

AGENDA ITEM: Ahwatukee Foothills Prep Early College High School, Inc. Application

Ahwatukee Foothills Prep Early College High School, Inc. submitted an application package for the Board’s consideration. This report contains:

- Background information regarding the qualifications of the applicant,
- A copy of the scoring rubric which confirms the application package meets the requirements as demonstrated through the review of the preliminary application package submitted on August 3, 2009, and
- Staff’s overview and summary of the application package.

The following background information is provided for your consideration.

Ahwatukee Foothills Prep Early College High School, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation that was created on September 10, 2009 for the purpose of conducting public education with four (4) directors: Kristen Jordison became a member 09/10/2009; Dawn Eidelman became a member 09/10/2009; Michael Connelly became a member 09/10/2009; and Paul Wright became a member 09/10/2009.

Background Information

Corporate Principal	Education History	Employment History	FCC	Notes
Kristen Jordison	Master’s degree in Family Ecology	Regional Vice President , Mosaica Education, Inc. 2007 – present. Executive Director for the State Board for Charter Schools 2001-2007.	Valid	There were no concerns identified in the background and credit check.
Dawn Eidelman	Doctorate degree in Philosophy	Co-Founder, Chief Education Officer and President of Paragon Division with Mosaica Education, Inc. 1997 – present.	Expired	12/11/09 – requested copy of renewed FCC There were no concerns identified in the background and credit check.
Michael Connelly	Juris Doctorate degree	Chief Executive Office, Mosaica Education, Inc. 1998 – present.	Valid	There were no concerns identified in the background and credit check.
Paul Wright	Doctorate degree in Education	Executive Director, Mesa Schools Community Alliance 2006 – present. Vice President, Student Services, The Leona Group Arizona 1999 – 2006.	Valid	There were no concerns identified in the background and credit check.

Current and Prior Charter Compliance

Corporate Principal	Compliance Information
Kristen Jordison Dawn Eidelman Michael Connelly	The individuals identified as principals for this applicant are also associated with 3 other charters currently sponsored by the Board. As it has been described in the application package, three of the four initial members of the

<p>Paul Wright</p>	<p>Board of Directors are employed by Mosaica Education, Inc., which also serves as the school's education provider. Mosaica Education, Inc. also provides the contracted academic and financial services for the three current charters sponsored by the Board as listed below. Paul Wright is also the sole principal of another application package submitted for consideration: Mesa Schools-Community Alliance.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Ahwatukee Foothills Prep, Inc. was granted a charter February 9, 2004. The charter operates one school site, Ahwatukee Foothills Prep, serving grades K-9 and is Performing Plus.</p> <p>The fiscal year 2009 audit for Ahwatukee Foothills Prep, Inc. did not identify any areas requiring a corrective action plan. However, Ahwatukee's fiscal year 2009 audit indicates that the organization showed a decrease in net assets of \$1,109,712 during the year ended June 30, 2009. As of that date, current assets exceeded current liabilities by \$2,678 and Ahwatukee's total liabilities exceeded its total assets by \$5,379,505. To address these liquidity problems, the audit states management has: 1) suspended payments on the operational lease until December 1, 2010 through an agreement with Mosaica Education, Inc. (MEI); 2) subsequent to year end, refinanced on a long-term basis accounts payable due to MEI for management fees, interest and reimbursement for operational costs paid on the school's behalf during fiscal year 2009 totaling \$1,208,302; and 3) combined the outstanding balances of the notes payable to MEI and extended the due date of the first payment until June 15, 2012. In addition, the school plans to apply for additional grant funding and is attempting to increase student enrollment at the school.</p> <p>Phoenix Advantage Charter School, Inc. was granted a charter October 2, 1997. The charter operates one school site, Phoenix Advantage Charter School, serving grades K-10. The school was Underperforming in 2006 and 2007 and has been Performing for the last two years.</p> <p>For fiscal year 2009, Phoenix Advantage Charter School, Inc. is subject to a Single Audit. Therefore, the fiscal year 2009 audit is not due until March 31, 2010. The organization's fiscal year 2008 audit did not identify any areas requiring a corrective action plan. In May 2008, the Board received information regarding Phoenix Advantage Charter School's noncompliance with Classroom Site Fund requirements. At that time, the Board instructed staff to monitor Phoenix Advantage's compliance with Classroom Site Fund requirements for a period not to exceed three years. Phoenix Advantage's fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 audit demonstrated compliance with Classroom Site Fund requirements. Further, the three monitoring review reports submitted by Phoenix Advantage, so far, have identified no Classroom Site Fund issues. The final two required monitoring review reports are due by January 22, 2010 and July 22, 2010.</p> <p>West Valley Arts and Technology Academy, Inc. was granted a</p>
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	<p>charter February 9, 2004. The charter began its first year of operation in FY2009 serving grades K-8 and is Underperforming</p> <p>There were no compliance issues identified for the charters above.</p>
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School Governing Body

