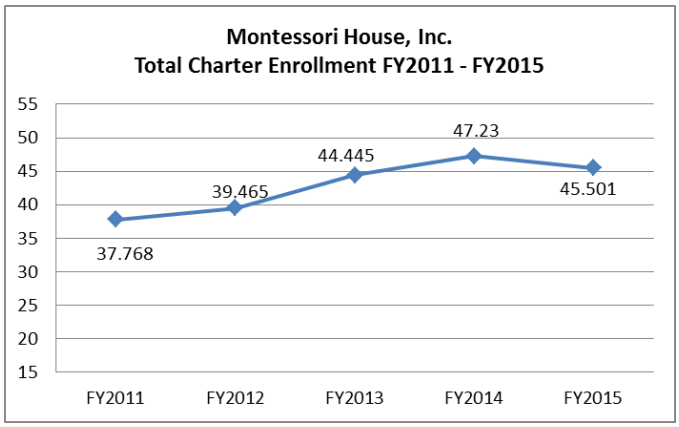
During the five-year interval review of the charter, Montessori House, Inc. was not required to submit a Performance Management Plan as an intervention because the school operated by the Charter Holder, Montessori House Charter School, met the academic expectations set forth by the Board. However, at the time Montessori House, Inc. became eligible to apply for renewal, the Charter Holder did not meet the Academic Performance Expectations of the Board as set forth in the Performance Framework and was required to submit a Demonstration of Sufficient Progress as part of the renewal application package. The Charter Holder was unable to demonstrate the school is making sufficient progress toward the Board's expectations through the submission of the required information or evidence reviewed during an on-site visit. In the most recent fiscal year for which there is State assessment data available, Montessori House Charter School received an overall rating of "Does Not Meet" the Board's academic standards.

The Charter Holder meets the Board's Financial Performance Expectations.

The Charter Holder does have compliance matters, which are described in the "Adherence to the Terms of the Charter" section of this report.

II. Profile

Montessori House, Inc. operates one school, Montessori House Charter School, serving grades K-6 in Mesa. The graph below shows the Charter Holder's actual 100th day average daily membership (ADM) for fiscal years 2011-2015.



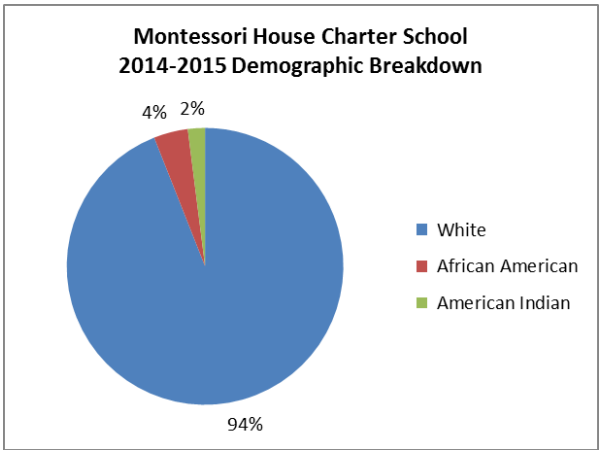
The academic performance of Montessori House Charter School is represented in the table below. The Academic Dashboard for the school can be seen in the portfolio: c. Academic Dashboard.

School Name	Opened	Current Grades Served	2012 Overall Rating	2013 Overall Rating	2014 Overall Rating
Montessori House Charter School	08/27/2001	K – 6	39.06 / D	35.94 / B	53.12 / C

In FY2012 Montessori House Charter School was evaluated by the ADE and the Board as a small school. For FY2013 and FY2014 Montessori House Charter had a sufficient number of test records to meet the ADE's definition of a traditional school. Due to the disaggregation of Math and Reading test scores in the methodology used for the Board's Academic Performance Framework, the school lacked the number of test records in Math and Reading to meet the criteria for a traditional school and was evaluated using the methodology for small schools for FY2013 and FY2014.

As a result, the A-F letter grade designations for FY2013 and FY2014 in the table above are based solely on academic data for each year. The Overall Ratings for FY2013 and FY2014 are based on calculations using three-year pooled data.

The demographic data for Montessori House Charter School from the 2014-2015 school year is represented in the chart below.[1]



The percentage of students who were eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch, classified as English Language Learners, and classified as students with disabilities in the 2013-2014 school year is represented in the table below.[2]

Category	Montessori House Charter School
Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL)	*
English Language Learners (ELLs)	*
Special Education	10%

[1] Information provided by the Research and Evaluation Division of the ADE.
[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.

