

## **AGENDA ITEM: Request to Expand Charter School Operations – The Paideia Academies, Inc.**

### **Issue**

The Paideia Academies, Inc. (Paideia) submitted a request to expand charter school operations to add grades 7-8 and to increase the enrollment cap. Paideia did not meet the Board's academic performance expectations for 2013 and 2014, and is asking for additional consideration from the Board to be eligible to apply for an expansion request that would include a Demonstration of Sufficient Progress (DSP) Report. The charter is authorized for and serving grades K-6 and has an enrollment cap of 600.

### **Background**

July 1, 2011: Paideia submitted a new charter application package to serve grades K-8 in Phoenix at The Paideia Academy of South Phoenix (PASP). The student count for the first three years of operation was budgeted to serve 325 students in Year 1, 400 in Year 2 and 550 in Year 3.

January 23, 2012: The Board considered the new charter application for Paideia and approved the charter to serve grades K-5 only and not grades 6 through 8 based on a lack of curriculum aligned to the state standards for grades 6, 7 and 8 as documented in the scoring rubric provided to the Board. In addition, the Board adjusted the enrollment cap to be reduced to 300 from 325 to adjust serving 6 grade levels versus seven, as budgeted for the first year of operation.

August 11, 2012: Paideia requested an increase in its enrollment cap to serve 450 students at the beginning of their first year of operation because enrollment in the approved grades exceeded expectations. Because the request did not exceed the total enrollment in the approved application, the request was approved.

February 25, 2013: Paideia submitted an expansion request to add grade 6. As a first year school, no dashboard was available to evaluate their academic performance. The Charter Holder submitted a Demonstration of Sufficient Progress (DSP) which was deemed acceptable by staff based on the evaluation criteria and process used during that timeframe.

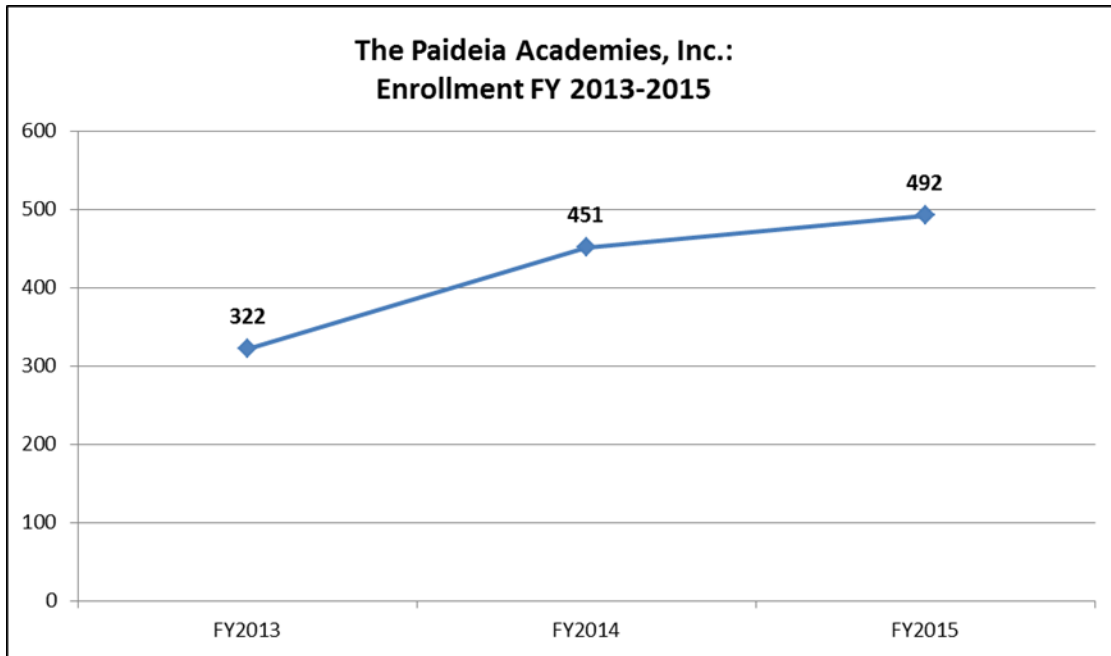
May 13, 2013: The Board considered and approved the request to add 6<sup>th</sup> grade to the charter. An enrollment cap increase to 600 was subsequently approved on May 24, 2013.

