

Agenda Item Summary
Regular Meeting of: January 19

Action Item: **V. C Cal STEAM**

Background:

As we discussed at our last meeting, Cal STEAM has had quite a few challenges as they have gotten up and running. We can further discuss our options and the process we need to follow if we choose to follow through with the revocation.

Included in the packet is the letter from CalSTEAM

Fiscal Impact:

Small loss of revenue to District

Recommendation:

Motion:				
Moved by:		Second:		
Vote:	Aye:	No:	Abstention:	Absent:

RE: California STEAM Sonoma

December 23, 2016

Chris Rafenelli
Superintendent
Liberty Elementary School District
170 Liberty School Road
Petaluma, CA 94952

Dear Superintendent Rafenelli,

I was surprised to receive the email that the board voted to begin the revocation process. You had mentioned that there were a couple of minor issues, and upon you communicating those concerns, we believe the concerns have already been addressed. We acknowledge your desire to end the partnership, and we are working to establish another authorizer, yet we have some concerns with the district's process. We continue to ensure that the education of the almost 400 students now enrolled in our school will continue to enjoy an un-interrupted educational experience. To that end, we have been in the process of looking for another charter authorizer so that we can relieve the district of any responsibilities associated with program oversight. So far things seem to be going well in this area. We will be willing to surrender our charter in line with your request at the end of the 2017-18 academic year. Should the school be able to secure a new authorizer before the end of the current school year, we would surrender the charter at the end of the current academic year. I am sure that you would agree to surrender the charter prior to organizing a transition to a new authorizer would be disruptive to the staff and students of our school.

While we acknowledge that there have been a few bumps along the way in our first few months of operation, we believe the minor issues previously raised, were addressed

immediately. Further, I would like to take a moment to share some of the numerous accomplishments of your students and staff within the past five plus months.

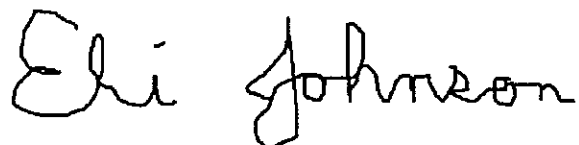
- The P1 attendance report has been submitted, with the school exceeding its ADA target for year
- CALPADS has been submitted and certified ahead of schedule
- We will be operating as a completely virtual program next year to alleviate any concerns around questions raised by the Shasta decision. Regardless of the eventual outcome, moving to a fully virtual model will alleviate any question regarding the learning center, effectively rendering the point moot.
- We have admitted all Special Education students as required, with interim placement meeting conducted within the prescribed time-frames. All students are making progress and receiving their support services in line with their respective IEP's
- We are in the process of being admitted to a SELPA in the next few months as an LEA
- We have secured candidacy with Advance Ed, with our accreditation visit scheduled for February 2017. The school anticipates full accreditation to be awarded in march of 2017
- The school has enrolled almost 400 students to the organization this academic year, with strong continued enrollment for the second semester.
- All required reports have been submitted on time and the school is in full compliance

With continued strong interest in our program, we anticipate enrollment to be will over 500 students by the end of April. All staff continue to work diligently to ensure students are receiving a rich, rigor filled educational experience.

We understand your desire to move on in our partnership, and we are working diligently to accommodate that in a way that will not detrimentally impact students. To this end, we very much appreciate your willingness to assist us in pursuing other potential authorizers from working with us in behalf of students. We remain confident, with the

districts support and cooperation that we can collaborate on a transition that will allow students to continue to enjoy education they are currently receiving.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eli Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Eli Johnson
Chief Academic Officer
California STEAM Sonoma