Montessori House, Inc. has not been brought before the Board for any items or actions in the past 12 months.

III. Additional School Choices

Montessori House Charter School is located in Mesa near East Lehi Road and North Stapley Drive. The following information identifies additional schools within a five mile radius of the school and the academic performance of those schools.

There are 41 schools serving grades K-6 within a five mile radius of Montessori House Charter School. 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.[3]

Montessori House Charter School				*	*	10%
Letter Grade	**Within 5 miles**	**Charter Schools**	**Meets Board's Standard**	**Comparable FRL (± 5%)**	**Comparable ELL (± 5%)**	**Comparable SPED (± 5%)**
A	13	5	5			8
B	10	1	1			6
C	15	4	0			10
D	3	2	0			3

IV. Success of the Academic Program

For the past three years Montessori House Charter School has not met the Board's academic standards. The Overall Rating points have increased by 14.06 points from FY2012 to FY2014 and the school has been evaluated as "Does Not Meet" the Board's academic standards for FY2012 and FY2014. From FY2012 to FY2013 the school showed a decline in Overall Rating points and dropped from "Does Not Meet" to "Falls Far Below" the Boards' academic standards. From FY2013 to FY2014 the school has shown drastic improvement. The Overall Rating points increased by 17.18 points. In FY2013, four of eight measures (50%) were rated as Falls Far Below. In FY2014 this decreased to two of eleven measures (18%) that were evaluated as Falls Far Below.

The following is a timeline of activities that have occurred related to the academic performance of Montessori House, Inc.:

February, 2013: The Board released FY2012 Academic Dashboards; Montessori House Charter School received an overall rating of "Does Not Meet" the Board's academic standards and Montessori House, Inc. did not meet the Board's Academic Performance Expectations. In accordance with the Board's academic framework intervention schedule at that time, the Charter Holder was waived from any specific monitoring requirements.

September, 2013: The Board released FY2013 Academic Dashboards; Montessori House Charter School received an overall rating of "Falls Far Below" the Board's academic standards. Therefore, Montessori

[3] 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.

House, Inc. In accordance with the Board's academic framework intervention schedule at that time, the Charter Holder was waived from any specific monitoring requirements.

September, 2014: The Board released FY2014 Academic Dashboards; Montessori House Charter School received an overall rating of "Does Not Meet" the Board's academic standards. Therefore, Montessori House, Inc. did not meet the Board's Academic Performance Expectations. The Charter Holder was not assigned a DSP as part of an annual reporting requirement because the Charter Holder would become eligible for renewal within the fiscal year.

November, 2014: Board staff provided the Charter Holder, through its authorized representative, Sheryl Richardson, with Renewal Notification Information, which included notification of the renewal process, the date on which the Charter Holder would become eligible to apply for renewal (November 21, 2014), the deadline date on which the renewal application package would be due to the Board (February 23, 2015), information on the availability of the Charter Holder's renewal application as well as instruction on how to access the renewal application, and notification of the requirement to submit a DSP as a component of its renewal application package because the Charter Holder did not meet the Academic Performance Expectations set forth by the Board.

V. Demonstration of Sufficient Progress

A renewal application package with a Renewal DSP for Montessori House Charter School (portfolio: f. Renewal DSP Submission) was timely submitted by the Charter Representative on February 23, 2015. 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 Montessori House, Inc. were present at the site visit:

Name	Role
Sheryl R. Richardson	Admin/Classroom Teacher
Kris Johnson	Technology

At the site visit, Board staff completed a document inventory for all evidence presented by the Charter Holder (portfolio: e. Renewal DSP Site Visit Inventory Forms). The Charter Holder was provided a copy of the document inventory at the end of the site visit. Following the site visit, Board staff completed a final evaluation of the DSP (portfolio: d. Renewal 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 did not demonstrate evidence of a sustained improvement plan that includes implementation of a comprehensive curriculum system and a comprehensive instructional monitoring system. Additionally, the data provided by the Charter Holder failed to show improvement year-over-year for the two most recent school years in 8 out of the 8 measures required by the Board.

Based on the findings summarized above and described below, staff determined that the Charter Holder did not demonstrate sufficient progress towards meeting the Board's Academic Performance Expectations.

