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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: New charter school application – Roots Charter High School

Background:

The State Charter School Board (SCSB) is charged in UCA 53A-1a-501.6 with authorizing and promoting the establishment of charter schools. The SCSB heard presentations from eight applicant groups seeking to open in the 2015-2016 school year and held governing board capacity interviews with each. The purpose of the presentations and interviews was to determine if the applicants met at least one of the purposes of charter schools (UCA 53A-1a-503) and could provide evidence that the school's governing board was knowledgeable and capable of overseeing a public school receiving state taxpayer dollars.

Key Points:

Roots Charter High School was asked to work with staff and make some revisions to improve the academic and operational plans for the school. The SCSB determined at its last meeting Roots Charter High School met this criteria and recommends it be approved to open in fall 2015. Full charter applications for these schools can be found at <http://schools.utah.gov/charterschools/State-Charter-School-Board/2014-Board-Meetings/February-2014.aspx>

Anticipated Action:

The Law and Licensing Committee will consider approving Roots Charter High School to open in the 2015-2016 school year as outlined in its application. If approved by the Committee, the Board will consider approving this application.

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

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

This summary report was 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, shall be considered by the USBE in its final approval process. Attachments, by way of clarification, or elaboration, may be included.

1. Charter School Roots Charter High School

2. Street Address 11658 S Pale Moon Ln Phone 801-573-8719

3. City South Jordan

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

5. Chief School Officer Tyler Bastian Phone 801-573-8719

6. The Charter school is located in which school district? Granite

7. When is the charter school expected to begin operations? August 2015

8. Has the school previously been a private school? () Yes (X) No
If so, what has the school done to alter its tax coding to become a charter school?

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

Tyler Bastian
Bion Wimmer
Travis Devere
Lincoln Fillmore
Fernando Seminario
Luke Petersen

10. Summary description of charter school (mission statement):

Roots Charter High School targets students who are at risk of academic failure in the greater West Valley City area and instill them with the knowledge, skills and ability to live healthy, productive and sustainable lives. Graduates are proficient in math and reading and well prepared for post-secondary education through authentic learning that develops ecological literacy, academic accomplishment, strong character, and a commitment to community.

11. Is this charter school an extension or expansion of a currently existing charter school? (If so, attach student achievement data from existing charter school).

No, Roots Charter High School is a new school application.

12. How many students will the school serve and at what grades? Does the grade configuration align with the local school district configuration?

Roots Charter High School will serve 300 students in grades 9 – 12. Yes, the grade configuration aligns with Granger High School, but not the other high schools on the west side of the Granite School District.

13. 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, Roots Charter High School's curriculum is fully aligned with the Utah State Core Curriculum.

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

The school will offer a continuum of student placement and special education services to students with disabilities in compliance with state and federal law and regulation.

15. Does the school have a building site or actual building ready to serve students? What are the financial stipulations in the use of that building?

Roots Charter High School will meet the requirement in R277-482 to have its building under construction by January 1, 2015.

16. Has a financial analysis been conducted and is there a strong likelihood the charter school will financially succeed?

Yes, the State Charter School Board has reviewed Roots Charter High School's budget to ensure that its finances are viable and there is a strong likelihood of financial success.

17. Who will perform the financial accounting for the school (by name) and what are his/her credentials for accounting?

The business manager or management company has not been named at this time but will be named prior to the school opening. The school includes a detailed list of roles and responsibilities for the business manager/management company.

18. Please provide a brief summary of other points the State Charter School Board would like the Utah State Board of Education to consider in making the decision to approve the charter school:

Roots Charter High School is an innovative school model that has not been seen in Utah. The governing board researched several programs before determining this specific model is the best fit for its target population. The State Charter School Board gave Roots Charter High School high marks for innovation and asked that it work with Charter School Section staff to improve some of the logistics in the application. The governing board did, come back in April, and the State Charter School Board recommends this school for approval to open in fall 2015.

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