

AGENDA ITEM: BNE Ashur Application

BNE Ashur 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 July 30, 2009, the technical assistance provided to the applicant, and a review of the revised application package submitted on December 23, 2009, and
- Staff's overview and summary of the application package.

The following background information is provided for your consideration.

BNE Ashur is a not-for-profit corporation that was created on September 7, 2005 for the purpose of conducting public education with one (1) director and officer, and three (3) authorized appointed members: Banipal Benjamin became a member 09/07/2005; Juliet Kasha became a member 06/12/2009; Francis A. Murad became a member 06/12/2009; and Esther Davis-Winn (removed in revised application package submission) became a member 05/07/2009. See Appendices A, B, and C.

Background Information

Corporate Principal	Education History	Employment History	FCC	Notes
Banipal Benjamin	None provided	Self-employed electrical contractor until 10/23/09, when his company was dissolved. Currently employed with Phoenix Energy Products.	Valid	Appendix C See Executive Session Materials
Juliet Kasha	Master's Degree in English Literature	Teacher in Chicago 1989-2006. No further employment information provided.	Valid	There were no concerns identified in the background and credit check.
Francis Murad	Doctorate Degree in Structural Engineering	Retired since 2002.	Valid	There were no concerns identified in the background and credit check.
Esther Davis-Winn	Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education	Ms. Davis-Winn stated in a 12/10/09 email that she is not currently employed. 06/08 – 10/09 Co-Site Administrator for PAS Intelli-School. 08/07 – 08/08 Administrator, secretary, teacher, and curriculum specialist for Eastern Sky Community Charter School.	Valid	Esther Davis-Winn was listed as a corporate principal in the 07/30/09 application submission but removed in final application submission dated 12/23/09. Current and prior charter compliance has not been included for the reason that this individual is no longer a Corporate Principal.

		2004 – 2007 Consultant providing teacher training, curriculum alignment, SAIS training, and School Master for 4- Winds Academy and Renaissance Academy.		
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School Governing Body

Member Type	Number	Name
Organization Principal	1	Banipal Benjamin
Parents	1	TBD
Community	1	TBD

Roles and Responsibilities

Applicant	Governing Body
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee accounting affairs • Legal issues • Approve and sign contracts • Staff recruitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charter compliance • Policies and procedures

Program of Instruction

Mission	The mission and goal of BNE Ashur Charter School is: to establish a safe and healthy learning environment that emphasizes academic success, cultural and language explorations, collaborative efforts between the school staff and the community including parents, business sponsors, and other community entities through which student intellectual growth, social/emotional growth and skills, and safety and order are measured as a result of and through: AIMS, AIMS-A (when applicable), Terra Nova, AZELLA, clinical based measurements e.g. BASC II. Note: A Mission Statement needs to include all stakeholders including but not exhaustive of the principal, teachers, parents, and community representatives. Therefore, the Mission Statement will change with input from these entities once the Charter is approved.
Description of Community and Target Market	The targeted area is Glendale (63 rd Avenue between Bell and Union Hills) and according to the City of Glendale’s research a 15% increase in the 5-12 years of age student group is projected between 2007 and 2012. The applicant reports research in this area shows a mix of different ethnicities and associated foreign languages are spoken in this community. Offering second language instruction shall support this diversity.
Comprehensive Program of Instruction Summary	In the narrative, the applicant proposes to provide a K-6 curriculum based on Core Knowledge® and essential learning skills. Core Knowledge® curriculum provides students with knowledge rich, carefully sequenced outline of content that allows students to acquire a mastery of basic skills. Special emphasis will be to prepare students for life by establishing a culture that will build character with a strong focus n academics and computer skills. Instructional methods will be based on multiple intelligences through differentiated instruction. Assessment types include criterion and norm-referenced to guide instruction and improve student learning. Remediation opportunities will be provided to students who score below 80% in the form of small group, one-one-one, or computer generated enrichment.
School Calendar	Standard – 182 days

Student Count	Year	Grades Served	# of Students	# of Sites
	1	K-6	200	1
	2	K-6	220	1
	3	K-6	300	1

Findings	<p>The application meets the minimum requirements, although the following area(s) scored an approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rubrics: 1 out of 7 grade levels (6th)
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Business Plan/Budget

Budget	<p>The start up budget listed in the application package is \$20,000 in secured funds. Years one through three of the operating budget are based on 80 – 83% of the student enrollment. Projected annual budget balances are: Year One - \$89,403 Year Two - \$116,953, Year three - \$178,070. At the end of each month during the first year revenue exceeds expenditures.</p> <p>The Assyrian Church has agreed to lease space to the applicant in the amount of \$1.50 per square foot for five years, at which time the lease terms will be renegotiated. Further, the Assyrian Church has agreed to allow the applicant to occupy the facility as early as April or May 2010 with the first payment due July 2010. See Appendix D</p>
Secured Funds	<p>After multiple attempts by staff and changes to the applicant’s bank accounts, the secured funds as stated by the applicant have been confirmed as available.</p>
Findings	<p>The application meets the minimum requirements, although the following area(s) scored an approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governing Body recruitment

Site Information

Name of Proposed School	BNE Ashur Charter School
Location	<p>Confirmed location: Property of the Assyrian Church 17334 N. 63rd. Ave. Glendale, AZ 85308</p>
Secured Facility	<p>The proposed facility has 5000 square feet, nine classrooms, restrooms, storage space, and office space. The church facility has additional space which includes a multipurpose hall. The facility is located on five acres with additional open space.</p> <p>This information above describes space for 200 students as written in the application. This is inconsistent with the minutes from the Glendale Planning and Zoning committee which states the church can only accommodate 160 students. Minutes from the City of Glendale Public Hearing are incorporated as Appendix E</p>

Scoring Rubric Summary

Preliminary application package scoring rubric results: 80% of the scoring areas did not meet the criteria.
Revised application package scoring rubric results: 2% of the scoring areas did not meet the criteria.

Staff Recommendations

If the Board determines the applicant is sufficiently qualified, the Board may approve the application package and grant a charter to BNE Ashur to establish BNE Ashur Charter School.

If the Board determines that the applicant is not sufficiently qualified, the Board may reject the application package and the request for a charter of BNE Ashur for the reasons that the applicant is not sufficiently qualified to operate a charter school due to: