

Charter Mission Amendment Request

Charterholder Info

Charter Holder

Name:
AZ Compass Schools, Inc.

CTDS:
07-85-42-000

Mailing Address:
550 W. Warner Rd.
Chandler, AZ 85225
> [View detailed info](#)

Representative

Name:
Ronda Owens

Phone Number:
4807792000

Fax Number:
480-705-9045

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Mission

Change From

The mission of AZ Compass Prep School is to provide each student and family we serve with high quality college preparatory education programs and services designed to stimulate life-long learning while developing character through academics, athletics and the arts.

Change To

AZ Compass School is a unique concept school focused on academics, arts, and athletics designed to provide excellence and responsive education services to at-risk students and families who are seeking a successful pre-professional career preparation experience without sacrificing post-secondary education opportunities.

Attachments

Board Minutes —  [Download File](#)

Additional Information*

No documents were uploaded.

Signatures

Charter Representative Signature
Ronda Owens 01/24/2014

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

AZ Compass Schools, Inc. DBA AZ COMPASS PREP SCHOOL

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Board of Trustees of AZ Compass Schools, Inc. and to the general public that the Board will hold a meeting, open to the public as specified below. The Board reserves the right to change the order of items on the agenda, with the exception of public hearings set for a specific time. One or more members of the Board may participate in the meeting by telephonic communications.

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03.A.2 and A.3, the Board may vote to go into Executive Session, which will not be open to the public, for legal advice concerning any item on the agenda or hearing or to review, discuss and consider records exempt by law from public inspection, including the receipt and discussion of information or testimony that is specifically required to be maintained as confidential by state or federal law.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting AZ Compass Prep School at (480) 779-2000. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

DATED AND POSTED this 13th day of January, 2014



By _____

Swen Anderson
Board President

**Board of Trustees
AZ Compass Prep School**

**January 14, 2014 at 3pm
AZ Compass Prep School
2020 N Arizona Ave
Chandler, AZ 85225**

**GENERAL SESSION
AZ Compass Prep School
2020 N Arizona Ave
Chandler, AZ 85225**

**ALL ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA ARE OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION
INCLUDING REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS**

January 14, 2014 at 3pm

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance
3. Open Call to the Public: If the item is not an Agenda Item, the Board may or may not wish to address the issue at this time. Please register with the Secretary of the Board to Speak at the Open Call. Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes per person.
4. Agendas: Review and approve to previous Board Meeting minutes
5. Change the mission statement to include at -risk students.
6. Review and approve policies and procedures for impact aid.
7. Adjourn Meeting.

Board Minutes

AZ Compass Schools, Inc.

2020 N Arizona Ave Suite 109

Chandler, AZ 85225

ALL ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA ARE OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION INCLUDING REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

January 14, 2014 at 3pm

1. Call to Order at 3:07pm by Swen Anderson
2. Present: Swen Anderson, Kellyn Wines, Zyzick Owens, Scott Varga. Ex Officio: Ronda Owens
3. Public Comment - None
4. Mr. Anderson makes a motion to approve the previous meetings minutes, Mr. Varga seconds the motion, and all were in favor.
5. Mr. Anderson makes a motion to approve the change in mission to include at-risk students, Ms. Wines seconds the motion, and all were in favor.

Old Mission:

The mission of AZ Compass Prep School is to provide each student and family we serve with high quality college preparatory educational programs and services designed to stimulate life-long learning while developing character through academics, athletics and the arts.

New Mission:

AZ Compass School is a unique concept school focused on academics, arts, and athletics designed to provide excellence and responsive education services to at-risk students and families who are seeking a successful pre-professional career preparation experience without sacrificing post-secondary education opportunities.

6. Mr. Anderson makes a motion to approve the policies and procedures for impact aid, Ms. Wines seconds the motion and all were in favor.
8. Mr. Zyzick Owens made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Varga seconds the motion and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 330pm.

Program of Instruction Amendment Request

Charterholder Info

Charter Holder

Name:
AZ Compass Schools, Inc.