Member Type	Number	Name
Organization Principal	4	Kristen Jordison, Paul Wright, Dawn Eidelman, and Michael Connelly

Roles and Responsibilities

The Applicant and Governing Body are one and the same
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee the compliance of vision and mission • Oversee compliance with the ASBCS and the Arizona Department of Education • Adopt policies necessary for the ongoing operation of the school • Drive support for community and business involvement • Provide regular review and oversight of school financials and budget adoptions and revisions • Provide support for fundraising and building community and educational partnerships • Provide final approval for hiring/firing of Principal

Program of Instruction

Mission	The mission of Ahwatukee Foothills Prep Early College High School is to provide a rigorous, supportive learning environment that blends high school and the first two years of college allowing students to be well-equipped for today’s competitive and changing world. AFP Early College HS students acquire the academic skills and confidence that are necessary to succeed in further studies and well beyond in the 21 st century workplace.				
Description of Community and Target Market	The proposed high school program will be established within the current Ahwatukee Foothills Prep (K-8) campus. This school would reside in the traditional school district boundaries of the Kyrene Elementary and Tempe Union High School District. The majority of school children, within a five mile radius of the proposed high school attend large comprehensive schools. Parents within the local community are well educated and are interested in school choice.				
Comprehensive Program of Instruction	In the narrative, the applicant subscribes to the philosophy that a rigorous, personalized learning environment that blends high school and the first two years of college will allow students to be well-equipped for today’s competitive and changing world. The curricula will integrate arts and humanities with science and math. Instruction will be based on a constructivist model that differentiates for learning styles and multiple intelligences. Quantitative and qualitative assessments provide tracking for annual student achievement. Remediation (small group, one-on-one, advisory session) will be provided to students based on recommendations from instructional staff and counselor.				
School Calendar	Extended – 192 days				
Student Count	Year	Grades Served	# of Students	# of Sites	
	1	9-10	150	1	
	2	9-11	250	1	
	3	9-12	350	1	
Findings	<p>The application met the minimum requirements, although the following area(s) scored an approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course completion and transfer credit acceptance plan 				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic planning action steps • Assessments: 1 of 4 grade levels (9th)
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Business Plan/Budget

Budget	The applicant has designated \$40,000, from a secured loan from Mosaica Education, Inc., for start-up purposes. Year one operating budget is based on 93% of the projected student enrollment. Projected annual budget balances are: Year One-\$30,945, Year Two-\$53,176, Year three-\$254,140. At the end of each month during the first year revenue exceeds expenditures.
Secured Funds	The secured funds as stated by the applicant have been confirmed as available.
Findings	The application met the minimum requirements in the Detailed Business Plan.

Site Information

Name of Proposed School	Ahwatukee Foothills Prep Early College High School
Location	Confirmed location: 10210 South 50 th Place Phoenix, AZ 85044
Secured Facility	The current facility is over 66,000 square feet with 34 classrooms, a gymnasium, cafeteria, and two playgrounds. The existing K-8 program (400 students) currently occupies only 16 of these classrooms. The facility can house 850 students. In the first year of operation Ahwatukee Prep Early College High School will lease 6,750 SF that includes seven classrooms, office space, and shared use of restrooms, cafeteria, and gymnasium.

Scoring Rubric Summary

Preliminary application package scoring rubric results: 4% of the scoring areas did not meet the criteria.

Staff Recommendations

Unless the Board determines that the application should be rejected because of the academic performance of its currently operating charter, the recommendation is 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.

The Board may reject the application package and the request for a charter of Ahwatukee Foothills Prep Early College High School, Inc. for the reason that the applicant is not sufficiently qualified to operate another charter due to the applicant’s Principals’ academic history that indicates that one of its currently operating school is in AZ Learns School Improvement.