May 9, 2014: Paideia submitted an expansion request to add grades 7 through 8 with a DSP Report, because the Charter Holder had not met the academic performance eligibility criteria for expanding.

July 14, 2014: The Board denied the request to add the grade levels on the bases that the Charter Holder failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward the academic performance expectations set forth in the performance framework and currently operates a school that has received an overall rating of "Does Not Meet Standard" in the FY13 academic dashboard.

October 15, 2014: Dr. Brian Winsor, Charter Representative and school leader of Paideia, submitted a letter to Board staff requesting the Board's consideration to allow Paideia to submit an expansion request to add grade levels and increase the enrollment cap accordingly. The letter provided the Charter Holder's rationale and included the following reasons: the original charter was submitted and planned to accommodate grades K-8, the school has grown from 350 to 550 students in two years, internal growth projections indicate the student count will reach 840 by 2016, an increase in letter grade and

overall rating for 2014, and improvements have been made to areas identified as deficient from the previously submitted DSP (letter attached below).



(Data provided by Arizona Department of Education)

**Academic Performance**

As stated in the Board’s Academic Performance Framework and Guidance document, a Charter Holder’s academic performance will be evaluated by the Board when considering expansion requests. The academic performance of The Paideia Academy of South Phoenix (PASP) is represented in the dashboard below.

The Paideia Academy of South Phoenix

		2013 Traditional Elementary School (K to 5)			2014 Traditional Elementary School (K to 6)		
<b>1. Growth</b>		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
1a. SGP	Math	34	50	12.5	42	50	12.5
	Reading	46	50	12.5	51	75	12.5
1b. SGP Bottom 25%	Math	27	25	12.5	50	75	12.5
	Reading	52	75	12.5	44	50	12.5
<b>2. Proficiency</b>		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
2a. Percent Passing	Math	44.4 / 65.3	25	7.5	46.1 / 64	25	7.5
	Reading	65.7 / 77.2	50	7.5	71 / 78.5	50	7.5
2b. Composite School Comparison	Math	-16.5	25	7.5	-11.3	50	7.5
	Reading	-8.8	50	7.5	-2.8	50	7.5
2c. Subgroup ELL	Math	25 / 43.3	50	3.75	26.5 / 37.6	50	2.5
	Reading	31.2 / 51.6	25	3.75	32.4 / 49.9	25	2.5
2c. Subgroup FRL	Math	41.2 / 56.1	25	3.75	43.3 / 53.9	50	2.5
	Reading	63.9 / 69.5	50	3.75	69 / 70.7	50	2.5
2c. Subgroup SPED	Math	NR	0	0	17.4 / 24.9	50	2.5
	Reading	NR	0	0	43.5 / 38.6	75	2.5
<b>3. State Accountability</b>		Measure	Points Assigned	Weight	Measure	Points Assigned	Weight
3a. State Accountability		D	25	5	C	50	5
<b>Overall Rating</b>		Overall Rating			Overall Rating		
Scoring for Overall Rating 89 or higher: Exceeds Standard <89, but > or = to 63: Meets Standard <63, but > or = to 39: Does Not Meet Standard Less than 39: Falls Far Below Standard		43.12		100	54.38		100

The FY 2013 overall rating for PASP on the Board’s academic performance measures was 43.12 including points received for the letter grade of D as reported by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). The FY 2014 overall rating for PASP on the Board’s academic performance measures increased to 54.38 including points received for the letter grade of C as reported by ADE.

Board Options

Option 1: The Board may approve the request to be eligible to apply for expansion. The following language is provided for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, that the Board approve the request of The Paideia Academies, Inc. to be eligible to submit an Adding Grade Levels Amendment Request to add grades 7 and 8 and submit a Request to Increase the Enrollment Cap with a Demonstration of Sufficient Progress that includes benchmark data through December 2014. Following their submission, the results of Board staff’s review of these items will be provided to the Board for its consideration of The Paideia Academies, Inc.’s expansion requests.

Option 2: The Board may deny the request to be eligible to apply for expansion. The following language is provided for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, the Board does not find sufficient support to consider an expansion request. The Charter Holder may submit a request in the future when the academic dashboard provides evidence of additional improvement.