CTDS:
07-85-42-000

Mailing Address:
550 W. Warner Rd.
Chandler, AZ 85225
> [View detailed info](#)

Representative

Name:
Ronda Owens

Phone Number:
4807792000

Fax Number:
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Downloads

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Description of changes

Change From:

Academics AZ Compass Prep School is designed to be a high-quality charter school with a college prep curriculum for grades 7th through 12th. AZ Compass Prep School will offer a rigorous, research-based curriculum, aligned to Arizona State standards that is designed to prepare students to enter college. The curriculum will include advanced placement in dual enrollment courses. AZ Compass Prep Schools graduation requirements have been aligned to meet the college entrance requirements of the Arizona State colleges and universities. Arts AZ Compass Prep School will offer an integrated and comprehensive performance and visual arts education, aligned to the Arizona State articulated standards, as well as the national standards for arts education. Within the art disciplines of dance, theater and visual arts students in grades 7-12 experience and create as they progress through the program. Students learn and are evaluated from beginning to advanced level by practical, written and performance-based evaluations. Athletics The curriculum will be supplemented with experiences outside the classroom that are designed to enhance our students understanding and appreciation for the lessons of the core courses. AZ Compass Prep School will offer sports programs in volleyball, basketball, track, rugby, softball, and cheer.

Change To:

Academics AZ Compass Prep School is designed to be a high-quality charter school with a college prep curriculum for grades 7th through 12th. AZ Compass Prep School will offer a rigorous, research-based curriculum, aligned to Arizona College and Career Ready Standards that is designed to prepare students to enter college or the workforce. The curriculum will include advanced placement and dual enrollment courses. AZ Compass Prep School will use a RTI model to meet the needs of all "at-risk" students in poor academic standing, as well as students in need of credit recovery. AZ Compass Prep Schools graduation requirements have been aligned to meet the college entrance requirements of the Arizona State colleges and universities. Arts AZ Compass Prep School will offer an integrated and comprehensive performance and visual arts education, aligned to the Arizona State articulated standards, as well as the national standards for arts education. Within the art disciplines of dance, theater and visual arts students in grades 7-12 experience and create as they progress through the program. Students learn and are evaluated for beginning to advanced level by practical, written and performance-based evaluations. Athletics The curriculum will be supplemented with experiences outside the classroom that are designed to enhance our students understanding and appreciation for the lessons of the core courses. AZ Compass Prep School will offer sports programs in volleyball, basketball, track, rugby, softball, and cheer.

Attachments

Board Minutes –  [Download File](#)

Narrative that describes 1) the change, to include rationale and background and 2) how the program of instruction change will support the educational philosophy and target population served. –  [Download File](#)

Performance Management Plan Narrative –  [Download File](#)

Additional Information*

No documents were uploaded.

Signature

Charter Representative Signature
Ronda Owens 03/15/2014

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

AZ Compass Schools, Inc. DBA AZ COMPASS PREP SCHOOL

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DATED AND POSTED this 11th day of March, 2014



By _____

Swen Anderson
Board President

**Board of Trustees
AZ Compass Prep School**

**March 12, 2014 at 4pm
AZ Compass Prep School
2020 N Arizona Ave
Chandler, AZ 85225**

**GENERAL SESSION
AZ Compass Prep School
2020 N Arizona Ave
Chandler, AZ 85225**

**ALL ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA ARE OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION
INCLUDING REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS**

March 12, 2014 at 4pm

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance
3. Open Call to the Public: If the item is not an Agenda Item, the Board may or may not wish to address the issue at this time. Please register with the Secretary of the Board to Speak at the Open Call. Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes per person.
4. Agendas: Review and approve to previous Board Meeting minutes
5. Review and approve program of instruction change.
6. Adjourn Meeting.

Board Minutes

AZ Compass Schools, Inc.

2020 N Arizona Ave Suite 109

Chandler, AZ 85225

ALL ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA ARE OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION INCLUDING REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

March 12, 2014 at 400pm

1. Call to Order at 4:10pm by Swen Anderson
2. Present: Swen Anderson, Kellyn Wines, Zyzick Owens, Scott Varga. Ex Officio: Ronda Owens; public Shereasa Braxton
3. Public Comment – Shereasa noted she is observing a board meeting as a part of the completion of her Master’s program in education.
4. Mr. Anderson makes a motion to approve the previous meetings minutes, Ms. Wines seconds the motion, and all were in favor.
5. Mr. Varga makes a motion to approve the change in in program of instruction, Mr. Anderson seconds the motion, and all were in favor.

