

**Arizona State Board for Charter Schools  
September 28, 2009  
1700 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
Room 164**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present-**

Christy Farley – President  
Norm Butler – Vice President  
Mary Gifford – Superintendent Designee  
Magdalena Verdugo – Charter School Operator  
Lynne Adams – Public Member  
Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez – Public Member  
Dana Krals – Public Member  
Jake Logan – Business Member

**Members Absent**

None

Meeting began at 9:32 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**

The Board received Call to the Public Request form from Ronda Owens and Molly Ryan. Ms. Owens updated the board on the current status of Skyline District 5 School. Ms. Owens reported the school was previously designated as Underperforming when it was a school site under Casa Blanca Middle School, Inc. The school now has a Performing AZ LEARNS label and has an ESS AIMS passing rate of 93%.

**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 spotlighted BASIS Tucson, which is featured in the upcoming film "*2 Million Minutes: The 21st Century Solution*". For the film's promotion, Newt Gingrich and Al Sharpton, will visit the school on October 1, 2009 and will attend the premier that evening. Next, Ms. Sigmund gave an update on their upcoming conference on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. It will feature data management and reporting systems demonstrations, community partners, and over 60 workshops. Ms. Sigmund outlined for the Board the Association's Performance Management Program which includes Charter Starter Webinar, Data Boot Camp and Data Basic Training classes to help teachers and school leaders use data to their advantage to improve student achievement. Ms. Sigmund closed her presentation with several graphs showing the student inequities between charter schools and district schools in regards to pupil revenue as it relates to a parent lawsuit on behalf of charter schools.

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

Superintendent's Designee Mary Gifford reported that ADE will begin having their quarterly meetings starting next month.

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

1. Status of charters with previous and/or on-going board actions: Bradley Academy of Excellence, Inc., Cesar Chavez Learning Community, Inc., North Star Charter School, Inc., Phoenix Advantage

Charter School, Inc., Shonto Governing Board of Education, Inc., Discovery Plus Academy, and Sierra Summit Academy.

Executive Director DeAnna Rowe stated that the update of on-going Board actions and schools under compliance monitoring was included in the Board's materials. No additional information was requested by the Board.

## 2. Legislative Update

Ms. Rowe reviewed several bills passed into legislation that affect Charter Schools.

- Senate Bill 1197 establishes a Task Force on Best Practices for Special Education and Behavior Management. Each charter school governing body must conduct a public meeting before June 30, 2010, to review and consider adoption of the Task Force's best practices recommendation. The Task Force's report will be posted on the Board's website.
- Senate Bill 1196 allows charter schools to provide instruction to a single gender. Schools that are currently operating may amend their charter using the Program of Instruction Amendment Request to allow this change.
- Senate Bill 1386 allows charters to be renewed every 20 years after the initial renewal at 15 years. This bill also clarifies that existing charter contracts are effective for 15 years from the first day of the fiscal year the charter school is in operation. Ms. Rowe stated this portion of the bill will require further review by staff and legal counsel.
- Senate Bill 1196 outlines changes in the TAPBI program, which is now renamed Arizona Online Instruction (AOI). This bill removes the cap on the number of schools eligible to provide online instruction and addresses issues such as standards, annual reporting system, providers, and funding.

## 3. Introduction of New Staff

Ms. Rowe introduced the staff that recently joined the Board, including Stephanie Bahr, Constituent Services Specialist, Vicki Morris, Academic Program Specialist, and Jeff Arvizu, Academic Program Specialist.

## 4. Site Visits

Ms. Rowe updated the Board on the site visits scheduled for this school year, including 45 1<sup>st</sup> year visits, 34 2<sup>nd</sup> year visits, and 88 charter schools eligible for renewal, some of which may require a site visit.

## 5. Upcoming Meetings

Ms. Rowe suggested the following dates for the Board's future meetings: No October meeting; November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009; No December meeting; January 25, 2010 for consideration of new charter applications with the potential for a second meeting in January based on the number of applications that may be considered. An email will be sent to Board members to confirm availability for those dates.

## **Agenda Item H: Consent Agenda**

1. Allsport Enterprises, Inc. – Change in legal status
2. Apex Public Charter Academy – Change charter holder name
3. Arts Academy of Mesa Public Charter Elementary School – Change charter holder name
4. Arts Academy of Mesa Public Charter Elementary School – Exception to USFRCS and Procurement Law
5. CAFA, Inc. operating Learning Foundation and Performing Arts Gilbert - Exception to USFRCS and Procurement Law
6. CAFA, Inc. operating Learning Foundation and Performing Arts Alta Mesa - Exception to USFRCS and Procurement Law
7. Candeo Schools, Inc. - Exception to USFRCS and Procurement Law
8. Carden of Tucson, Inc. – Change in mission
9. Challenge School, Inc. – Increase grades served
10. D.W. Higgins Institute – Decrease number of instructional days
11. Educational Enterprises, Inc. - Exception to USFRCS and Procurement Law
12. Gilbert Arts Academy Public Charter Elementary School - Exception to USFRCS and Procurement Law
13. Glendale Preparatory Academy - Exception to USFRCS and Procurement Law
14. Great Hearts Academies – Phoenix Core - Exception to USFRCS and Procurement Law
15. Haven Montessori Children's House, Inc. - Exception to USFRCS and Procurement Law
16. Lake Havasu Charter School – Decrease number of instructional days
17. Laveen Preparatory School: a Challenge Academy – Change charter holder name

