

# Adding Grade Levels to Charter Amendment Request

## Charterholder Info

### Charter Holder

**Name:**  
Ball Charter Schools (Val Vista)

**CTDS:**  
07-85-86-000

**Mailing Address:**  
17606 North 7th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85023  
> [View detailed info](#)

### Representative

**Name:**  
Arlene Palm

**Phone Number:**  
602-896-9160

## Downloads

 [Download all files](#)

## Current Grade Levels

Current Grade Levels Served

- Kindergarten
- 1st Grade
- 2nd Grade
- 3rd Grade
- 4th Grade
- 5th Grade
- 6th Grade

## New Grade Levels

For each grade level being added, provide the following as a representation of a program of instruction aligned to the State's approved academic standards and to methods of instruction described in the charter. Please note that a separate upload must be prepared for each grade level and content area and be named as such. Additionally, applicants must restate the name of the file in the Brief Description box (e.g., First Grade Reading, HS Alegebra II).

### For K-8

Language Arts & Math: A completed curriculum sample for reading, writing, and math for each grade level being added including all attachments as outlined on the [required template and instructions](#).


### For 9-12

Language Arts & Math: A completed curriculum sample for reading, writing, and math coursework for each grade level being added including all attachments as outlined on the [required template and instructions](#). Each course must align with the State's graduation requirements.

### Add Grade Levels

7th  
8th

### Curriculum Samples


 [Download File](#) — Because of the status of Ball Charter Schools - Dobson, Ball Charter Schools -Hearn and Ball Charter Schools - Val Vista, which are all "A" rated, all that is needed is the attached Eligibility/Exclusion Form.

**Effective Date**  
08/04/2014

## Attachments

Board Minutes —  [Download File](#)

Narrative —  [Download File](#)

Timeline for implementation —  [Download File](#)

**Additional Information\***

No documents were uploaded.

## Signature

Charter Representative Signature  
Arlene Palm 12/23/2013

**MINUTES**  
**Ball Charter Schools Governing Board Meeting**  
**October 14, 2013**

**I. Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 6:04 P.M. on October 14, 2013 in Room 24 in the Main Building, at Dobson Academy, 2207 N. Dobson Road, Chandler, AZ 85224.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Roll Call:**

Present:

Stephanie Clergé, Board Member  
Mike Dyer, Board Member  
Diane Fernichio, Board Vice-President  
Michael Hoogstra, Board President  
Michael Larrabee, Board Member (Telephonically)  
Mary Beth Miller, Board Member  
Sarah Watts, Board Member  
Bob Rossi, Executive Director  
Arlene Palm, Board Coordinator  
Taime Bengochea, Dobson Principal  
Ray Webb, Val Vista Principal

Absent:

Melissa Flint, Board Member  
Marcus L. Harrison, Board Member

Others Present:

Jim Hudspeth, Business Manager, Hearn Academy  
Lisa Reznick, HR & Communications Manager  
Michelle Hart, Dobson Academy'  
Denise Cusimano, Dobson Academy  
Jennifer Werner, Hearn Academy  
Daniel Langhans, Art Teacher, Dobson Academy  
Holly Hoogstra, Student, Dobson Academy  
Mary Maruna, Dobson Academy Parent  
Gladys Maruna  
Traynor Hurlburt, PLT Representative, Dobson Academy  
Soha & Hany Ibrahim, former Dobson Academy Parents

**IV. Approval of Agenda** – Motion by Stephanie Clergé, second by Diane Fernichio, to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

**V. School Recognition/Mission Moment** – Dr. Bengochea from Dobson Academy introduced Daniel Langhans, Dobson Academy Art Teacher, who shared information on a paper Mache monster workshop he conducted for students. Holly Hoogstra, Dobson student, participated in the workshop and showed her finished monster paper Mache project; she also shared her experience and what she learned in the workshop.

Denise Cusimano and Traynor Hurlburt shared information about the parent organization, PLT (Parent Leadership Team) at Dobson, its purpose and what they do. Meetings are quarterly and the organization is dependent upon fundraising and donations.

