

**Arizona State Board for Charter Schools  
January 25, 26 2010  
1700 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
Room 164**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present-**

Christy Farley – President  
Norm Butler – Vice President  
Mary Gifford – Superintendent Designee  
Lynne Adams – Public Member  
Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez – Public Member  
Peter Bezanson– Charter School Operator  
Doug Ducey – Business Member  
Dana Krals – Public Member – Arrived at 9:37a.m.  
Jake Logan – Business Member

**Members Absent**

None

Meeting began at 9:33 a.m.

**Agenda Item A:** Pledge of Allegiance

**Agenda Item B:** Moment of Silence

**Agenda Item C: Roll Call:**

Stephanie Bahr called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

**Agenda Item D: Call to the Public**

There were no requests to address the Board.

**Agenda Item E: Arizona Charter Schools Association Update**

Eileen Sigmund, AZ Charter Schools Association President/CEO, gave a brief update on the Association’s work. Ms. Sigmund outlined the Arizona Growth Model that will be available to public school administrators through Arizona Department of Education’s website in February. The goal of the Arizona Growth Model is to make individual student data available to teachers.

**Agenda Item F: Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent's Designee Mary Gifford stated that she would have more information to report tomorrow and requested to give her report at the meeting the following day.

**Agenda Item G: Executive Director’s Report**

1. Status of Charters with previous and/or on-going Board actions: Academy of Arizona, Inc., Blue Adobe Project, Bradley Academy of Excellence, Inc., Cesar Chavez Learning Community, Inc., Discovery Plus Academy, El Pueblo Integral – Teaching and Learning Collaborative, Global Education Foundation, Inc., North Star Charter School, Phoenix Advantage Charter School, Inc.

Ms. Rowe provided an update of on-going Board actions and schools under compliance monitoring. No additional information was requested by the Board.

Sister Judy Bisignano, Charter Representative for Cesar Chavez Learning Community, Inc. addressed the Board to provide a status of the progress she believes they are making to correct the deficiencies outlined in the Revocation Hearing.

2. How Arizona Charter Laws Rank Against The New Model Public Charter School Law

Ms. Rowe provided the Board with information regarding a report from the National Alliance of Public Charter Schools ranking Arizona charter school laws at Number 10 against other states across the country. Board members were provided a copy of the report.

3. Arizona’s application for Race to the Top

Ms. Rowe updated the Board on the Race to the Top application, outlining the four components of reform: Standards and Assessments, P20 Data System, Great Teachers - Great Leaders, and Struggling Schools.

4. Subcommittee Work – AOI, Applications and Legislative Agenda

Ms. Rowe presented information on upcoming items that need to be considered by the Board subcommittees.

**Agenda Item H: Consent Agenda**

1. The Griffin Foundation , Inc. – Change Mission

**MOTION**

Lynne Adams moved to approve the consent agenda. Mary Gifford seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Agenda Item I. Good Cause Extension Request for Consideration** – Discussion and possible action on the request for a good cause extension for the charter contract signing and/or charter opening deadline for Ed Ahead.

**MOTION**

Mary Gifford moved to approve the Good Cause Extension to the signing and execution of the charter contract for Ed Ahead until July 1, 2010 with a planned opening date of Fall 2010-2011 and that the applicant submit any documentation necessary to bring the application current with policy, rule, state or federal law at least 90 days prior to the signing of the contract. Ruby Alvarado- Hernandez seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Agenda Item J. Charter Replication Application** – Discussion and possible action on the replication application and request for a charter submitted:

1. Presidio School – Artisan’s Presidio

**MOTION**

Mary Gifford moved to approve the replication application and approve the charter for Presidio School Inc. to operate Artisan’s Presidio serving grades K-8. Norm Butler seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

2. Presidio School – Presidio De Las Sierras

**MOTION**

Ruby Alvarado- Hernandez moved to approve the replication application and approve the charter for Presidio School Inc. to operate Presidio De Las Sierras serving grades K-8. Norm Butler seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Agenda Item K. Compliance Matters – Discussion and possible action.**

