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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Utah State Board of Education

FROM: Martell Menlove, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

DATE: May 9, 2014

ACTION: Amendment request from American Preparatory Academy

Background:

American Preparatory Academy – Draper 1 opened as a charter school in Draper in fall 2003 and serves 574 students in grades K-9. Additional campuses opened as follows: (1) School for New Americans opened in fall 2009 serving 572 students in grades K-9; (2) The Accelerated School opened in fall 2011 serving 1,320 in grades K-12; (3) Draper 2 campus opened this fall serving 964 students in grades K-9; and (4) Draper 3 campus will open in fall 2014 to serve 545 students in grades 9-12. The school requests to open a satellite campus, Liberty, in Nebo School District in fall 2014 serving 675 students in K-12. The State Charter School Board has reviewed and approved the school's revised request and forwards it to the State Board of Education for consideration.

Key Points:

American Preparatory Academy requests to modify its charter to open a satellite campus, Liberty, in fall 2014 serving 675 students in K-12, ultimately serving 3,980 students total between all campuses. The executive summary report is included and additional information submitted by the school can be found at <http://schools.utah.gov/charterschools/State-Charter-School-Board/2014-Board-Meetings/April-2014.aspx>.

Anticipated Action:

The Law and Licensing Committee will consider approving American Preparatory Academy governing board's request to open a satellite campus, Liberty, as outlined in the amendment request. If approved by the Committee, the Board will consider approving the applications.

Contact: Brenda Hales, Deputy Superintendent, 801-538-7515
Marlies Burns, Director of Charter Schools, 801-538-7871

**AMENDMENT
(Satellite Request)**

**Utah State Board of Education
Charter School Board Executive Summary Report**

The Utah State Charter School Board (SCSB) is charged with authorizing, monitoring, evaluating, and dismissing charters of public schools in Utah. Its work is under the direct supervision of the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) per Utah Code 53A-1a-501.5.

This summary report shall be completed by the SCSB and submitted to Brenda Hales, Deputy Superintendent, Utah State Office of Education, two weeks ahead of the regularly scheduled USBE meetings for approval and inclusion in the board's agenda materials. Only that which is in writing, and included in the agenda materials, as ratified for recommendation by the SCSB, shall be considered by the USBE in its final approval process. Attachments, by way of clarification, or elaboration, may be included.

1. Charter School American Preparatory Academy

2. Street Address 12892 South Pony Express Road Phone 801-353-8500

3. City Draper

4. This is a school located in an area: () Rural (X) Urban

5. Chief School Officer Carolyn Sharette Phone 801-808-3933

6. The parent charter school is located in which school district? Canyons

The satellite charter school is located in which school district? Nebo

7. List or attach all duly elected, current board directors of the school:

Bradley Findley Rick Peterson Clay Hatch

Stacey McNeill Jason Mecham Chris Diener

8. Requested amendment to charter:

Open American Preparatory Academy – Liberty in the 2014-2015 school year serving 675 students in grades K – 12.

9. a) Summary description of satellite charter school:

Student academic achievement is the primary goal of American Preparatory Academy. The governing board believes that only when students master fundamentals, and are fluent in the basic foundational knowledge of the major disciplines can they move on to effectively express their knowledge and master higher-level skills.

Therefore, the foundation of American Preparatory Academy's instruction will focus on mastery of fundamentals. The school defines mastery as the ability to demonstrate knowledge and skills repeatedly and accurately. This requires repeated instruction in the subject matter, increasing degree of challenge and considerable practice. As students master the fundamentals, American Preparatory Academy's instruction focuses on sequential building of conceptual knowledge and promoting independent expression of knowledge. Finally, instruction focuses on individual internalization of conceptual knowledge, expressed in extensive written work and verbal presentation, preparing students for advanced study at the high school level.

b) How many students will the satellite school serve and what grades?

