

**Utah State Board of Education Meeting**

October 8-9, 2015

**ADDENDUM**

**Law and Licensing Committee**

**ACTION:** Charter Termination and Request for Satellite School



## UTAH STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

Howard Headlee, Chair  
Kristin Elinkowski, Vice Chair

Tim Beagley  
Dean Brockbank  
Bruce Davis  
Robert Enger  
DeLaina Tonks

Marlies Burns,  
Executive Director

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### MEMORANDUM

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

**FROM:** Marlies Burns  
Executive Director

**DATE:** October 8-9, 2015

**ACTION:** Charter termination and amendment request for satellite school

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#### **Background:**

During the 2015 legislative session, SB227 S2 passed allowing charter school governing boards to request to participate in the voluntary charter school improvement process (improvement process). To participate in the improvement process, a charter school governing board must provide notice and a hearing on their intent to make a request to parents and guardians of students enrolled in the charter school. American Preparatory Academy – Salem (APA Salem) held the required hearing and approached the State Charter School Board (SCSB) about entering into a separate agreement with them to pursue the improvement process.

The SCSB entered into an agreement with the APA Salem governing board (formerly Liberty Academy), in September 2015 and notified Superintendent Smith, consistent with UCA 53A-1a-509.5. APA Salem brought its proposal to the SCSB for consideration. The proposal included: (1) terminating the charter for APA Salem; (2) granting a satellite school to Utah Charter Academies (UCA) with the same school name, number of students authorized, grades served, and facility; and (3) the process for transfer of assets and liabilities. The SCSB charged its staff to work with USOE on any technical issues pertaining to the transfer of funds, preservation of data, etc.

The SCSB reviewed and approved the proposal, including the immediate termination of APA Salem's charter agreement and addition of a satellite school to UCA's charter agreement, and I now providing the proposal to the State Board of Education for consideration.

#### **Key Points:**

The executive summary report is included and additional information about the contract and proposal can be found at: <http://schools.utah.gov/charterschools/State-Charter-School-Board/2015-Board-Meetings/October-2015.aspx>

#### **Anticipated Action:**

The Law and Licensing Committee will consider approving the State Charter School Board's request, as outlined in the Voluntary Charter School Improvement Process contract and proposal from American Preparatory Academy – Salem documentation. If approved by the Committee, the Board will consider approving the request.

**Contact:** Marlies Burns, Executive Director, State Charter School Board, 801-538-7817  
Angie Stallings, Associate Superintendent, 801-538-7550

# 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 Utah Charter Academies

2. Website [www.americanprep.org](http://www.americanprep.org)

Board Chair: Brad Findlay Email [brfindlay@hotmail.com](mailto:brfindlay@hotmail.com)

School Administrator: Carolyn Sharette Email [csharette@apamail.org](mailto:csharette@apamail.org)

3. The Charter school is located in which school district? Nebo

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/September-2015.aspx>)

Utah Charter Academies requests a satellite campus serving 675 students in grades K – 9 (currently operating as American Preparatory Academy – Salem).

5. Charter school mission and purpose(s):

Student academic achievement is the primary goal of American Preparatory Academy (APA). We believe that only when students master fundamentals and are fluent in the basic foundational knowledge of the major disciplines can they move on to effectively express their knowledge and master higher-level skills.

Therefore, the foundation of our instruction focuses on mastery of fundamentals. We define mastery as the ability to demonstrate knowledge and skills repeatedly and accurately. This requires repeated instruction in the subject matter, increasing degree of challenge, and considerable practice. As our students master the fundamentals, our instruction focuses on sequential building of conceptual knowledge and promoting independent expression of knowledge. APA students demonstrate individual internalization of conceptual knowledge through extensive written work and verbal presentation. This focus on repetitive, sequential knowledge acquisition, combined with extensive expression of understanding, prepare APA students for advance study at high school and collegiate levels.

These levels of instruction and knowledge attainment follow the classical education model of the Trivium – grammar, logic and rhetoric. APA respects this well-founded, proven educational model and uses it in selecting and implementing the school’s curriculum.

In order to establish an excellent institution and a loving, positive atmosphere at APA, we must build a foundation of virtuous character in our students and ourselves. We also believe that mental training goes hand-in-hand with the formation of a good character. We have firmly planted these ideals into our institution through a district-wide “Builders” theme and Ambassadors Program. All staff, parents, and students work together to “build” our great school on these four principles: Expectations, Effort, Enthusiasm, and Excellence.

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

- 467 students in grades K – 9
- 11.2% ethnic/racial minority
- 42.4% students are economically disadvantaged
- 4.1% students are learning English
- 11.6% students with disabilities

Nebo School District student demographics (2014-2015 data):

- 31,394 students in grades K – 12
- 14.0% ethnic/racial minority
- 33.7% students are economically disadvantaged
- 2.9% students learning English
- 12.1% 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 district received notification consistent with UCA 53A-1a-509.5. No concerns from the district have 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.

The State Charter School Board reviewed the request as part of the Voluntary Charter School Improvement Process and recommends Utah Charter Academies receive a satellite campus (currently operating as American Preparatory Academy – Salem).

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

Tim Beagley, Dean Brockbank  
Kristin Elinkowski, Robb Enger,  
Bruce Davis, Howard Headlee,  
DeLaina Tonks

Recommended full approval

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Not present for vote