**VI. Public Comment** – Michael Hoogstra, Board President, read a statement regarding the Public Comment Policy. Jennifer Werner, Hearn Academy Technology Teacher, shared information about the tablets used at Hearn Academy. She brought tablets for members to use and experience and noted that this is the new innovative way of introducing technology to our younger students and to our schools.

Michael Hoogstra, Board President, re- read a statement regarding the Public Comment Policy. Soha and Hany Ibrahim, former Dobson parents, addressed the Board on the topic of fairness in the classroom and the school. They shared their concerns regarding fairness involving a recent incident involving their son and its effect on them. They noted that they spoke with Dr. Rossi and the Principal about this. The parents indicated that as a result of the incident and the outcome they have taken their son out of the school.

**VII. Consent Agenda**

VII A – Minutes from Previous Meeting – September 9, 2013 (Regular Meeting)

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**VII B – Staffing Recommendations for Dobson, Hearn and Val Vista Academy – New Hires:** *Dobson* – Brandi Weed, Substitute; Rudy Roman, BAC Leader (Enrollment Add); Stacy Orsino, Teacher (Replacement). *Hearn* – Lisa Smith, Substitute. *Val Vista* – Ryan Alexander, BAC Assistant (Enrollment Add); Jamie Boardman – Substitute.

Reassignments: *Hearn* – Jodi Zunigha, from BAC Assistant to Substitute. Separations: *Dobson* – Angela Fox, Teacher; Kelly Veerkamp, Health Professional. *Hearn* – Jean Janes, Teacher; Aimee Thompson, BAC Assistant.

**VII C – Approval of Teacher Evaluation Instrument for AZ Ball Charter Schools.**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented by Mike Dyer, second by Mary Beth Miller. All in favor. Motion approved.

### **VIII. Old Business**

**VIII A – Solar Energy Project ~ Hearn Academy – Jim Hudspeth and Michael Hoogstra reported on the latest information regarding the agreements related to the solar project at Hearn. Work most likely will be done during Christmas Break. Mike Dyer elaborated on some of the areas that took additional time to work out. Discussion followed.**

Motion by Mike Dyer, second by Diane Fernichio, to approve the Solar Generating Facilities License Agreement, the Solar Power Purchase Agreement, and the Memorandum of License for the building and operating of a solar power facility at Hearn Academy, and authorize Michael Hoogstra to execute the Agreements on behalf of the Board, and also authorize only our attorneys to make any minor, but not material, necessary changes to the documents in order to finalize the plans for the solar facility. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **IX. New Business**

**IX A – Financial Reports - Dobson, Hearn and Val Vista – Jim Hudspeth handed out the financial reports to members and apologized for not getting this out to them earlier. He noted that Hearn had a technical issue in uploading student count. The school is aware of this and a check and balance system is being developed. Discussion followed.**

**IX B – Annual Financial Report (AFR) ~ Dobson, Hearn, and Val Vista – Jim Hudspeth presented members with an Annual Financial Report for each of the schools and indicated there are no surprises.**

Motion to approve the Annual Financial Reports for Dobson, Hearn and Val Vista as presented by Mike Dyer, second by Diane Fernichio. All in favor. Motion approved.

**IX C – Audit Update – Jim Hudspeth presented a listing of preliminary findings from the recent audit, including solutions. He added that for Hearn only attendance was listed. Discussion followed.**

**IX D – Request to the State Charter Board to Increase the Enrollment Cap for Val Vista Academy – Ray Webb reported that the school is growing and therefore they need to get approval to increase the enrollment cap from 340 to 600 students.**

Motion by Diane Fernichio, second by Sarah Watts, to approve increasing the enrollment cap for Val Vista Academy from 340 to 600 as presented. All in favor. Motion approved.

Discussion followed regarding increasing the grade levels.

The previous motion was amended as follows: Motion by Diane Fernichio, second by Sarah Watts, to increase the grade level to K-8 and also increase the enrollment cap from 340 to 600. All in favor. Motion approved.