Old Program of Instruction

Academics

AZ Compass Prep School is designed to be a high-quality charter school with a college prep curriculum for grades 7th through 12th. AZ Compass Prep School will offer a rigorous, research-based curriculum, aligned to Arizona State standards that is designed to prepare students to enter college. The curriculum will include advanced placement in dual enrollment courses. AZ Compass Prep School graduation requirements have been aligned to meet the college entrance requirements of the Arizona State colleges and universities.

Arts

AZ Compass Prep School will offer an integrated and comprehensive performance and visual arts education, aligned to the Arizona State articulated standards, as well as the national standards for arts education. Within the art disciplines of dance, theater and visual arts students in grades 7-12 experience and create as they progress through the program. Students learn and are evaluated from beginning to advanced level by practical, written and performance-based evaluations.

Athletics

The curriculum will be supplemented with experiences outside the classroom that are designed to enhance our students understanding and appreciation for the lessons of the core courses. AZ Compass Prep School will offer sports programs in volleyball, basketball, track, rugby, softball, and cheer.

New Program of Instruction

Academics

AZ Compass Prep School is designed to be a high-quality charter school with a college prep curriculum for grades 7th through 12th. AZ Compass Prep School will offer a rigorous, research-based curriculum, aligned to Arizona College and Career Ready Standards that is designed to prepare students to enter college or the workforce. The curriculum will include advanced placement and dual enrollment courses. AZ Compass Prep School will use a RTI model to meet the needs of all “at-risk” students in poor academic standing as well as students in need of credit recovery. AZ Compass Prep School graduation requirements have been aligned to meet the college entrance requirements of the Arizona State colleges and universities.

Arts

AZ Compass Prep School will offer an integrated and comprehensive performance and visual arts education, aligned to the Arizona State articulated standards, as well as the national standards for arts education. Within the art disciplines of dance, theater and visual arts students in grades 7-12 experience and create as they progress through the program. Students learn and are evaluated for beginning to advanced level by practical, written and performance-based evaluations.

Athletics

The curriculum will be supplemented with experiences outside the classroom that are designed to enhance our students understanding and appreciation for the lessons of the core courses. AZ Compass Prep School will offer sports programs in volleyball, basketball, track, rugby, softball, and cheer.

6. Mr. Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Owens seconds the motion and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 430pm.



Program of Instruction Amendment Request
Narrative

1. Describe the proposed changes to the program of instruction to include, curricula, methods of instruction, and methods of assessment.

AZ Compass Prep leaders have spent much time and effort in developing and implementing standards based learning systems. The Leadership team created a five year plan for adopting instructional resources and developed systems for identifying and monitoring “at-risk” students in poor academic standing (Tier 2, Tier 3, ELL and SPED students).

Curricula: Arizona Compass Prep adopted three new Pearson products including *My Foundations Lab* (gr. 9-12), *Gradpoint* (gr. 6-12), and *SuccessMaker* (gr. 3-9). These products are used for core, intervention, acceleration and enrichment.

For Mathematics, Arizona Compass Prep adopted Pearson’s *Digits*, 2012 core math program for grades 7-8 and Pearson’s *Integrated Math*, 2014 core program for grades 9-12. Both programs are research-based and developed from the College and Career Ready Standards.

For English Language Arts, AZ Compass Prep plans to adopt the *Pearson Lit*, 2015 English Language Arts program for grades 7-12. This program was also developed from the College and Career Ready Standards. Presently, the *Pearson Lit*, 2015 core program is being piloted in grade 8 and High School. Currently, the core English Language Arts resource for grades 7-8 is *The Language of Literature*, from McDougal Littell. The core English Language Arts resource for grades high school is *Elements of Language* by Holt, 2009.

The Arts & Athletics components at AZ Compass Prep is highly valued. “Researchers are demonstrating that there are many ways that children learn: teachers can reach students through their spatial, musical, kinesthetic, and linguistic intelligences. Educators observe that students develop creative thinking through the arts and transfer that capacity to other subjects. Studies show that when the arts are a strong component of the school environment, dropout rates and absenteeism decline” (President’s Committee, 1997). Through attaining basic knowledge of the arts, students are not only

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better prepared to understand and appreciate works of art, but also to communicate their ideas, feelings and judgments to others.

