AGENDA ITEM: Adding Grade Levels to Charter Amendment Request – EAGLE College Prep II, Inc.

Issue

On May 16, EAGLE College Prep II, Inc. (ECP2) requested to add grades 5-8 to the charter currently authorized for grades K-4. As they received an Overall Rating of NR for 2012 due to serving only K-2, they were required to submit a Demonstration of Sufficient Progress (DSP).

Summary of Narrative Provided

Rationale for the expansion request

The narrative (presented in the charter holder's amendment portfolio: b. Amendment request materials) states that the sister school, EAGLE College Prep, opened as K-3 and has successfully expanded to K-7, and will serve K-8 in 2013-2014. The charter holder intends to follow a similar pattern with EAGLE College Prep Harmony (Harmony), operated by ECP2. Harmony opened in 2011 serving grades K-2, and added grades 3-4 for the 2012-2013 school year.

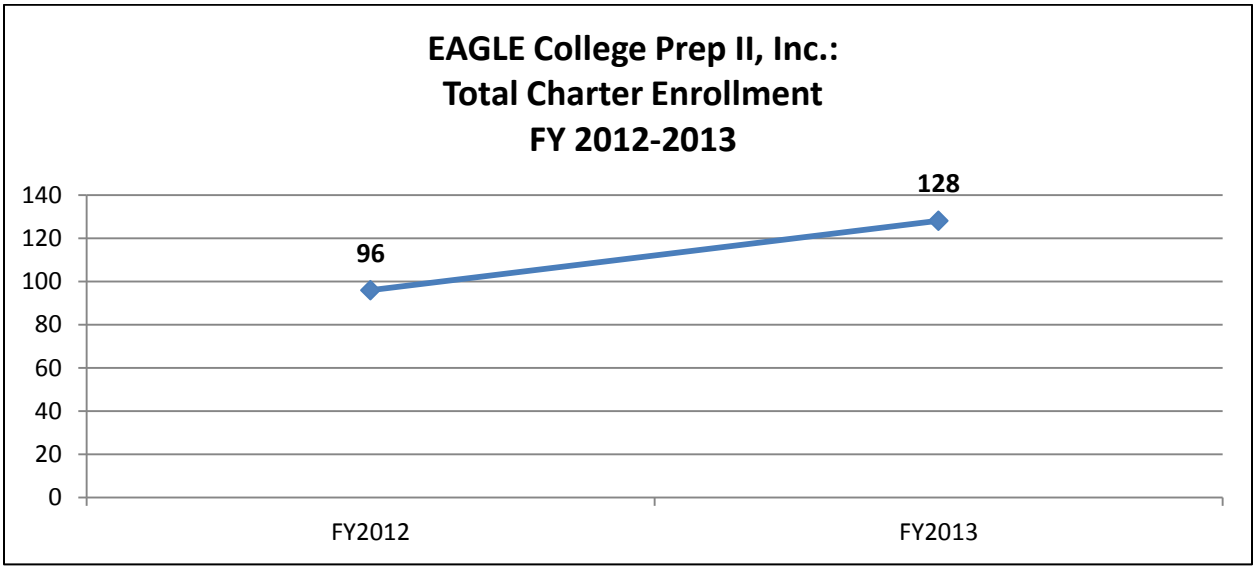
Support for methods of instruction and mission of the charter

The narrative describes a focus on core academics and character development, with methods of instruction including expository, hands-on, and interactive approaches in addition to direct instruction, guided practice, collaborative learning, centers, small group instruction, and integrated technology. The narrative further states that there is an overt expectation that all students will go to college, which supports the extension of grade levels to 5-8.

Background

ECP2 was granted a charter in January 2010 and operates one school: EAGLE College Prep Harmony (serving grades K-4 in Phoenix since August 2011).

ECP2 operates on a 180 day calendar. The graphs below show actual 100th day average daily membership (ADM) for fiscal years 2012-2013.



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. Harmony opened in August 2011 serving grades K-2 only. Harmony did not receive an Overall Rating for FY2012 and was required to submit a Demonstration of Sufficient Progress (DSP). A DSP was submitted by the charter representative (presented in the charter holder's amendment portfolio: c. Demonstration of Sufficient Progress). The DSP was evaluated using the criteria

provided in Appendix D of the Board's *Academic Performance Framework and Guidance* document (presented in the charter holder's amendment portfolio: d. DSP Evaluation Instrument).

The initial DSP submitted by the charter holder for Harmony provided a narrative describing the systems for implementation of curriculum, assessment, and professional development that contribute to increased student growth and proficiency in Math and Reading, and which provided data to support sufficient progress for students overall. However, no data was provided to support sufficient progress for students in subgroups, resulting in a determination of Not Acceptable for each measure in the 2c Subgroup Comparison.

On June 19, staff conducted a site visit and met with Tracy Allen (Interim Principal) and Duncan McCrann (Executive Director and CEO of Educational Enterprises, Inc., the CMO) to confirm the information presented in the DSP and collect additional information and documentation to be considered in the final evaluation (presented in the charter holder's amendment portfolio: d. DSP Evaluation Instrument).

Ms. Allen started by presenting the curriculum maps for Math, based on Singapore Math, and for Reading, based on SRA Imagine It, both aligned to Common Core Standard. She described how teachers use the curriculum maps to collaboratively create unit plans for pacing, and then independently create lesson plans based on the unit plans. She provided examples of lesson plans from 2nd and 4th grades showing learning goals. She described how integration of the Standards into instruction was monitored through informal observations two or three times each month, with formal evaluations occurring quarterly. Completed observation reports and teacher evaluations were provided. She described the system for addressing instructional issues through coaching, modeling, and peer observation. She provided a staff calendar, and described the weekly Wednesday professional development and professional learning community meetings, which were supported with meeting minutes and sign-in logs. She presented the results of NWEA benchmarks and explained how they showed growth rates compared to other schools. She also presented data disaggregated by grade level and by subgroup. The discussion ended with a presentation of data and tracking materials from the RTI program for low-performing students, and the system for tracking and supporting ELL students.

The charter holder provided additional evidence and documentation for Harmony (presented in the charter holder's amendment portfolio: e. DSP Evidence) regarding all areas not sufficiently addressed in the submitted DSP including data supporting increased student proficiency for ELL students, FRL students, and students with disabilities. The charter holder provided benchmark assessment data demonstrating increases in student growth overall and for each subgroup.

Following the site visit, staff determined, through an evaluation of the information and documentation collected at the site visit, that the charter holder demonstrated sufficient progress toward meeting the Board's academic performance expectations. The final evaluation of the DSP resulted in a determination of Acceptable in all areas.

Board Options

1. Approve the amendment request for EAGLE College Prep II, Inc. 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 the request to add grades 5-8 to the charter held by EAGLE College Prep II, Inc.
2. Deny the amendment request for EAGLE College Prep II, Inc. 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 requests to add grades 5-8 to the charter held by EAGLE College Prep II, Inc., for the following reasons: (Board member must specify reasons the Board found during its consideration.)