AGENDA ITEM: Seneca Preparatory Academy Foundation (Seneca Preparatory Academy) - Request for a Good Cause Extension

Issue
Seneca Preparatory Academy Foundation ("SPAF") has submitted a request for a one-time Good Cause Extension to the signing and execution of the charter contract in order to secure land and build a facility.

Policy Statement for a Good Cause Extension to Execute a Charter

Background
SPAF was granted a charter at the February 11, 2013 Board meeting to open a school in Tucson for the 2013-2014 school year, serving grades K-6 through the new charter application process. On December 21, 2013, Dr. Jean-Claude Abougou, Authorized Representative of SPAF, submitted a request for a Good Cause Extension.

Summary of Letter Provided
Dr. Abougou stated that SPAF has entered into an agreement with Charter School Development Corporation ("CSDC") to help SPAF secure a school facility in the target area. A suitable school site was identified in December 2013, and initial cost and feasibility studies have been conducted by CSDC. Dr. Abougou stated that CSDC requested that the opening of the school be moved back to August 2015, because more time would be required to secure the land and build the school facility.

Additional Information
On January 24, 2014, Board staff requested additional information that included evidence to support the involvement of CSDC, and to explain the viability of the timeline for opening the school submitted with the original request. On January 31, Dr. Abougou provided an updated letter and two exhibits that included a letter from CSDC confirming the relationship with SPAF, and a detailed timeline and action steps for the opening of the school in August 2015 using the Start-Up Action Plan developed by the Arizona Charter Schools Association (presented in the charter holder's portfolio: b. Good Cause Extension Narrative, c. Letter from CSDC, and d. SPA Start Up Action Plan).

Based on the documents submitted, staff determined the timeline and action steps provided will enable the charter holder to provide educational instruction by August, 2015.

Board Options
Option 1: The Board may approve the Good Cause Extension. Staff recommends the following language for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, that the Board approve a one-time Good Cause Extension to the execution of the charter contract for Seneca Preparatory Academy Foundation such that the contract is executed in time to begin providing instruction to students in the fall of the 2015-2016 school year. Further that, as a condition of signing, the approved applicant shall, submit any documentation necessary to bring the new charter 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 charter application requirements at the time set for the execution of the contract, the matter must be brought back to the Board prior to the execution of a charter contract.

Option 2: The Board may deny the request for a Good Cause Extension. The following language is provided for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, that the Board deny the request for a Good Cause Extension to the execution of the charter contract for Seneca Preparatory Academy Foundation, for the reasons that the charter holder failed to provide:

- Evidence to support the reasons given for not opening timely;
- A viable and adequate timeline with action steps;
- (Other specific reasons the Board may have found during its consideration including…)

If the request is denied, Seneca Preparatory Academy Foundation has the option to reapply for a charter through the new charter application process