
AGENDA ITEM: Compliance Matters – US Mental Math Federation, Incorp

Background

In March 2011, the Board denied the request for a suspension in operation of Aim High Institute and requested that US Mental Math Federation, Incorp (“USMMF”) work with the staff to surrender the charter contract.

On April 13, 2011, Staff received information from USMMF’s legal counsel that because of current litigation, the charter holder cannot enter into a surrender agreement or take any action to surrender the charter without the Court’s consent. A motion to seek permission for USMMF to voluntarily surrender the charter contract was filed in Superior Court on April 7, 2011. The judge in the matter has not yet responded to the motion. According to USMMF’s legal counsel, USMMF may file a motion for summary disposition, but this has not yet occurred.

History

USMMF began operating Aim High Institute in July of 2009, serving grades K- though 8. The school added 9th grade for the 2010-2011 school year.

Compliance Check:

USMMF was overfunded for FY2011 by \$23,959.25 when it closed in October of 2010 and failed to provide instruction for the full academic year. The amount, which includes approximately \$21,760 in state equalization assistance and approximately \$2,200 in Classroom Site Fund monies, remains outstanding as of February 28, 2011.

Academic Performance:

USMMF received an AZ LEARNS profile of Performing. However, according to the Assessment Division of ADE, the school’s profile did not include test scores from various grades and content areas because ADE invalidated all content areas for all students in Grades 7 and 8 due to the students being left unsupervised during testing and due to teacher assistance on science. ADE also invalidated the mathematics section for all students in Grades 5 and 6 due to teacher assistance on some items. The same teacher was involved in both situations. ADE reported it is their understanding that this teacher is no longer employed at the school.

Annual Financial Audit:

USMMF failed to submit an annual financial audit package for FY 2010. In November 2010, the Board approved a 10% withholding until the audit is received. To date, no audit has been received.

Board Options

1. The Board may continue to monitor the efforts of USMMF to attain the court order allowing for the surrender of the charter.
2. The Board may issue a Notice of Intent to Revoke the Charter of USMMF for failing to provide the minimum days of instruction pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-183(E)(9), failing to properly implement the AIMS Test in the Spring of 2010 pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-183(E)(4), and failing to submit an annual financial audit package for FY 2010 pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-183(E)(6).

Staff Recommendation

Staff’s recommendation is Option 2 above.