

**RENEWAL OF CHARTER FOR FOUR CORNERS MONTESSORI ACADEMY**

**A Recommendation**

1. **Division and Department:** Academic Affairs - Public School Academies and Urban Partnerships, School of Education and Human Services.
2. **Introduction:** The Oakland University ("University") Board of Trustees ("Board") authorized the charter of the following public school academy, Four Corners Montessori Academy ("Academy") in 2008.

Pursuant to that Board action, an academy must come before the Board every ten years for renewal of its charter contract (Agreement) to continue as a public school academy. The Academy will reach that threshold time allotment, if the requested renewal period is approved. The PSA Office is recommending and seeks the Board's approval to renew its charter, and allow the Academy charter to be renewable for up to 10 years coterminous with the Academy's academic school year, or through June 30, 2024. While the requested term of charter authorization is 10 years, the PSA Office intends to issue charter agreements in shorter term increments, the first being a six-year term due to the school's exemplary performance. The current Agreement is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2014.

During the term of its Agreement, the Academy has demonstrated academic and management proficiency and has experienced growth and a high level of success. Upon request by the University's Office of Public School Academies and Urban Partnerships ("PSA Office"), the Academy submitted an application to renew its charter. 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.

Public school academies in Michigan were created by statute in 1994. Since that time, the MDE has standardized the requirements for Agreements that incorporate the standardized MDE requirements. The Agreement for the Academy will be reviewed and approved 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. The University will be able to terminate those Agreements upon an Academy breach, or the Academy's failure to fulfill any of the statutory requirements applicable to public school academies, without any University liability to the Academy, to any pupil, parent, guardian or any other person.

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3. **Previous Board Action:** On October 5, 1995, the Board approved Oakland University's Policy on Public School Academies. On May 2, 2007, the Board approved the amendment of the Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications. On August 6, 2012, the Board approved a second amendment of the Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications. The Board approved the application of the Academy on June 25, 2008.
4. **Budget Implications:** Oakland University receives three percent (3%) of the state school funding received by the Academy as an administrative fee for oversight.
5. **Educational Implications:** The philosophy of the 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, the 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 Agreement was reviewed and recommended by the Public School Academy Office and the Review Committee. 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 Michigan Revised School Code of 1976, as amended permits the Board to authorize public school academies meeting the requirements of the Board and the requirements of applicable law; and

WHEREAS, on October 5, 1995, the Board approved the Oakland University Policy on Public School Academies and Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications; and

WHEREAS, on May 2, 2007, the Board approved an amendment of the Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications; and

WHEREAS, on August 6, 2012, the Board approved an amendment of the Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications; and

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



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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 further

RESOLVED, that the application submitted by Four Corners Montessori Academy meets the requirements of the Board and of applicable law; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board approves the application of Four Corners Montessori Academy; and, be it further

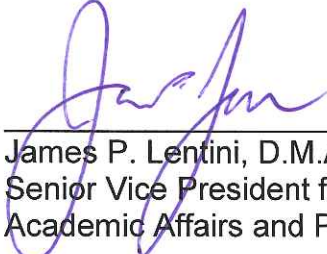
RESOLVED, that the University administration shall negotiate and finalize an Agreement with Four Corners Montessori Academy in a form that incorporates the standardized requirements of the Michigan Department of Education and with such provisions as shall be required or authorized by the Revised School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

RESOLVED, that the term of the Agreement with Four Corners Montessori Academy shall expire no later than June 30, 2024; and, be it further

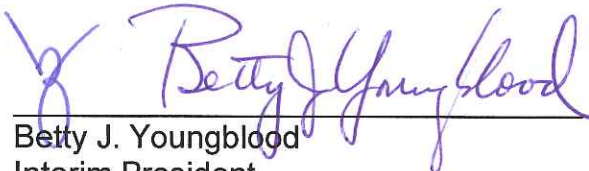
RESOLVED, that the Agreement shall be reviewed and approved by the Office of the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel prior to execution, and shall be in compliance with the law and University policies and regulations and shall conform to the legal standards and policies of the Vice President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

**9. Attachments:      A. Four Corners Montessori Academy Information**

Submitted to the Interim President  
on 5-1-, 2014 by

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

Recommended on May 1, 2014  
to the Board for Approval by

  
Betty J. Youngblood  
Interim President

**FOUR CORNERS MONTESSORI ACADEMY  
SCHOOL OVERVIEW**

**Charter History**

Initial OU Board Approval	June 25, 2008
Current Contract Term	July 9, 2008 – June 30, 2014
School Opened	September 2009

**Contact Information**

Address	Phone	Web
1075 East Gardenia Madison Heights, MI 48071	248.542.7001 248.542.7901 (fax)	www.fourcornersmontessori.com