**Arizona School Improvement Plans** – Presentation of School Improvement Plans (A.R.S. §15-241.M)

	<b>Charter Holder Name</b>	<b>Charter School Name</b>
a.	Chester Newton Charter and Montessori School	Chester Newton Charter and Montessori

		School
b.	EDGE School Inc., The	Edge High School – Northwest
c.	Edkey, Inc. - Sequoia Ranch School	Children First Academy – Phoenix
d.	Integrity Education Incorporated	Integrity Education Centre
e.	Legacy Education Group	East Valley High School
f.	Career Success High School – Mesa	Career Success High School – Mesa
g.	Ombudsman Educational Services, Ltd., a subsidiary of Educational Services of America	Ombudsman - Charter East II
h.	Ombudsman Educational Services, Ltd., a subsidiary of Educational Services of America	Ombudsman - Charter Valencia
i.	Omega Alpha Academy	Omega Alpha Academy School
j.	Painted Desert Demonstration Projects, Inc.	STAR Charter School
k.	Pima Prevention Partnership	Pima Partnership Academy
l.	Scottsdale Horizons Charter School	Peoria Horizons Charter School
m.	StarShine Academy	StarShine Academy
n.	West Valley Arts and Technology Academy, Inc.	Riverbend Prep

**MOTION**

Lynne Adams made a motion to acknowledge the timely submission and availability of an Arizona School Improvement Plan for each Charter operating an Underperforming school as identified on the Agenda under Item K with the exception of Edge High School under the charter holder of Edge High School, Inc. Mary Gifford seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

Bob Barrette, Greg Hart, and Rob Pecharich representing Edge School, Inc. addressed the Board. Mr. Barrette stated they were unaware of the scoring criteria for Underperforming designation or what defined a “cohort” and that they didn’t retest their students who have already passed AIMS.

**MOTION**

Lynne Adams made a motion to acknowledge the timely submission and availability of an Arizona School Improvement Plan for each Edge High School Northwest charter holder name of Edge School, Inc. Norm Butler seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Agenda Item L. Discussion and possible action of notification request of Life Skills Center of Arizona, Inc. for a change in the charter representative.**

The Board discussed the role of charter representatives and the necessity of those individuals to be responsive to communication from Board staff.

**MOTION**

Lynne Adams made a motion to deny the notification request to change the charter representative of Life Skills Center of Arizona, Inc. from Benjamin Valdez to Michael Morris and that we place this item on the agenda for further discussion and decision next month with potential penalties. Mary Gifford seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Break: 10:40 am to 10:52 am**

**Agenda Item M. New Charter School Applications** — Discussion and possible action on the following applications and requests for a charter for applicants that provided applications with evidence of a comprehensive program of instruction and a detailed business plan:

1. Ahwatukee Foothills Prep Early College High School, Inc.

Kristen Jordison, representing Ahwatukee Foothills Prep Early College High School, Inc. addressed the Board, provided some background information on her qualifications, experience and education. Ms. Jordison answered the Board's questions concerning the application and addressed issues the Board raised with a current school under Mosaica that is Underperforming.

**MOTION**

Lynne Adams made a motion to approve the application package and grant a charter to Ahwatukee Foothills Prep Early College High School, Inc. to establish Ahwatukee Foothills Prep Early College High School. Norm Butler seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously  
(Mary Gifford and Peter Bezanson recused)**

2. Arizona Secondary Charter School, Inc.

Rachel Thomas and Lynne Alipio, representing Arizona Secondary Charter School, addressed the Board, giving information about the schools they currently operate in San Diego, CA. They answered questions from the Board regarding a denied charter in San Diego, the low test scores at their current schools in San Diego, and a notice from the school district of violating their charter. The applicant also answered questions regarding the success of their current schools and the issues with their budget, including projected student attendance and the number of qualified teachers.