**IX E – Charter Holder Representative(s) – AZ State Board for Charter Schools – Arlene Palm reported that at the September Board Meeting Melissa Flint was appointed Board Secretary; since she is an officer she also needs to be approved as a charter holder representative to the AZ State Board for Charter Schools. Amy Gurtler is no longer a Board Member; the Board needs to take action to remove her as a charter holder representative from Dobson, Hearn and Val Vista.**

Motion by Stephanie Clergé, second by Mike Dyer, to remove Amy Gurtler as a Charter Holder Representative for Dobson Academy, Hearn Academy and Val Vista Academy as presented. All in favor. Motion approved.

Motion by Stephanie Clergé, second by Sarah Watts, to add Melissa Flint, Board Secretary, as a Charter Holder Representative for Dobson Academy, Hearn Academy and Val Vista Academy as presented. All in favor. Motion approved.

**IX F – Board Policy Revision Considerations – Bob Rossi reported on proposed policy revision considerations. Lengthy discussion took place regarding the Issue/Complaint Procedure. It was suggested the procedure be revised to include the Executive Committee with communication back to the Board. Discussion also took place regarding the proposed revisions to Teacher Licensure and adding language regarding requirements for special teachers and core teachers being licensed and highly qualified.**

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**IX F – Board Policy Revision Considerations – (Continued)**

Motion by Mike Dyer, second by Sarah Watts, to table the personnel policies relating to Issue/Complaint Procedure and Teacher Credentials. All in favor. Motion approved. Members asked these to be placed on the Consent Agenda for the next meeting.

Discussion continued on the policy revisions proposed for School Year.

Motion by Mike Dyer, second by Sarah Watts, to approve the school year policy in accordance with the proposed revisions as presented. All in favor. Motion approved.

**IX G – Strategic Plan/Committee Processes –** Bob Rossi thanked everyone for putting time in at the retreat. He passed out a 'dashboard' (readers digest version) of what was presented during the retreat and indicated he would like to finish the discussion and look at committee structure. He suggested a Saturday morning. Discussion followed. Stephanie Clergé suggested additions to the legend to include the owner and if the project was on task; Sarah Watts inquired as to the goals of another session. Mike Dyer added that everyone has to understand the big picture and suggested this be referred to the Planning and Development Committee and asked that they come back with a recommendation and bring back clarity regarding agenda, expected outcomes and data.

**X. Reports:**

**XI A – Board Committee Reports –** The Board discussed the following items:

(a) Planning and Development – Mary Beth Miller shared information regarding the holiday gathering, including date and place. Following discussion it was suggested that the date of December 1<sup>st</sup> be considered in the afternoon since several members had conflicts with the proposed date of December 13<sup>th</sup>. The next committee meeting date is November 7, 2013.

(b) Financial/Personnel – Diane Fernichio reported on the following: committee membership, IT, credit card process and procedure, central office and home office for the Executive Director, campus safety – a task force was suggested to study this item. The next committee meeting date is November 6, 2013.

(c) School Expansion/School Development – Sarah Watts reported on a very productive meeting. Discussion included sponsorship packet, uniform and dress code – needs to be reiterated, one student handbook for all three schools. Michael Hoogstra suggested we look at all the handbooks and analyze them. The next committee meeting date is October 23, 2013.

**XI B – Principals Report –**

(a) Dobson Academy – Dr. Bengochea shared information on upcoming events, enrollment, Acuity scores, volunteer hours and evaluation competencies and other related topics at Dobson. A summary of activities was included in the packet.

(b) Hearn Academy – A summary of activities was included in the packet that highlighted information on upcoming events, enrollment, volunteer hours, Acuity scores, and evaluation competencies.

(c) Val Vista Academy (Eastside) – Ray Webb shared information on upcoming events, enrollment, volunteer hours, Acuity scores and evaluation competencies. A summary of activities was included in the packet.

**XI C – Executive Directors Report –** Dr. Rossi thanked the principals, Jim Hudspeth, Lisa Reznick and the accounting clerks for assisting with the audit process. He added we will continue to work on the strategic plan.