18. Liberty Arts Academy Public Charter Elementary School - Exception to USFRCS and Procurement Law
19. Little Lamb Community School – Decrease grades served
20. Mountain English Spanish Academy, a Public Charter School – Change in program of instruction
21. Mountain English Spanish Academy, a Public Charter School – Change in mission
22. Ombudsman Educational Services, LTD, a subsidiary of Educational Services of America – Decrease grades served
23. Scottsdale Preparatory Academy - Exception to USFRCS and Procurement Law
24. South Pointe Public Charter Junior High School – Decrease grades served
25. Successful Beginnings, Inc. – Decrease grades served
26. Tucson Accelerated Public Charter High School – Change charter holder name
27. Ventana Academic Charter School – Change Bylaws
28. Ventana Academic Charter School – Exception to USFRCS and Procurement Law

**MOTION**

Norm Butler moved to approve items 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 27, and 28. Mary Gifford seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

**MOTION**

Mary Gifford moved to approve items 2, 3, 4, 12, 18, 24, and 26. Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously  
(Norm Butler abstained)**

**Agenda Item J. Discussion and Consideration of Consent Agreement for the Voluntary Surrender and Termination of the Charter Contract for Shonto Governing Board of Education, Inc. for the operation of Shonto Preparatory School.**

Richard McClements briefly thanked the Board and stated that it has been a pleasure working with them in regard to Shonto Preparatory School and looks forward to continuing to work together with Shonto Preparatory Technology High School.

**MOTION**

Lynne Adams moved to accept the terms of the Consent Agreement for the Voluntary Surrender and Termination of the Charter Contract for Shonto Governing Board of Education, Inc. on the condition that Shonto Governing Board of Education, Inc. submits minutes from its board meeting which approved the terms of the Agreement by November 1, 2009. Mary Gifford seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Agenda Item I. Discussion and possible action of notification and amendment requests of Heritage Preparatory School, Inc.**

1. Transfer of charter contract to American Leadership Academy, Inc.
2. Change in charter representative
3. Change in program of instruction
4. Change in mission

**MOTION**

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

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Board convened Executive Session at 10:38.**

**Board resumed General Session at 10:50 and took a break until 11:00.**

Glenn Way, charter representative for American Leadership Academy, introduced himself and those of this staff who were present, including Lorna Hale, Sharon Moss, Paul Sinclair, Dave Ericson, Richard Morley, and Ryan Christensen. Mr. Way answered questions regarding his background and his vision for the school. Mr. Way’s staff also briefly answered questions regarding their backgrounds and qualifications.

**MOTION**

Lynne Adams moved to approve items I.1-I.4. Jake Logan seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Agenda Item K. Presentation, discussion, review and consideration of renewal application and process, including the identification of an acceptable level of academic performance for charter schools as it relates to performance management plans.**

Martha Morgan presented the proposed renewal application process developed by the Policy, Rule, and Contracts subcommittee for charters eligible for renewal. Ms. Morgan presented the subcommittee’s work on an acceptable level of academic performance for the purpose of waiving the academic section of the renewal application for charters with schools that meet acceptable levels academic performance.

**MOTION**

Lynne Adams made a motion to approve waiving renewal application academic requirements for charter holders with a school or schools that meet the following acceptable levels of performance:

1. A school that serves any students between grades three and eight must meet or exceed the state average percent proficient in reading and in math on the state assessment and has a student growth percentile of no less than minus one standard deviation from the state median growth percentile in reading and in math.
2. A school that serves students no higher than grade two must meet or exceed the state average scale score on the Department of Education’s norm-referenced test administered to second grade students.
3. A school that serves any students in grades ten to twelve must meet or exceed the state average percent proficient in reading and in math on the state assessment.

Mary Gifford seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

**MOTION**

Norm Butler made a motion to approve the renewal application with modifications as suggested by legal counsel and with the additional changes as recommended by Lynne Adams and also provide the ability for staff to work with counsel to make necessary modifications in the document as well as make subsequent changes as necessary. Mary Gifford seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Agenda Item L. Board Comments**

There were none.

**Agenda Item M. Approval of Minutes**

July 13, 2009 Regular Session

**MOTION**

Jake Logan made a motion to approve the minutes of July 13, 2009 as presented. Ruby Alvarado-Hernandez seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Agenda Item N: Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:52 p.m.

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Signature

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Date