



UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

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Date: May 6, 2016

To: Richard Ellis, Chair, Utah Charter School Finance Authority

From: Tim Beagley, Chair, Utah State Charter School Board

Subject: Letter of Certification for Mountainville Academy

Certifications

- The Utah State Charter School Board certifies the charter is in place for Mountainville Academy. **SATISFACTORY**
- The Utah State Charter School Board certifies that Mountainville Academy is in good standing. **SATISFACTORY** (See definition, Exhibit A)
- Mountainville Academy meets the minimum criteria outlined in State Board of Education Rule R277-481-3. **SATISFACTORY** (See discussion, Exhibit A)
- As of the date of this certification, the Utah State Charter School Board does not have any serious outstanding or unresolved concerns regarding Mountainville Academy. **SATISFACTORY** (See definition, Exhibit A)
- The Utah State Charter School Board certifies it is not contemplating the termination of the charter or placing the school on probation status as defined in State Board of Education Rule R277-481-3. **SATISFACTORY**
- The Utah State Charter School Board certifies that Mountainville Academy's most recent re-enrollment rate is 80.8%. **SATISFACTORY** (See discussion, Exhibit A)
- The Utah State Charter School Board certifies that Mountainville Academy meets recommended academic standards. **SATISFACTORY** (See discussion, Exhibit A)
- The Utah State Charter School Board certifies that Mountainville Academy has demonstrated reasonable proficiency in forecasting revenues and expenditures since the standard was approved. **SATISFACTORY** (See discussion, Exhibit A)

A letter of information was sent to the applicant on April 30, 2015 with the advice that they respond to the Utah State Charter School Board with any pertinent explanations for items found "Unsatisfactory." As there were no certification items marked unsatisfactory, the Mountainville Academy governing board chose not to respond.

Exhibit A

Definition of Good Standing

To maintain a charter to operate a school, U.C.A. 53A-1a-510 requires a charter school to meet the terms of its charter agreement, meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management, and make adequate yearly progress under the No Child Left behind Act. For the purpose of this letter of certification, the Utah State Charter School Board (SCSB) adopted these three requirements as its definition of “good standing”.

Definition of Serious Concern

The SCSB has five minimum standards and nineteen recommended standard in the areas of (1) board performance and stewardship, (2) student attendance and re-enrollment, (3) financial performance and sustainability, and (4) student achievement level. Annually, charter schools are monitored for compliance with these standards. A charter school that fails to meet any of the minimum standards or a significant number of the recommended standards may be placed on warning status. If any minimum standard or a significant number of the recommended standards has not been met by an assigned date following designation of warning status the SCSB may place the school on probation for up to one calendar year. For the purpose of this letter of certification, the SCSB identifies “serious concern” as a charter school on warning status or probation.

Minimum standards

Board Rule R277-481-3(B) requires all charter schools to meet five minimum standards:

- 1) charter schools shall have no unresolved material findings, financial condition findings or repeat significant findings in the school's independent financial audit, federal single audit or USOE audits;
- 2) charter schools shall maintain a minimum of 30 days cash on hand or the cash or other reserve amount required in bond covenants, whichever is greater;
- 3) charter schools shall have no violations of federal or state law or regulation, Board rules or Board directives;
- 4) charter schools shall have all teachers properly licensed and endorsed for teaching assignments in CACTUS; and
- 5) charter school governing boards shall ensure all employees and board members have criminal background checks on file.

Enrollment History

As defined in U.C.A. 53A-20b-102, “annual charter school enrollment” means the total enrollment of all students...enrolled in a charter school in grades kindergarten through 12, based on October 1 enrollment counts.” As another recommended standard, the SCSB reviews the percentage of within year transfers and percentage re-enrollment from one year to the next. Below is the enrollment data for Mountainville Academy.

Table 1: Student enrollment, broken down by grade since SY2007 (2006-2007).

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2007	7	76	84	99	79	78	71	35					
2008	75	78	83	99	79	78	78	71	35				
2009	77	78	78	78	99	78	76	48	48				
2010	81	81	95	82	77	100	71	31	36				
2011	76	81	81	105	81	81	98	45	33				
2012	73	81	80	81	108	100	96	60	44	27			
2013	74	77	81	83	83	103	100	57	56	35			
2014	82	84	84	84	84	85	104	58	47	38			
2015	75	79	79	81	106	105	96	58	51	41			

Table 2: Enrollment metrics including percent enrolled, average daily membership, percentage of students who leave the school mid-year, and percentage of students re-enrolling annually.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Authorized</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>% Enrolled</i>	<i>ADM</i>	<i>Transfers</i>	<i>Reenrollment</i>
2008	675	676	100.0%	97.6%	3.80%	81.4%
2009	675	660	98.0%	94.8%	9.60%	78.8%
2010	675	654	97.0%	108.5%	9.90%	88.8%
2011	675	681	101.0%	99.0%	6.00%	85.1%
2012	750	750	100.0%	98.1%	4.50%	81.7%
2013	750	749	100.0%	98.1%	4.90%	78.6%
2014	750	750	100.0%	97.4%	3.90%	80.8%
2015	800	771	96.3%	*	*	*

* Data not available

Academic Performance:

To assess academic performance, the SCSB looks at state assessments and student engagement. State assessments consist of student proficiency and growth scores using the points in UCAS. Student engagement includes school re-enrollment rates, within year enrollment rates, and average daily membership (ADM). To reach an overall academic score that can be used to compare charter schools relative to other charter schools, each category is weighted and then combined.

Table 3: Academic score represents the points earned in four areas: (1) student proficiency on UCAS, (2) student growth on UCAS, (3) college readiness (if applicable), and (4) student engagement. The total percentage possible is 100.

	2012	2013	2014
Mountainville Academy	74.3%	79.9%	82.8%
Charter Median	71.3%	72.3%	84.0%
Charter High Score	96.8%	94.8%	98.8%

Budget:

The SCSB approved a recommended standard for charter school governing board budgets, starting with FY11, which required the statutory budget to be within 5% of actual revenue and expenditures. Annually, Local Education Agencies must submit a budget including projected revenues and expenditures, as well as submit an Annual Financial Report (AFR) including actual revenues and expenditures. In Table 4, Revenue is calculated by subtracting actual revenue (AR) from projected revenue (PR) divided by actual revenue $((AR-PR)/AR)$ and Expense is calculated by subtracting actual expenditures (AE) from projected expenditures (PE) divided by actual expenditures $((AE-PE)/AE)$. The SCSB obtained the numbers used in the formulas from the school’s statutory budget and AFR. Below is the budget information for Mountainville Academy.

Table 4: Percentage of actual revenue and expense was above or (below) forecasted revenue and expense for the past three fiscal years.

	Revenue	Expense
FY12	2.25%	1.92%
FY13	(2.83)%	(2.56)%
FY14	(1.48)%	(3.12)%