Data

The area of Data is evaluated as Falls Far Below. As evidenced at the DSP site visit, the data provided by the Charter Holder failed to show improvement year-over-year for the two most recent school years in 8 out of the 8 measures required by the Board. For more detailed analysis see Data Inventory (portfolio: e. Renewal DSP Site Visit Inventory Forms, 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	No	No	No	D1
Student Median Growth Percentile (SGP) - Reading	No	No	No	D2
Student Median Growth Percentile Bottom 25% - Math	No	No	No	D3
Student Median Growth Percentile Bottom 25% - Reading	No	No	No	D4
Percent Passing - Math	No	No	No	D5
Percent Passing - Reading	No	No	No	D6
Subgroup, students with disabilities - Math	No	No	No	D11
Subgroup, students with disabilities - Reading	No	No	No	D12

Curriculum

The area of Curriculum is evaluated as Does Not Meet. As demonstrated by the evidence provided at the DSP site visit, the Charter Holder has consistently implemented a limited curriculum approach. At the DSP site visit, the Charter Holder sufficiently demonstrated some of the components of these required elements, but failed to sufficiently demonstrate all of the components of the required elements. For more detailed analysis see Curriculum Inventory (portfolio: e. Renewal DSP Site Visit Inventory Forms, 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?	No	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)?	N/A	C12
How has the Charter Holder ensured that the curriculum addresses the needs of Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) students?	N/A	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: e. Renewal DSP Site Visit Inventory Forms, 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)?	N/A	A9
How is the assessment system adapted to meet the assessment needs of Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) students?	N/A	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 Does Not Meet. As demonstrated by the evidence provided at the DSP site visit, the Charter Holder has consistently implemented a limited instructional monitoring approach. At the DSP site visit, the Charter Holder sufficiently demonstrated the some of the components of these required elements, but failed to sufficiently demonstrate all components of these required elements. For more detailed analysis see Monitoring Instruction Inventory (portfolio: e. Renewal DSP Site Visit Inventory Forms, 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?	No	M1
How does the Charter Holder monitor the effectiveness of standards-based instruction throughout the year?	Yes	M2
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?	No	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)?	N/A	M8
How does the Charter Holder monitor instruction to ensure it is meeting the needs of Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) students?	N/A	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: e. Renewal DSP Site Visit Inventory Forms, 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 instructional staff to support and develop implementation of the strategies learned in professional development?	Yes	P8
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)?	N/A	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?	N/A	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

VI. Viability of the Organization

The Charter Holder meets the Board's Financial Performance Expectations set forth in the Performance Framework adopted by the Board. Therefore, the Charter Holder was not required to submit a Financial Performance Response.

VII. Adherence to the Terms of the Charter

Does the delivery of the education program and operation reflect the essential terms of the educational program as described in the charter contract?
Yes. Based on the available information in fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and the current fiscal year, the Charter Holder's education program, in operation, reflects the essential terms as described in the charter contract.

Does the Charter Holder adhere with applicable education requirements defined in state and federal law?
Yes. Based on the available information in fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and the current fiscal year, the Charter Holder adheres with applicable education requirements defined in state and federal law.

Do the Charter Holder's annual audit reporting packages reflect sound operations?
Yes. As reported in fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and the current fiscal year, the Charter Holder complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter contract relating to the fiscal years 2012, 2013 and 2014 annual audit reporting packages, respectively.

Is the Charter Holder administering student admission and attendance appropriately?
Yes. Based on the available information and as reported in fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and the current fiscal year, the Charter Holder complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter contract relating to administering student admission and attendance.

Is the Charter Holder maintaining a safe environment consistent with state and local requirements?
Yes. Based on the available information in fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and the current fiscal year, the Charter Holder complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter contract relating to maintaining a safe environment.

Is the Charter Holder transparent in its operations?
Based on the available information in current fiscal year, the Charter Holder complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter contract relating to transparency of operations except that the Charter Holder's officers and directors as identified in information publicly available through the Arizona Corporation Commission did not align with its officers and directors as identified in the charter contract. Charter Holder Governance Notifications that resulted in alignment of the Charter Holder's officers and directors as identified in information publicly available through the Arizona Corporation Commission with those identified in the charter contract have been submitted.

Based on the available information in fiscal years 2013 and 2014, the Charter Holder complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter contract relating to transparency of operations.

Is the Charter Holder complying with its obligations to the Board?
Yes. Based on the available information in fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and the current fiscal year, the Charter Holder complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter contract relating to its obligations to the Board.

