

**Agendum  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Formal Session  
February 13, 2017**

**RENEWAL OF CHARTER FOR WESTON PREPARATORY ACADEMY**

**A Recommendation**

1. **Division and Department:** Academic Affairs - Public School Academies, School of Education and Human Services.
2. **Introduction:** In 2007, the Oakland University ("University") Board of Trustees ("Board") authorized the charter of Weston Preparatory Academy ("Academy") as a public school academy under the Michigan Revised School Code, for up to a 10 year term expiring on June 30, 2017 ("Agreement").

The Academy has submitted an application to the University to renew its charter, and the University's Office of Public School Academies ("PSA Office") supports the renewal. The PSA Office reviewed the application, and found it to be consistent with the Michigan Department of Education ("MDE") requirements and the University's educational mission. During the 10 year term of the Agreement, the Academy has demonstrated academic growth and proficiency and has maintained steady student enrollment and strong leadership and governance. The PSA Office recommends and seeks the Board's approval to renew the Academy's charter for a term of 4 years, through June 30, 2021.

If approved by the Board a new charter agreement will be prepared for the Academy that incorporates standardized MDE requirements. The University will be able to terminate that agreement upon any breach, the Academy's failure to fulfill any of the statutory requirements applicable to public school academies, or without cause at the discretion of the University at the end of the Academy's current academic school year.

The agreement will be reviewed by the Office of the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel prior to execution, and will be in compliance with the law and University policies and regulations and conform to the legal standards and policies of the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel.

3. **Previous Board Action:** On October 5, 1995, the Board approved Oakland University's Policy on Public School Academies and Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications. On April 2, 1998, the Board approved the Academy's application. On October 4, 2000, the Board approved the Academy's resolution to add sixth grade to the Academy's curriculum. On June 7, 2006, the Board approved the Academy's resolution to add kindergarten through fifth grades to the Academy's curriculum. On May 2, 2007, the Board approved the amendment of the Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications. On May 2, 2007, the Board approved the reauthorization of the Academy. On August 6, 2012, the Board approved a second amendment of the Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications.

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4. **Budget Implications:** Oakland University receives three percent (3%) of the state school funding received by the Weston Preparatory Academy as an administrative fee for performing oversight.
5. **Educational Implications:** The philosophy of Weston Preparatory Academy is aligned with that of Oakland University's School of Education and Human Services ("School") and will be able to strengthen the mission of the School. Furthermore, Weston Preparatory Academy will educate a well rounded and high achieving student body which in turn may become future Oakland University students.
6. **Personnel Implications:** There are no personnel implications associated with this resolution.
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** The Academy's request for renewal of its charter was reviewed and recommended by the PSA Office. The recommendation was approved by the Dean of the School of Education and Human Services and the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.
8. **Recommendation:**

WHEREAS, the University has received the Weston Preparatory Academy's application requesting that the Board renew its charter and authorize the Academy to continue as a public school academy; and

WHEREAS, the University has determined it is in the best interest of the University and the State of Michigan to continue to authorize the Academy as a public school academy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the application submitted by Weston Preparatory Academy meets the requirements of the Board and of applicable law; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board approves the Academy's application to renew its charter authorizing the Academy to continue as a public school academy; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the University administration shall negotiate and finalize an Agreement with the Academy in a form that incorporates the standardized requirements of the Michigan Department of Education and with such provisions as shall be required or authorized by the Michigan Revised School Code of 1976 as amended; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the term of the Agreement with the Academy shall expire no later than June 30, 2021; and, be it further

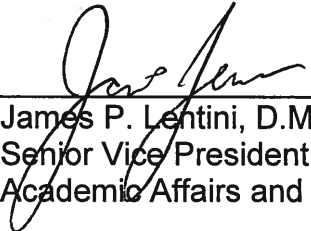
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RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the President, the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, and their respective designees, to perform all acts and deeds and to execute and deliver all contracts, instruments and documents that are necessary, expedient and proper in connection with the Academy and the ongoing administration of Oakland University's oversight function; and, be it further

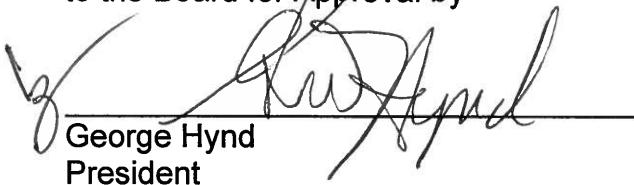
RESOLVED, that the Agreement and other contracts, instruments and documents shall be reviewed and approved by the Office of the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel prior to execution, and shall be in compliance with the law and University policies and regulations and shall conform to the legal standards and policies of the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel.