**MOTION**

Lynne Adams made a motion to reject the application and the request for a charter school of Arizona Secondary Charter School, Inc. to establish a charter school for the reason that the applicant is not sufficiently qualified to operate a charter school due to the applicant's academic history in operating other charter schools. After further discussion, Ms. Adams amended the motion to include concerns regarding teaching staff levels of qualifications proposed in the application in light of the proposed course offerings, the proposed instruction and the proposed budget and deficiency in the revenue portion of the budget based on projection of 100% attendance. Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez seconded the amended motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

3. BNE Ashur

Banipal Benjamin, Angela Smithson and Esther Davis representing BNE Ashur, addressed the Board, provided some background information on their qualifications, experience and education. Ms. Smithson's role will be to oversee curriculum and be the principal and Ms. Davis would be in charge of compliance and operations. Mr. Benjamin and Ms. Davis discussed how they would keep the school separate from the church whose grounds they would occupy and whose congregation they would draw upon for enrollment.

**MOTION**

Norm Butler made a motion to approve the application and grant a charter to BNE Ashur to establish BNE Ashur Charter School. Jake Logan seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

4. Compass Points International, Inc.

Geneva Saint Amour, representing Compass Points International, Inc., addressed the Board in regards to an expired Fingerprint Clearance Card, the curriculum to be used, and the proposed school site.

**MOTION**

Mary Gifford made a motion to approve the application and grant a charter to Compass Points International, Inc. to establish Northpoint Academy charter school. Dana Krals seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

5. Educational Enterprises, Inc.

Paul Kremer, Dr. Wendy Noble, and Ms. Hanson, representing Educational Enterprises, Inc., answered questions from the Board relating to the school's location and how the demographic is different from the current school,

EAGLE College Prep, which is located in the same location. Dr. Noble described the methods of curriculum, grading, and testing.

**MOTION**

Mary Gifford made a motion to approve the application and grant a charter to Educational Enterprises, Inc. to establish EAGLE College Prep Performing Arts school. Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

6. Leading Edge Academy Maricopa

Ron Body, Delmer Geesey, and Jonathan Johnson, representing Leading Edge Academy Maricopa, discussed the relationship between Leading Edge Maricopa and LEAD, including philosophical, educational, financial, and personnel ideals.

**MOTION**

Jake Logan made a motion to approve the application and grant a charter to Leading Edge Academy Maricopa to establish the Leading Edge Academy Maricopa. Doug Ducey seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

7. Mesa School-Community Alliance

Paul Wright and Michelle Diamond spoke briefly on the school locations and how Mesa Public Schools is looking to expand the educational options in the East Valley.

**MOTION**

Mary Gifford made a motion to Approve the application and grant a charter to Mesa School – Community Alliance to establish Superstition School, McKellips School and Riverview High School charter schools. Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Adjournment**

**The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:20 p.m.**

**Arizona State Board for Charter Schools  
January 25, 26 2010  
1700 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
Room 164**

**MINUTES**

**January 26, 2010**

**Members Present-**

Christy Farley – President  
Norm Butler – Vice President  
Mary Gifford – Superintendent Designee  
Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez – Public Member  
Peter Bezanson– Charter School Operator  
Doug Ducey – Business Member  
Dana Krals – Public Member  
Jake Logan – Business Member

**Members Absent**

Lynne Adams – Public Member

Meeting began at 9:33 a.m.

**Agenda Item A:** Pledge of Allegiance

**Agenda Item B:** Moment of Silence

**Agenda Item C: Roll Call:**

Stephanie Bahr called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

**Agenda Item M. New Charter School Applications** — Discussion and possible action on the following applications and requests for a charter for applicants that provided applications with evidence of a comprehensive program of instruction and a detailed business plan:

8. Opportunities for Youth, Inc.

Jill Gaitens, representing Opportunities for Youth, Inc. addressed the Board and provided background information on her qualifications, experience and education. Ms. Gaitens also discussed keeping the middle school and high school students separate due to the differences in the student population based on the age group such as counseling and behavioral issues despite sharing a facility.

**MOTION**

Jake Logan made a motion to approve the application and grant a charter to Opportunities for Youth, Inc. to establish the Vistas Leadership High School charter school. Dana Krals seconded the motion.

