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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members, Utah State Board of Education

**FROM:** Brad C. Smith  
Chief Executive Officer

**DATE:** August 6-7, 2015

**ACTION:** Charter Amendment Request from Weilenmann School of Discovery

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### **Background:**

Weilenmann School of Discovery opened in fall 2010 serving 550 students in grades K-8. The school's charter agreement was amended to expand to serving 616 students. Due to changes in Park City School District grade configuration, Weilenmann School of Discovery requests to add 21 students beginning in 2015-2016 bringing the total authorized enrollment to 637. 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:**

Park City School District made changes to its grade configuration in May 2015, which changed the needs of Weilenmann School of Discovery specific to student enrollment. Board Rule R277-482 requires a charter school to have an enrollment increase approved by the Utah State Board of Education no later than May 1. As such, in addition to the 21 students, Weilenmann School of Discovery requests a waiver from the timeline found in this Rule. 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/July-2015.aspx>

### **Anticipated Action:**

The Law and Licensing Committee will consider approving Weilenmann School of Discovery governing board's request as outlined in the amendment documentation and waiving the timeline portion of R277-482. If approved by the Committee, the Board will consider approving the request and waiving the timeline.

**Contact:** Dr. Marlies Burns, Executive Director, State Charter School Board, 801-538-781

# 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                     Weilenmann School of Discovery
2. Website                     [www.wsdpc.org](http://www.wsdpc.org)                      
Board Chair:                     Douglas Ogilvy                     Email                     [douglasogilvy@wsdpc.org](mailto:douglasogilvy@wsdpc.org)                      
School Administrator:                     Cynthia Phillips                     Email                     [cindyphillips@wsdpc.org](mailto:cindyphillips@wsdpc.org)
3. The Charter school is located in which school district?                     Park 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/July-2015.aspx>):

Weilenmann School of Discovery's governing board requests approval to add 21 students beginning in the 2015-2016 school year due to recent changes in Park City School District student grade configuration. This requires a waiver from the timeline in R277-482.

5. Charter school mission and purpose(s):

The Weilenmann School of Discovery welcomes all students and promotes engaged, active and effective learning that will prepare them for the 21<sup>st</sup> century by:

- Hiring and developing Master Teachers who design and enact inquire-based instruction that exceeds core standards;
- Integrating technologies, media, science, and visual and performing arts into the core curriculum;
- Utilizing the awe and wonder of nature to enhance the educational experience; and
- Systematically and rigorously assessing performance of students and teachers with respect to the achievement of these goals.

6. Charter school student demographics (2014-2015 data):
- 580 students in grades K - 8
  - 9.1% ethnic/racial minority
  - 5.0% students are economically disadvantaged
  - 0.3% students are learning English
  - 10.2% students with disabilities

Park City School District student demographics (2014-2015 data):

- 4,630 students in grades K – 12
- 22.9% ethnic/racial minority
- 19.3% students are economically disadvantaged
- 7.9% students learning English
- 6.7% 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 Superintendent Ember Conley of the Park City School District on June 15, 2015. Todd Hauber, representative from Park City School District, spoke in favor of the request.

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.

Weilenmann School of Discovery governing board is an active board with a long-term strategic plan. The request, while later in the year than preferred, came after a late change in the Park City School District student grade configuration. The school acted swiftly to respond to the changing educational environment.

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, Tim Beagley</u>	Recommended full approval
<u>Dean Brockbank</u>	Not present for vote