9. **Attachments:** A. Weston Preparatory Academy Information

Submitted to the President  
on 2/10, 2017 by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James P. Lentini, D.M.A.  
Senior Vice President for  
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommended on 2/9, 2017  
to the Board for Approval by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George Hynd  
President

## Attachment A

Weston Preparatory Academy delivers quality instruction to a student population with a high number of at-risk students. Its educational processes provide students with instructional supports that enable them to achieve and grow. The Academy performs better than its host district and some of its charter school peers and has shown consistent growth in achievement from year to year. The Academy's management and governance is effective and has a positive impact on school culture and achievement. A four-year reauthorization term reflects the belief of the OU/PSA Office that the Academy will continue to make important progress on its path to success.

The Academy has been authorized as an Oakland University public school academy since 1998. Its current contract, which was issued in July of 2014, expires June 30, 2017. The Academy is a K-8<sup>th</sup> grade school located in northwest Detroit. Ninety-eight percent of its students reside in the city of Detroit, and 78% of its students are eligible for free or reduced lunch. There are no ELL students at the Academy, and 14% of its population receives special education services. Enrollment is currently 330 students, which is close to full capacity, and enrollment has remained steady or grown slightly since 2012.

The Academy has undergone significant changes in its recent history. Initially serving a K-12 student population, the Academy was identified in the lowest 5% rankings of achievement in 2009, and was required by the MDE School Reform Design Office to submit a plan of improvement. The Academy Board made the difficult decision to close its high school and focus on its K-8 program. The Academy then applied for and received a 1.75 million dollar school improvement grant which served to assist the school in making important changes to its instructional program and student supports. The Academy has shown steady improvement since that time.

The Academy switched educational service providers (ESP) in the fall of 2013. The current ESP, CS Partners, has served to further strengthen the school and its operations. The Academy has a steady enrollment with a low percentage of student mobility. The average teacher turnover over the length of the charter contract is low, and school and governance leadership has been consistent and strong.

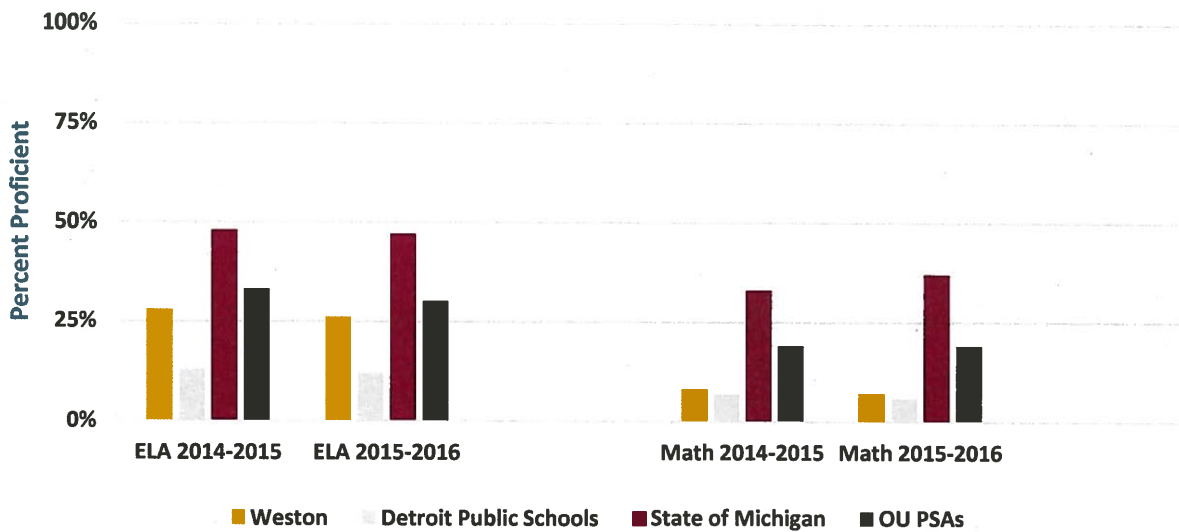
In assessing the performance of the Academy, the OU/PSA Office sees clear improvement for the Academy in key areas of performance. Assessment data from bi-annual assessments and State standardized assessments indicates growth. On the 2015-16 M-STEP, the Academy has the second highest percentage of Above Average/Average aggregate growth when compared to its host district and to other charter schools within a 2-mile radius. Although this data does not translate to significant gains when analyzing proficiency data, the Academy still outperforms its host district and some of the above mentioned charter peers.

