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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Utah State Board of Education

FROM: Brad C. Smith
Chief Executive Officer

DATE: June 18-19, 2015

ACTION: Amendment request from Freedom Preparatory Academy

Background:

Freedom Preparatory Academy opened in fall 2003 serving a few hundred students in grades K-6. The school's charter agreement was amended to expand to serving 1,220 students in grades K-12. Freedom Preparatory Academy requests to add 80 students beginning in 2015-2016 bringing the total authorized enrollment to 1,300. The State Charter School Board has reviewed and approved the amendment to the school's charter agreement and forwards it to the State Board of Education for consideration.

Key Points:

Freedom Preparatory Academy is a high performing school and has been for several years. The governing board created a strategic plan and studied its enrollment patterns to determine which location would be the best for a satellite campus. 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/2015-Board-Meetings/May-2015.aspx>

Anticipated Action:

The Law and Licensing Committee will consider approving Freedom Preparatory Academy governing board's request as outlined in the amendment documentation. If approved by the Committee, the Board will consider approving the request.

Contact: Dr. Marlies Burns, Executive Director, State Charter School Board, 801-538-7817

AMENDMENT

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 Brad C. Smith, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, 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 Freedom Preparatory Academy

2. Website www.freedomprep.net

Board Chair: Daniela Alvarez Email alvrz.d@gmail.com

School Administrator: Lynne Herring Email lherring@freedomprep.net

3. The Charter school is located in which school district? Provo City

4. Requested amendment to charter (summary – full report can be found on State Charter School Board website at: <http://schools.utah.gov/charterschools/State-Charter-School-Board/2015-Board-Meetings/May-2015.aspx>)

Freedom Preparatory Academy governing board requests approval to add 80 students beginning in the 2015-2016 school year to campus #1 (total authorized 1,300).

5. Charter school mission and purpose(s):

Freedom Preparatory Academy empowers students to become effective communicators, critical thinkers and ethical and passionate leaders through a broad, rigorous curriculum, participation in school activities and community outreach. With a focus on college preparation life-long learning students will experience a challenging atmosphere while building a foundation for global success. Freedom Preparatory Academy will have a positive and measurable impact in the local community and beyond, by providing an education of the highest quality to students who will go on to become leaders in their family, community, business and society.

6. Charter school student demographics (2014-2015 data):

- 1062 students in grades K-12
- 38.4% ethnic/racial minority
- 41.2% students are economically disadvantaged
- 7.3% students are learning English
- 9.2% students with disabilities

Provo City District student demographics (2014-2015 data):

- 16,600 students in grades K – 12
- 32.8% ethnic/racial minority
- 39.8% students are economically disadvantaged
- 9.6% students learning English
- 11.1% students with disabilities

7. What is the position of the local district regarding the amendment request? Who was the contact at the local district? (Attachment of letters, if necessary)

The school submitted the entire amendment request to Keith C. Rittel, Provo City School District Superintendent on April 24, 2015. No concerns from the district has been received to date.

8. Please provide a summary of the Utah State Charter School Board discussion pertaining to this amendment request, including points it would like the Utah State Board of Education to consider when making the decision to approve the amendment.

Freedom Preparatory Academy is a high performing charter school and has been for several years.

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

(Listing of charter board members' vote)

Robert Enger, DeLaina Tonks Kristin Elinkowski, Bruce Davis <u>Howard Headlee, Dean Brockbank</u>	Recommended full approval
<u>Tim Beagley</u>	Not present for vote