**School Leader**

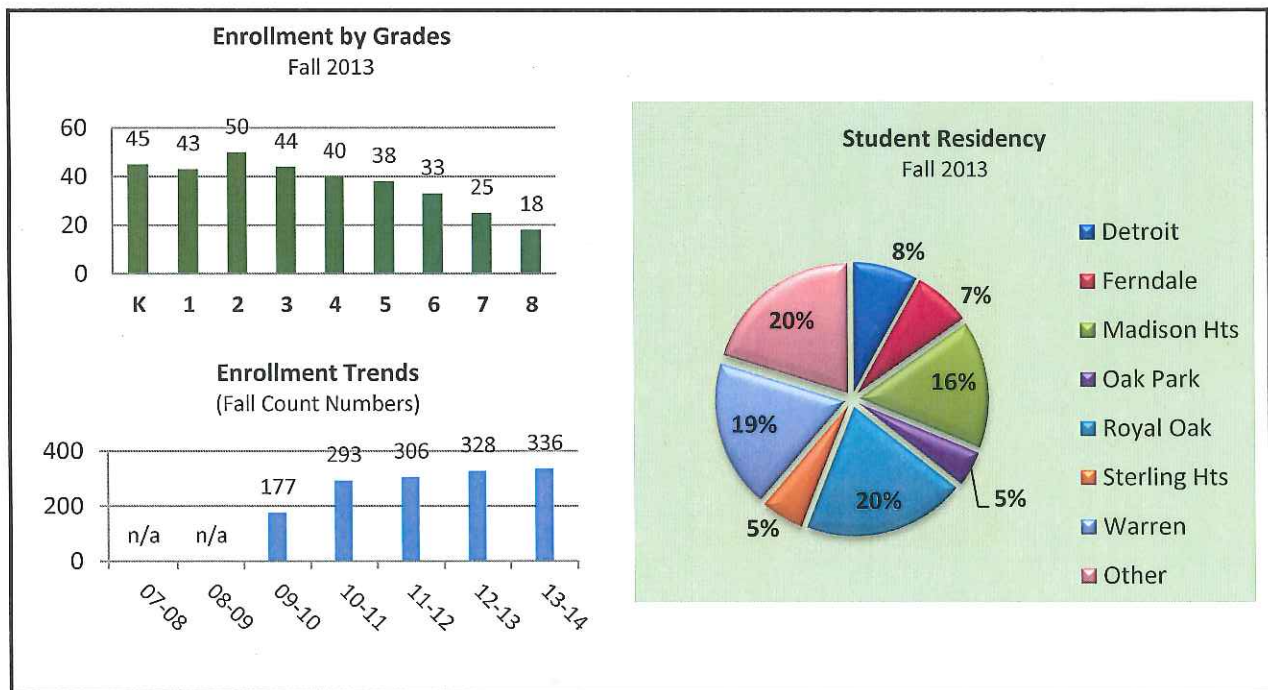
School Year	School Leader Name and Title
2009 to present	Chris Schoenherr Miller, Head of School

**Educational Service Provider**

School Year	ESP Name
July 2008 - present	Choice Schools Associates (MIChoice in 2012 – same company, different division)

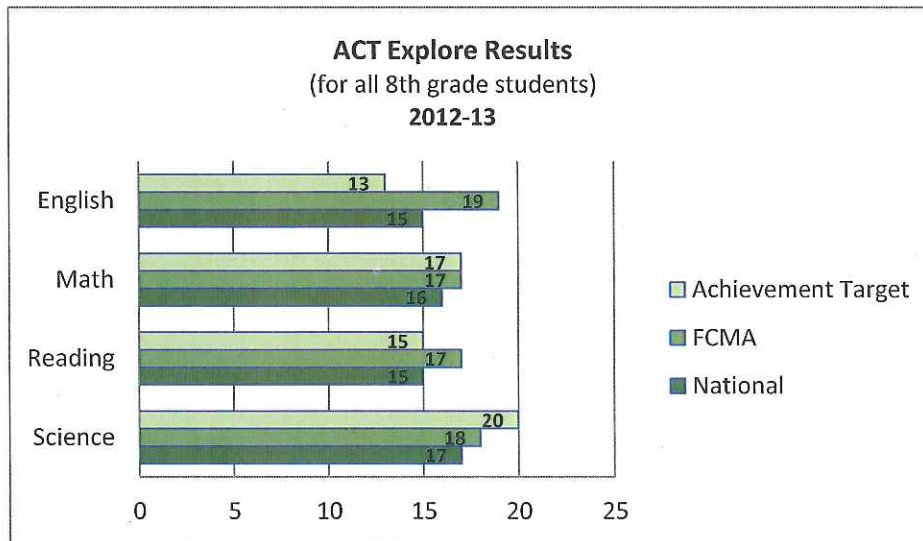
**Mission Statement**

The mission of Four Corners Montessori Academy is to allow each child to discover his/her learning potential, inborn talents, and love of learning by providing him/her with a limitless educational environment.



## Four Corners Montessori Academy MEAP Test Score Data<sup>1</sup>

<b>3 Year Proficiency Comparison Report<sup>2</sup></b>						
<i>Percent of Students Meeting Proficient and Advanced Levels 1&amp;2</i>						
Subject	Grade	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Madison District 2013	2013 State
Reading	3	66	83	67	39	61
	4	83	60	90	54	70
	5	88	78	76	53	72
	6	67	81	64	62	72
	7	68	61	85	44	60
	8	62	100	82	66	73
Math	3	22	53	31	17	40
	4	39	28	53	29	45
	5	24	28	27	27	45
	6	<10	41	39	30	42
	7	23	17	30	23	40
	8	<10	64	24	12	35
Science	5	12	18	<10	<10	17
	8	<10	27	11	<10	20
Social Studies	6	<10	22	39	10	27



The **ACT Explore** assessment is the first in a three part series of ACT tests administered in grades 8-11 that provide information regarding students' progress toward college readiness. Four Corners Montessori Academy's eighth grade students took the test for the first time in 2012-13. The Achievement Target is the benchmark for students who are enrolled three or more years at the Academy, and is thus only included for reference, not comparison. The national results are an average of all students in the country who took the test.

<sup>1</sup> Scores represent the new cut scores that were implemented by the State Board of Education during the 2011-12 school year.

<sup>2</sup>The Family Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that prohibits student identifiable education data from being publicly disseminated. Therefore a group of 10 or less students is considered to contain student identifiable data.