AZ Compass Prep teachers implement leadership principles based on the book, *The Leader in Me* by Stephen Covey, 2008. Teachers integrate and discuss these leadership principles in their classes to help decrease discipline problems, improve school culture, and enhance self-confidence.

Methods of Instruction: AZ Compass Prep utilizes multi-modal methods of instruction shown by the following:

The *My Foundations Lab* is a complete online mastery-based resource for assessing and remediating college and career readiness skill in reading, writing and mathematics. The system offers a rich environment of pre-built or customized assessments, personalized learning plans, and highly interactive learning activities that enable students to master skills at their own pace. It is ideal for learners of various levels and ages, including continuing education or workforce readiness programs.

Gradpoint is a standards-based core, elective, honors and Advanced Placement curriculum for students in grades 7-12. It is used for virtual and blended learning, credit recovery, dropout prevention, alternative education, English language learning, summer school and more all on one platform with engaging curriculum of over 150 rigorous multimedia courses.

SuccessMaker is an individual prescriptive intervention program for Reading and Mathematics. All students in grades 7-10 work through the universal assessment as initial placement is determined. After initial placement, *SuccessMaker* provides each student the number of hours of instruction needed to obtain grade-level status. *SuccessMaker* provides this instruction based upon growth through progress monitoring assessments.

The Pearson's *Digits* program leverages technology to personalize student learning and optimize class instructional time. Pearson's *Digits* integrates lesson planning, homework management, intervention, and assessment, all within a user-friendly design that encourages class collaboration via interactive whiteboards. Students can log into the My Math Universe to practice and learn at home.

Pearson's *Integrated High School Mathematics* program offers a unique hybrid instructional model of digital and print that takes full advantage of the power of digital delivery while providing important tactile experiences to reinforce and solidify student learning. Each lesson ends with a Lesson Quiz and options for differentiated instruction. On the Lesson Resources pages of the Teacher's Edition, personalized prescriptions are available based on a student's Lesson Quiz results. These prescriptions enable teachers to make data-driven decisions about assignments for intervention or extension.

Intervention: Students in grades 7-12 are identified for intervention based upon Galileo Benchmark results. Students in grades 7-10 identified as Tier 2 and 3 attend Pearson's SuccessMaker lab. All students identified as Tier 3 are provided a variety of resources including more time with SuccessMaker, tutoring, and/or credit recovery, or take AIMS Prep Math and AIMS Prep Reading. Teachers work in PLC groups to analyze data and complete Tier 2, Tier 3, ELL or SPED Reports every two weeks. These reports show the standards, assessments, and instruction for student progress on selected skills. Students in grades 11 and 12 that are struggling may take courses for credit recovery through Gradpoint, My Foundations Lab online or retake a course.

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Pearson's *Successmaker*, *My Foundations Lab* and Gradpoint are all computer based instructional programs that align to the College and Career Ready standards. Students can use Successmaker and Gradpoint during or after school. With a partnership established with Grand Canyon University, dual credit was implemented so those students ready for college courses could begin.

The Arts and Athletics methods of instruction are mostly demonstration, modeling, practicing, and playing/performing. There is direct instruction with the large group, small group, cooperative learning and individualized instruction.

The methods of instruction for Leadership principles are taught by reading about, listening to, practicing, role-playing, observing & evaluating others through large group, small group and individualized settings. Leadership principles are integrated throughout all classes.

Methods of Assessment

AZ Compass Prep uses multidimensional assessment to learn about students.

Universal Assessments provide evidence to help assess how functional the core curriculum, environment, and instruction are in the school. These include SuccessMaker, Galileo Benchmarks, and AIMS.

Diagnostic Assessments are used to gauge student performance and these include SuccessMaker, Gradpoint and My Foundations Lab, Classroom Core Resource Pretests, Student Work Samples (Portfolio), and Student Achievement Profiles (SAP's).

Progress Monitoring Assessments are used to regularly assess students in specific academic and behavioral areas in order to determine the efficacy of and inform instruction/intervention and to make effective decisions regarding the instructional/intervention needs of a class, small group or individual student. These include Classroom Core Resource summative and formative assessments (such as, Digits and Integrated Math), Galileo Benchmark Assessments, and SuccessMaker, Gradpoint, and My Foundations Lab.