**Motion passed 7-1**

(No:Farley)

9. Pima Prevention Partnership

Henry Kressler, Tom Miller, and Dr. Brenda Even representing Pima Prevention Partnership, addressed the Board, provided some background information on their qualifications, experience and education. Mr. Miller discussed Pima Partnership Academy, their school currently operating in Tucson, and why they have an Underperforming designation, including disciplinary problems and testing issues. Mr. Kressler addressed the Board's concerns regarding their financial audit.

**MOTION**

Mary Gifford made a motion to approve the application and grant a charter to Pima Prevention Partnership to establish Phoenix Partnership High School. Norm Butler seconded the motion.

**Motion passed 6-2**

(No: Bezanson, Farley)

10. PLC Arts Academy at Glendale, Inc.

Veronica Wimberly, representing PLC Arts Academy at Glendale, Inc., addressed the Board, provided some background information on her qualifications, experience and education. Ms. Wimberly discussed why one of PLC's current schools did not meet AYP and attributed it to the school having a small cohort and the demographic of students and what the school is doing to meet AYP.

**MOTION**

Mary Gifford made a motion to approve the application and grant a charter to PLC Arts Academy at Glendale, Inc. to establish Arts Academy at Glendale charter school. Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

11. PLC Arts Academy at Scottsdale, Inc.

Veronica Wimberly, representing PLC Arts Academy at Scottsdale, Inc., explained to the Board their rationale for closing the current Arts Academy at Scottsdale, and replacing it with new charter. Ms. Wimberly also discussed the fact that enrollment at the new school would be open and current students would not be guaranteed enrollment.

**MOTION**

Mary Gifford made a motion to approve the application and grant a new charter to PLC Arts Academy at Scottsdale, Inc. to establish Arts Academy at Scottsdale charter school. Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

13. South Phoenix Leadership Academy, Inc.

George Martin, representing South Phoenix Leadership Academy, Inc., and Scott Gill with Expeditionary Learning, addressed the board regarding the composition of the applicant board, which currently only has one member, and the location of the proposed school. Mr. Martin also reviewed the application budget based on the submitted information and had Mr. Gill speak about funding that is coming from Expeditionary Learning. President Farley also wanted an explanation why Mr. Martin has had multiple employers in the last several years.

**MOTION**

Mary Gifford moved to convene Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A) (2). Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Board convened Executive Session at 12:42.**

**Board resumed General Session at 1:14.**

**MOTION**

Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez made a motion to approve the application package and grant a charter to South Phoenix Leadership Academy to establish South Phoenix Leadership Academy charter school. Jake Logan seconded the motion.

**Motion passed 6-2**

(No: Bezanson, Gifford)

12. South Phoenix Academy, Inc.

Rhonda Owens and Brian Shipman, representing South Phoenix Academy, Inc., introduced themselves and their history with operating current charter schools. Ms. Owens answered the Board's questions and explained why they want two separate charters for the different grades, even though they will be sharing a site.

**MOTION**

Jake Logan made a motion to approve the application and grant a charter to South Phoenix Academy, Inc. to establish South Phoenix Prep and Arts Academy. Dana Krals seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

(Abstain: Ducey)

14. South Valley Academy, Inc.

Rhonda Owens and Brian Shipman represented South Valley Academy, Inc.

**MOTION**

Mary Gifford made a motion to approve the application and grant a charter to South Valley Academy, Inc. to establish South Valley Prep and Arts Academy. Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

15. The Farm at Mission Montessori Academy, L.L.C.

JoDene Tryon, representing The Farm at Mission Montessori Academy, L.L.C., gave a brief overview of the history with operating current charter schools. The Board addressed concerns they had regarding the secured funding for the school and what assets the school had already secured. Class size and open enrollment concerns were addressed by Ms. Tryon.

**MOTION**

Mary Gifford made a motion to approve the application and grant a charter to The Farm at Mission Montessori Academy, LLC to establish The Farm at Mission Montessori Academy. Jake Logan seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Break: 1:55 pm to 2:54 pm**

**Agenda Item N. New Charter School Applications** — Discussion and possible action on the following applications and requests for a charter for applicants that provided applications that do not provide evidence of a comprehensive program of instruction and/or a detailed business plan but who requested that their applications be forwarded to the Board for consideration:

1. George Gervin Youth Center, Inc.

Wylie Davis, representing George Gervin Youth Center, Inc., introduced the governing board in attendance and authorized representative, Barbara Hawkins. Ms. Hawkins reviewed the mission, curriculum, instruction, and rationale submitted in the application. The Board wanted an explanation to why funding was not secured. Ms. Hawkins stated that the funding is fluid and is constantly being spent and replaced. Ms. Hawkins answered questions regarding the demographic of the students and how the targeted student population would be served.

**MOTION**

Mary Gifford moved to convene Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A) (2). Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

(Absent: Logan)

**Board convened Executive Session at 2:40.**

**Board resumed General Session at 3:21.**

After further discussion, the lack of curriculum alignment was addressed by Ms. Milholm, the curriculum specialist and Ms. Hawkins for George Gervin Youth Center, Inc.

**MOTION**

Norm Butler made a motion to reject the application and the request for a charter of George Gervin Youth Center, Inc., to establish a charter school for the reasons that its application package failed to meet the requirements of Title 15, Article 8 due to a lack of curriculum aligned to the State Academic Standards, lack of demonstration of a comprehensive program of instruction as stated in the Scoring Rubric and also based on information presented in the Executive Session, that the applicant is not sufficiently qualified to operate a charter school. Dana Krals seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

(Absent: Logan)



2. Graysmark School Corp.

Tanya Graysmark, representing Graysmark School Corp., addressed the Board and provided some background information on her qualifications, experience and education. The Board addressed concerns regarding a lack of qualified staff, funding, and insurance/issues that might arise regarding the animal aspect of the school.

**MOTION**

Mary Gifford made a motion to reject the application and the request for a charter of Graysmark Schools Corp. to establish a charter school for the reasons that the application package failed to meet the requirements of Title 15, Article 8 due to a lack of curriculum aligned to the state standards and to a lack of a business and financial plan as stated in the Scoring Rubric. Ruby Alvarado Hernandez seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

(Absent: Logan)

3. Indigo Charter School

Cindy Komar and Melissa Clark, representing Indigo Charter School, addressed the Board and provided some background information on their qualifications, experience and education. Scott Gill from Expeditionary Learning was also present to address funding and curriculum issues.

**MOTION**

Norm Butler made the motion to reject the application and the request for a charter of Indigo Charter School to establish a charter school for the reasons that the application package failed to meet the requirements of Title 15, Article 8 due to lack of curriculum aligned to the State Academic records, a lack of demonstration of a comprehensive program of instruction, and lack of a financial plan as stated in the Scoring Rubric. Doug Ducey seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

(Absent: Logan)

4. International Charter School of Arizona, Inc.

Peter Davies and Laurant Badoux, representing the International Charter School of Arizona, Inc., addressed the Board and provided some background information on their qualifications, experience and education. Mr. Davies summarized the achievements and curriculum of their current school, the International School of Arizona, and their language immersion programs.

**MOTION**

Norm Butler made a motion to reject the application and the request for a charter of International Charter School of Arizona, Inc. to establish a charter school for the reason that the application package failed to meet the requirements of Title 15, Article 8 due to lack of curriculum aligned to the State Academic Standards. Mary Gifford seconded the motion.

**Motion passed 5-1**

(No: Bezanson; Absent: Krals, Logan)

**Agenda Item O. Election of Officers**

**MOTION**

Christy Farley nominated Norm Butler for President. Mary Gifford seconded the nomination.

**Motion passed unanimously**

(Absent: Krals, Logan)

**MOTION**

Christy Farley nominated Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez for Vice President. Norm Butler seconded the nomination.

**Motion passed unanimously**

(Absent: Krals, Logan)

**Agenda Item P. Board Comments** - Comments by Board members on administrative matters and current and upcoming events.

There were no Board Comments.

**Agenda Item Q. Approval of Minutes**

November 20, 2009 Regular Session

Tabled due to lack of quorum.

**Agenda Item R: Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:50 p.m.

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Signature

Date