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CHARTER SCHOOLS
DIVISION

March 28, 2011

To: Jay Harris, Education Programs Consultant, Charter Schools Division
Beth Hunkapiller, Division Director, Charter Schools Division
Advisory Commission on Charter Schools (ACCS)

RE: Mitigating Circumstances Request for 2010-11 Nonclassroom-Based Funding
Determination Application – Mark West Charter School #616

Mark West Charter School would like to submit information to be taken into consideration when making a determination for the recently submitted 2010-11 Nonclassroom-Based Funding Determination Application sent for the Mark West Charter School. Many items put forth in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Mark West Charter School and the sponsoring district, Mark West Union School District, restrict the ability of the school to alter the percentage of funding expensed for non-instructional purposes.

- 1) Classroom Lease charges are based on actual cost to the Mark West Union School District for buildings being used by the Mark West Charter School with the objective of the Charter School to remain revenue/expense neutral to the sponsoring district. The cost is calculated annually based on the Mark West Charter Schools need for facilities and the availability of District owned classroom space. In the 2009-10 fiscal year \$67,566 was paid to Mark West Union School District leased classroom space or 9% of total expenses.
- 2) The Memorandum of Understanding between the Mark West Charter School and the sponsoring district, Mark West Union School District, specifies that 1% of General Purpose Block Grant revenue and Categorical Block Grant revenue be charged to the charter school for oversight purposes. This fee is considered a non-instructional expense. As this is a requirement of the MOU the charter school does not have the ability to alter the percentage of non instructional expenses in this area, unless mutually agreed to during MOU discussions. In the 2009-10 fiscal year \$6,930 was paid to Mark West Union School District for District Oversight.
- 3) The Memorandum of Understanding between the Mark West Charter School and the sponsoring district, Mark West Union School District, specifies that 6.5% of General Purpose Block Grant revenue be charged to the charter school for Facilities Use. This fee is considered a non-instructional expense. As this is a requirement of the MOU the charter school does not have the ability to alter the percentage of non instructional expenses in this area, unless mutually agreed to during MOU discussions. In the 2009-10 fiscal year \$41,458 was paid to Mark West Union School District for Facilities Use.

- 4) The Mark West Charter School contracts for all staff through the sponsoring district, Mark West Union School District. As a result the Charter School is subject to all requirements of the District negotiated bargaining agreements without the benefit of input. Salary schedules, health and welfare benefits and in part staffing levels (as they relate to language for hourly employees within the bargaining agreement) are dictated by the District as the employer. The Charter School does not have full ability to adjust instructional cost related to staffing and employment.

If you need further clarification regarding this information, please contact Anne Kopache at akopache@mwcharter.org. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Pam Carpenter
Director



Anne Kopache
Business Manger