

AGENDA ITEM: South Mountain Preparatory Academy Public Charter Elementary School (South Mountain Preparatory Academy) – Request for a Good Cause Extension

Issue

South Mountain Preparatory Academy Public Charter Elementary School is requesting a Good Cause Extension to the execution of their approved new charter application, due to expire on January 23, 2013. They need more time to locate a site for the charter in their target area, and plan to begin providing services for the 2013-2014 school year.

[Policy Statement for a Good Cause Extension to the Charter Contract](#)

Background

South Mountain Preparatory Academy Public Charter Elementary School was granted a charter on January 23, 2012 to serve grades K - 6 through the New Charter Application process. The application package included a start date of August 7, 2012. As part of the new charter application package, the applicant agrees and signs a statement acknowledging that the approved applicant must execute the charter contract within twelve (12) months of the date of approval. As a condition to signing the charter contract, the approved applicant must provide proof of a secured facility.

On October 19, Board staff received a letter from Michele Kaye, charter representative, with a request for a Good Cause Extension. The letter stated, "I would like to respectfully request an extension of the time to open this charter until the 2013-2014 school year. We are still in negotiations to purchase a selected parcel of land. We anticipate beginning construction in the spring of 2013."

On December 10, Board staff received additional information via email, in form of a letter dated October 16, regarding the search for the school site. The letter from Michele Kaye indicated the following: "We were unable to locate a suitable site for our South Mountain Preparatory charter in our target area and have expanded our search. We will utilize a building that we own at 449 E. Southern Avenue for Fall 2013 for this charter while we continue to search for a site conducive to our needs in the west valley. We have an architect working on the 449 site and a marketing firm under contract in preparation for the fall 2013 opening."

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 the Good Cause Extension to the execution of the charter contract for South Mountain Preparatory Academy Public Charter Elementary School such that the contract is executed in time for the 2013-14 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 South Mountain Preparatory Academy Public Charter Elementary School for the reasons that (member making motion needs to identify specific reasons). South Mountain Preparatory Academy Public Charter Elementary School has the option to reapply for a charter through the new charter application process.