Bi-annual testing (MAP) shows similar outcomes and clear movement toward increased growth and achievement. Performance on PST and MAP suggest a positive

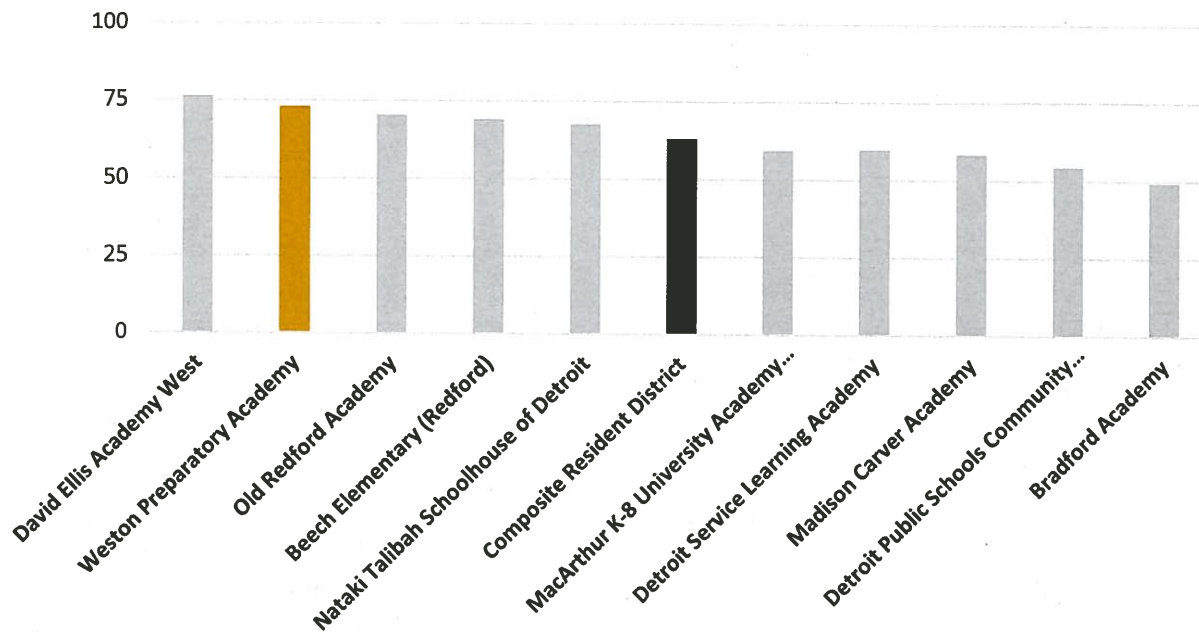
trend. For example, in 2012-2013 students failed to meet targets by an average of 169 points. By 2014-2015, this average narrowed to 126 points. On the 2015-2016 MAP, average student scores were within one standard deviation (13 points) of the mean national norm. Approximately 45% of students met Spring growth targets for reading and mathematics.

This trend has continued into the 2016-2017 school year. In comparing Fall to Fall growth, approximately 47% of all students (194 total) met growth targets in reading and mathematics. This was equivalent to performance at the 58<sup>th</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> conditional growth percentile. These trends were stronger for students attending the Academy for 3 years or more. For those students (89 total), 58% and 44% met growth targets in reading and mathematics respectively. This was equivalent to performance at the 68<sup>th</sup> conditional growth percentile in reading and 54<sup>th</sup> conditional growth percentile in math. The charts below illustrate aggregate information pertaining to academic performance.

### M-STEP Proficiency Performance 2014-15 and 2015-16



## M-STEP Average/Above Average Growth 2015-16 Aggregate Data\*



\* Results above compared to schools within a two mile radius of the school and its host district

### Aggregate Bi-annual Assessment Growth Data

	Legacy <sup>1</sup> Student Growth	Legacy Conditional Growth	Students <sup>2</sup> At or Above Norm
2012-2013 <sup>3</sup>	57%	n/a	n/a
2013-2014 <sup>3</sup>	50%	n/a	n/a
2014-2015 <sup>4</sup>	41%	n/a	n/a
2015-2016 <sup>4</sup>	45%	36 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	19%
2016-2017 <sup>4</sup>	51%	61 <sup>st</sup> Percentile	21%

<sup>1</sup> Students who have attended the academy for three or more years

<sup>2</sup> All students

<sup>3</sup> Scantron PST test

<sup>4</sup> NWEA – MAP test