2014-2015 Grades K-12 – 675 students total

c) The parent school's current configuration is: 540 students in grades K - 9

d) Does the satellite school's grade configuration align with the local school district configuration? Yes

e) Percentage of minority students at parent school. How does the minority percentage compare with the local school district minority percentage? (Data from SY2014 Fall Enrollment Report)

American Preparatory Academy – Draper 1: 21.6%
Canyons School District – 27.4%

f) Percentage of special education students at parent school. How does the special education percentage compare with the local school district special education percentage? (Data from SY2014 SCRAM Report)

American Preparatory Academy – Draper 1: 9.8%
Canyons School District – 9.5%

g) Additional information: American Preparatory Academy successfully operates four schools.

10. What makes this satellite school needed?

Student academic achievement is the primary goal of American Preparatory Academy. We believe that only when students master fundamentals and are fluent in the basic foundational knowledge of the major disciplines can they move on to effectively express their knowledge and master higher-level skills. Therefore, the foundation of our instruction focuses on mastery of fundamentals. We define mastery as the ability to demonstrate knowledge and skills repeatedly and accurately. This requires repeated instruction in the subject matter, increasing degree of challenge and considerable practice. As our students master the fundamentals, our instruction focuses on sequential building of conceptual knowledge and promoting independent expression of knowledge. APA students demonstrate individual internalization of conceptual knowledge through extensive written work and verbal presentation. This focus on repetitive, sequential knowledge acquisition, combined with extensive expression of understanding, prepare APA students for advanced study at high school and collegiate levels. These levels of instruction and knowledge attainment follow the classical education model of the Trivium - grammar, logic and rhetoric. American Preparatory Academy respects this well-founded, proven educational model and uses it in selecting and implementing the school's curriculum. In order to establish an excellent institution and a loving, positive atmosphere at American Prep, we must build a foundation of virtuous character in our students and ourselves. We also believe that mental training

goes hand-in-hand with the formation of a good character. We have firmly planted these ideals into our institution through a district-wide "Builders" theme and Ambassadors Program. All staff, parents, and students work together to "build" our great school on these four principles: Expectations, Effort, Enthusiasm, and Excellence.

11. Is the schools' curriculum fully aligned with the Utah State Core Curriculum? If not, in what areas does the school deviate from the Core?

Yes

12. How will the school address the needs of students with disabilities who will need Special Education services?

Part of APA's mission is to improve learning for all students. We provide all services as outlined in our students' IEPs. Each campus at APA employs a Special Education Director (certified in special education) to ensure all IEP services are delivered and to assist teachers in implementing APA's referral process for students who may need special education services.

13. What is the financial position of the parent school?

In FY13, APA met both minimum financial standards and all but one recommended standard.

14. Who performs the financial accounting for the school (by name) and what are his/her credentials for accounting?

Philip E. Collins, B.S. Accounting and 26 years accounting experience

15. UCAS state academic information.

Total Points = 526/600
Growth Points = 249/300
Achievement = 277/300

16. What is the position of the local district regarding the amendment request? Who was the contact at the local district? When was the district provided a copy of the amendment request? (Attachment of letters, if necessary)

Nebo School District received a complete copy of this amendment request and has not responded to date with any concerns.

17. What specific conditions or concerns did the SCSB place on the school in order to recommend full approval of this amendment?

None

18. Please provide a brief summary of other points the SCSB would like the Utah State Board of Education to consider in making the decision to approve the amendment.

American Preparatory Academy – Draper 1 is a high performing school. The governing board and administration currently operate three other satellite schools, with a fourth to open this fall.

19. Votes of the SCSB in approving the charter school application:

(Listing of charter board members' vote)

Tim Beagley, Howard Headlee,
Dean Brockbank, Bruce Davis,
Kristin Elinkowski, Robert Enger

Recommended full approval

Did not recommend approval

Recommended alternate approval*

*Provide detailed explanation of alternate approval

The Utah State Charter School Board assures the accuracy of this report, supports this application, and submits it to the Utah State Board of Education for final approval.

Signature, SCSB Chair

Date

The Utah State Board of Education considered this application on

Date

This application is: () Approved () Not Approved, for the following reasons:

Signature, USBE Chair

Date