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PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
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HANNA SKANDERA
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor

December 5, 2014

Dear Public Education Commissioners:

Enclosed is the Final Recommendation for the Tierra Adentro Charter School 2014 renewal application. Charter Schools Division (CSD) staff at the Public Education Department analyzed the renewal applications, reviewed past performance of the school, conducted site visits and gave full consideration to the information gathered in this process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew Pahl".

Matthew Pahl
Interim Director
Charter Schools Division

CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION

By: 

Matthew Pahl, Interim Director of Charter Schools Division, or Designee

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By: _____
Matthew Pahl, Interim Director of Charter Schools Division, or Designee

CSD Summary and Final Recommendation

The New Mexico School of Academics, Art and Artesanía, (TANM), was chartered by the state in 2009. Their first year of operation commenced in 2010. The school's mission is: "The New Mexico School of Academics, Art and Artesanía (TANM) is to create an inclusive and thriving learning environment comprised of a demographically and culturally diverse student population with a focus on academics, art, artesanía (artisanship), and the study of the cultures that comprise our rich New Mexican heritage to ensure awareness, preservation, and progression of our cultural legacy." TANM is a school which provides core subjects, a dual credit high school/college program and an emphasis on New Mexico's historical roots and cultural arts.

Charter Schools Division recommends a 5-year renewal term without conditions for Tierra Adentro due to the following factors: This school has no record of material violations; the school's 3-year grade average is A; financial matters seem in good order and the school has not violated any provision of law; the school has analyzed its progress and shortcomings and proposed future in SMART format to assure continued growth for next charter term.

The New Mexico School of Academics, Art and Artesanía's, (TANM), 3-year report card average is an A progressing from C (2012) to A (2013) then the 2014 grade of B; a 3-year school growth of highest performing students progressed from C (2012) to A (2013) and A (2014); the school outscored or equaled the neighborhood school, Albuquerque High School, in all areas for 2014 from final school grade (B, TANM—B AHS), school growth (C, TANM—D AHS) and growth of highest performing students(A TANM---A AHS) the growth of lowest performing students (B, TANM---C AHS) , and Opportunity to Learn (B, TANM---B AHS).

The New Mexico School of Academics, Art and Artesanía's next term's goals are two academic and two program goals. Goal 1 will increase math proficiency by 7% each year. Goal 2 is similar in that it states the school will increase reading proficiency by 7% each year. Goal 3 addresses dual credit enrollment qualification by the 11th grade. Goal 4 focuses on the cultural component piece of the school's mission by specifically addressing community participation. All of these goals are ambitious and attainable and will serve as an adequate foundation for Contract Negotiations with the PEC should the school be approved for renewal.

Tierra Adentro demonstrates compliance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations relating to financial management. For school year 2013, the audit report showed no findings in Compliance, Deficiency or Material Weakness. TANM also demonstrates complete and timely compliance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations relating to sound financial principles and financial reporting requirements. The school's cash balance at the end of fiscal year 2013 is 6.89% of the operational budget.

The school is meeting all provisions of law. The current administrator has been in place since July 2014 replacing one who had previously served for several years. The Charter Schools Division finds that the school operates efficiently in terms of governance procedures. The school has a full 5-member Board which evaluates the administrator on an annual basis through the teachers and parents. The Governing Board president guides the Governing Board according to the bylaws and maintains integrity of the Governing Board. The members support the staff but understand their primary job is to evaluate the Head Administrator in order to ensure good leadership.

The Charter Schools Division recommends approval of a full 5-year charter term for The New Mexico School of Academics, Art and Artesanía. They have complied with charter laws and show stability in governance and operations. The parents, students, staff and administration indicate they are pleased with the direction the school is going and stated this is a school with unique offerings which cannot be found elsewhere. The goals are adequate for negotiations if the school is renewed.