Is the Charter Holder complying with reporting requirements of other entities to which the Charter Holder is accountable?
Yes. Based on the available information in fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and the current fiscal year, the Charter Holder complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter contract relating to operational requirements monitored by other entities to which the Charter Holder is accountable.

Is the Charter Holder complying with all other obligations?
Yes. Based on the available information in fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and the current fiscal year, the Charter Holder complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter contract relating to all other obligations.

VIII. Board Options

Option 1: The Board may conditionally renew the charter with specific monitoring and reporting requirements to ensure the consistent and sustained implementation of the recent systemic changes identified in the DSP evaluation and that these changes result in improved academic performance. Staff recommends the following language provided for consideration: Having considered the statements of the representatives of the Charter Holder today and the contents of the renewal portfolio which includes the academic performance, the fiscal compliance, and legal and contractual compliance of the Charter Holder provided to the Board for consideration of this request for charter renewal, I move to deny the request for charter renewal and to not grant a renewal contract for Montessori House, Inc. on the grounds that the Charter Holder failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward the Academic Performance Expectations set forth in the Performance Framework as reflected in the Renewal Executive Summary, the Inventory Documents, and the DSP Final Evaluation. The Charter Holder does, however, operate a school that has been designated with a letter grade of C in the current year and an average school (C by definition in statute) has the potential to improve its academic operations with the appropriate systemic changes and additional accountability. The Board, therefore, will grant a renewal contract to Montessori House, Inc. for the continuation of Montessori House Charter School on the conditions that the Charter Holder agrees 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 in 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 terms of the monitoring and reporting requirement must be reached within 60 days of today's date or it is the Board's decision that Montessori House, Inc.'s request for renewal of its charter is denied for the reasons already specified.

Option 2: The Board may deny renewal with an opportunity for the Charter Holder to request review of the matter. The following language is provided for consideration: Having considered the statements of the representatives of the Charter Holder today and the contents of the renewal portfolio which includes the academic performance, the fiscal compliance, and legal and contractual compliance of the Charter Holder provided to the Board for consideration of this request for charter renewal, I move to deny the request for charter renewal and to not grant a renewal contract to Montessori House, Inc. on the basis that the Charter Holder failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward the academic performance expectations set forth in the Performance Framework as reflected in the Renewal Executive Summary, the Inventory Documents, and the DSP Final Evaluation. If upon release of the 2015 Dashboard, the charter school receives an Overall Rating that improves by at least once category as

compared to the 2014 Dashboard (DNM to Meets), the Charter Holder may, within 30 days, request the Board review the Dashboard to consider whether conditions exist to grant a renewal.

Option 3: The Board may deny the renewal. The following language is provided for consideration: Having considered the statements of the representatives of the Charter Holder today and the contents of the renewal portfolio which includes the academic performance, the fiscal compliance, and legal and contractual compliance of the Charter Holder provided to the Board for consideration of this request for charter renewal, I move to deny the request for charter renewal and to not grant a renewal contract to Montessori House, Inc. on the basis that the Charter Holder failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward the academic performance expectations set forth in the Performance Framework as reflected in the Renewal Executive Summary, the Inventory Documents, and the DSP Final Evaluation and currently operates a school that has received an overall rating of "Does Not Meet Standard" in the most recent fiscal year for which there is State assessment data available and "Falls Far Below" in the prior fiscal year.

Option 4: Notwithstanding staff's recommendation to deny the renewal and grant a conditional renewal, the Board may determine that there is a basis to approve the renewal. The following language is provided for consideration: Renewal is based on consideration of academic, fiscal and contractual compliance of the Charter Holder. In this case, the Charter Holder did not meet the academic performance expectations set forth in the Board's Performance Framework but was able to demonstrate sufficient progress toward the Board's expectations when it provided evidence that (1) it has implemented an improvement plan that includes a comprehensive curriculum system, comprehensive assessment system, comprehensive instructional monitoring system, and comprehensive professional development system, and (2): [*provide specific findings related to valid and reliable data that demonstrates improved academic performance*]. Additionally, the Board has adopted an academic Performance Framework that allows for additional consideration of the Charter Holder throughout the next contract period. 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 renewal portfolio which includes the academic performance, the fiscal compliance, and legal and contractual compliance of the Charter Holder provided to the Board for consideration of this request for charter renewal, I move to approve the request for charter renewal and grant a renewal contract to Montessori House, Inc.