**XI. Future Agenda Item(s) –** Survey results; Planning and Development Committee – updates regarding the Operational Calendar; adoption of ASBA Board Policies – highlight changes, send to policy committee for review and include proposed changes in the packet.

**XII. Adjournment:** Motion by Diane Fernichio to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 P.M. Second by Mary Beth Miller. Approved unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 18, 2013 at 6:00 pm at Val Vista Academy.

Approved by Ball Charter Schools Governing Board

Melissa Flint  
Board Secretary

11-18-13  
Date



# Adding Grade Level to Charter

Val Vista Academy  
AZ Ball Charter Schools

**Effective Date: August 4, 2014**

## **Required Materials for Administrative Completeness**

- Narratives
  - **1. Background and Support for Expansion**
    - Val Vista Academy opened its doors for the 2012-2013 school year. Opening enrollment was 173 students. At the end of 2012-2013 we had an enrollment of 210 students. Retention of students for the following school year was high. We began 2013-2014 with 300 students. With three new Kindergarten classes filled to capacity. All indicators show that we can expect 3 new classrooms of Kindergarteners each year. This will add a new class of students by grade level as the current first graders continue to attend Val Vista in the upcoming years, in addition to the full Kindergarten. We anticipate growth in enrollment to increase approximately 100 students each year for the next three years. At this rate coupled with the knowledge of retention we have experienced in growth we will have an enrollment of 600 students by school year 2015-2016. Adding a seventh and eighth grade to the current curriculum will help maintain a strong student body which will give us the opportunity to service children in the community, and a student base that will contribute to the school financially.
  - **2. How the additional grades support the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis and mission of the Charter.**
    - Our sister schools, Dobson Academy and Hearn Academy each are successful “A” rated K-8 schools. Val Vista is a replication of Dobson Academy. To complete our replication we need to add grades seven and eight. All curriculums that we have are taught to students knowing that they will continue in middle school studies grades 7 & 8. Aside from curricular studies we would like to see our middle school students participate in sports and the arts such as orchestra, art classes, choir and band. The differentiation of instruction provided in the classroom allows for the acceleration of student learning. It is our goal that students leaving eight grade will be well prepared for high school. Common Core Standards will be mastered at grade level preparing students for everyday life and helping them on the path of life-long learning.

➤ **Timeline for Implementation**

• **Implementation August 4, 2014**

*All classes will be built to three teachers for each grade level K-5*

- 2014-2015 Begin Seventh Grade Class, add Science Teacher, add Second Grade teacher, Add P.E. Teacher
- 2015-2016 Begin Eighth Grade Class, add Social Studies & Math Teacher, add Third Grade teacher, add Computer Lab & Art teachers
- 2016-2017 add Fourth Grade teacher
- 2017-2018 add Fifth Grade teacher

- **3. Describe the level of proficiency that students must obtain to demonstrate mastery of academic core content and clear criteria for promotion from one level to the next.**
    - The level of proficiency that students must obtain to demonstrate mastery is obtaining a passing grade on their report cards and/or meet “meets” or “excels” on their AIMS testing.
  - **5. What changes in staffing will be needed to implement the new grades, and how will they comply with the Highly Qualified federal guidelines?**
    - The changes made to staffing for the new grades will meet federal guidelines for Highly Qualified. All teachers hired by Val Vista Academy will be highly qualified and certified by the State of Arizona. Teachers in the middle school who teach science, math, social studies and language arts must have an endorsement for the area of emphasis they are teaching.
    - Staffing needed to implement the new grades are as follows:
      - Science teacher
      - Math teacher
      - Social Studies teacher
      - Language Arts teacher
- By doing so will also help us meet our replication of Dobson Academy.



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Val Vista Academy  
AZ Ball Charter Schools

**Effective Date: August 4, 2014**

**Required Materials for Administrative Completeness**

- **Timeline for Implementation**

- **Implementation August 4, 2014**

- All classes will be built to three teachers for each grade level K-5*

- 2014-2015 Begin Seventh Grade Class, add Science Teacher
  - 2015-2016 Begin Eighth Grade Class, add Social Studies & Math Teacher

- Number of students served

- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – 50 students
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – 50 students