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## MEMORANDUM

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

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

**DATE:** April 4, 2014

**ACTION:** New charter school applications for 2015-2016 school year

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### **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 reviewed eight applications seeking approval to open in the 2015-2016 school year.

### **Key Points:**

The SCSB heard presentations from eight applicant groups 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. The SCSB determined that four applicants met this criteria and recommends GreenWood, MyOptions, Terra Academy, and Vanguard Academy 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 GreenWood, MyOptions, Terra Academy, and Vanguard Academy to open in the 2015-2016 school year as outlined in their applications. If approved by the Committee, the Board will consider approving the applications.

**Contact:** Brenda Hales, 801-538-7515  
Marlies Burns, 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 Terra Academy
2. Street Address 1160 Pollo Loco Road Phone 435-790-1518
3. City Vernal
4. This is a school located in an area:       Rural                       Urban
5. Chief School Officer Cassie Hays Phone 435-790-1518
6. The Charter school is located in which school district? Uintah
7. When is the charter school expected to begin operations? August 2015
8. Has the school previously been a private school?  Yes               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:  
  
Cassie Hays  
Lianna Etchberger  
Kristy Aycock  
Jared McKeachnie  
Melissa Huber
10. Summary description of charter school (mission statement):  
  
Terra Academy focuses on each student as a whole person in a global society by providing individualized instruction in a community learning model through educational experiences including a broad range of curricular options and project based learning opportunities that nourish individual talents, skills, and desires.
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, Terra Academy 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?

Terra Academy will serve 650 students in grades K – 12. Yes, the grade configuration aligns with the local 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, Terra Academy'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?

Terra Academy 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 Terra Academy'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:

Terra Academy has the full support of the school district in which it will be located. The high quality of the application, presentation, and interview placed Terra Academy at the top of the State Charter School Board's prioritized list. Individual board members commented they wished the school could open this fall instead of next, as it is very needed by the community and will provide school choice in a city without current public school choice options.

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1. Charter School GreenWood
2. Street Address 1920 West 250 North Phone 801-388-1056
3. City Marriott-Slaterville
4. This is a school located in an area:       Rural                       Urban
5. Chief School Officer Kathy Wood Phone 801-388-1056
6. The Charter school is located in which school district? Ogden
7. When is the charter school expected to begin operations? August 2015
8. Has the school previously been a private school?  Yes               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:  
  
Jessie Kidd  
Kathy Wood  
Summerhaze Lee  
Kelly Lowrey  
Stephanie Howerton
10. Summary description of charter school (mission statement):  
  
The mission of GreenWood is to provide a quality, holistic education to all students by providing opportunities for them to be active, knowledgeable, creative, and conscientious individuals. GreenWood inspires a healthy balance in life through experiential learning, healthy eating habits, exercise, personal discovery, service, learning, and environmental stewardship.
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, GreenWood 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?

GreenWood will serve 530 students in grades K – 6. Yes, the grade configuration aligns with the local school districts.

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, GreenWood'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?

GreenWood 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 GreenWood'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:

GreenWood plans to dispel the State Charter School Board's current perception of Expeditionary Learning schools and has set appropriate SMART goals for its population. In addition, the school will merge quality education and fitness for all of its students and will help educate the community as to the importance of exercise and healthy eating.

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1. Charter School Vanguard Academy

2. Street Address PO Box 910 Phone 801-289-6268

3. City West Jordan

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

5. Chief School Officer Jonie Jenkins Phone 801-289-6268

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               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:

Jonie Jenkins  
Joy Palmer  
Grace Mitchell  
Kimly Mangum  
Mark Hansen  
Joshua Peterson

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

Vanguard Academy's mission is to empower our students to excel in college with exceptional math, science and leadership skills, inspired by music and a passion for learning. To prepare students for success in college, our curricular program will focus heavily on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, essentially a STEM program of study. However, Vanguard's founders could not ignore the tremendous amount of research showing that a strong arts program, especially the musical arts, accentuates a STEM program, and the addition of the arts launched our STEM focus into a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) curricular program.

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, Vanguard Academy 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?

Vanguard Academy will serve 450 students in grades 7 – 12. Yes, the grade configuration aligns with the local 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, Vanguard Academy'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?

Vanguard Academy 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 Vanguard Academy'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:

Vanguard Academy is adding a robust music program to a STEM school, making it the first STEAM (A = Arts) charter school in Utah.

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1. Charter School MyOptions
2. Street Address 2342 Coyote Street Phone 801-787-2319
3. City Eagle Mountain
4. This is a school located in an area:       Rural                       Urban
5. Chief School Officer Kristy Gordon Phone 801-787-2319
6. The Charter school is located in which school district? Statewide
7. When is the charter school expected to begin operations? August 2015
8. Has the school previously been a private school?  Yes               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:  
  
Kristy Gordon  
Amy Saunders  
Jonathan Schmuhl  
Jake Anderegg  
Jeremy Mortensen
10. Summary description of charter school (mission statement):  
  
MyOptions' mission is to inspire students to the highest level of achievement-excellence.
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, MyOptions 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?

MyOptions will serve 400 students in grades K – 12. Yes, the grade configuration aligns with all Utah school districts.

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, MyOptions' 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?

MyOptions will have a family learning center in Alpine School District, and may open additional learning centers around the state based on student and family need. The governing board has committed to meet the facility timeframe outlined in R277-482.

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 My Options' 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:

MyOptions applied under 53A-1a-501.9 as a school employing new and creative methods for meeting the unique learning styles and needs of students, but the SCSB did not agree it met these conditions. Instead, it is recommended as a sound application under the traditional route. The governing board has set high goals for their school and is committed to being accountable for all students enrolled.