Athletics and Arts classes are assessed through traditional summative and formative assessments as well as performance rubrics and portfolios. There are two major performing arts shows each year along with the Spring Arts and Sciences Fair and athletic competitions and conferences. The Division 1 Athletic Eligibility Calculator is used to determine athletic eligibility.

Leadership principles are assessed through surveys, reviewing the number of discipline concerns, the number of Dragon Dollars used and overall improved school culture as discussed in PLC meetings. Students are rewarded for taking leadership roles, demonstrating good character and using the leadership principles to make appropriate decisions. The "Dragon Dollar" program awards students who demonstrate academic or character excellence.

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2. What is the rationale for the change in program of instruction?

After analyzing school data, the universal screening stated that upon initial placement into our school, over 70% of our student population were “at-risk” students in poor academic standing. The AZ Compass Prep leadership team realized a need for a skill based intervention system that would provide both instruction and assessment for individualized learning in Reading and Math that can be utilized during and after school. In order to provide our “at-risk” students in poor academic standing the support they needed. Thus, Pearson’s SuccessMaker program was purchased for intervention and extension.

Gradpoint and *My Foundations Lab* were purchased for students to provide the opportunity to access core, elective, honors, and Advanced Placement courses that otherwise may not have been offered when needed. It is also provided for virtual and blended learning, credit recovery, dropout prevention, alternative education, English language learning and summer school.

The major reason for the change in program of instruction for mathematics, was our data analysis determined that the majority of our students scored lower in mathematics than English Language Arts. Therefore, when AZ Compass Prep developed the five year adoption plan for instructional resources, the Mathematics programs were the first to be adopted and implemented in the 2013-14 school year. The Pearson’s Lit, 2015 program is planned to be purchased and implemented in the 2014-15 school year.

Providing students with choice is a huge factor in student achievement. Grade 7-12 students now have the opportunity to select from a Pathways Program which includes AZ Compass Prep, University requirements, Honors Classes, Advance Placement, or Duel Enrollment classes through Gradpoint, My Foundations Lab or Grand Canyon University.

3. How do the proposed changes to the program of instruction align to the mission and educational philosophy documented in the charter?

The AZ Compass Prep leaders believe in a holistic view for helping students reach their potential which is demonstrated in the mission statement, “AZ Compass School is a unique concept school focused on academics, arts, and athletics designed to provide excellence and responsive education services to at-risk students and families who are seeking a successful pre-professional career preparation experience without sacrificing post-secondary education opportunities”. This mission statement was approved by our board on 1-14-14 and submitted to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools on 1-24-14 for approval. According to Howard Gardener in *Five Minds for the Future* (2006), the five minds will help equip students to deal with not only the expected, but also the unexpected. For example, the Disciplined Mind has mastered at least one way of thinking. This mastery may take place in a student’s desire to become a dancer, basketball player or engineer. The Creative Mind conjures up fresh ways of thinking which may come to pass through science, the arts or athletics.

The AZ Compass Prep philosophy states that “*in order to achieve academic excellence, our program must also have a specific focus on character development through academics, athletics, and the arts. Combining the constant focus on character development and academic excellence will lead our students to be prepared for the challenges that lie ahead in education and in life.*” The proposed academic changes in Math and English Language Arts will provide students with the opportunity to

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grow their *Five Minds for the Future*, graduate on time with the cognitive ability to choose higher education or the workforce.

4. How will the proposed changes to the program of instruction improve pupil achievement in the target population served?

The proposed changes, revisions or additions to the program of instruction have already shown improved pupil achievement in the target population served, according to our Benchmark results. First, the courses have all been changed to meet College and Career Ready standards. The new products will provide flexibility in instructional delivery. The intervention system will provide all students the individually prescribed program needed to support their growth.

5. Describe the timeline for implementing the program change, including whether the *Program of Instruction Amendment Request* will be submitted in conjunction with any other amendment or notification requests which would warrant concurrent consideration.

The timeline for complete implementation of the program change is the 2014-2015 school year. Phases of the program change have already been implemented due to the immediate need to provide added support to our “at-risk” students in poor academic standing. A mission statement amendment was submitted on 1-24-14 and would warrant concurrent consideration.

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