

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
Arizona State Board of Education
1700 W. Washington St., Room 164, Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 364-3080 Fax (602) 364-3089
www.asbcs.az.gov

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2010

ADDING GRADE LEVELS TO CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) Blueprint Education (CTDS) 81041
(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 5651 W. Talavi Blvd. Ste. #170
(City, State) Glendale, AZ (Zip) 85306
(Charter Representative's Name) Mark French
(Phone Number) 602-674-5555 (Fax Number) 602-943-9700

Failure to submit all required documentation will result in the Amendment Request being returned without being processed. Faxed copies will not be accepted. Please send originals.

X **Adding grade levels served for charter**

Included are the following:

- Board minutes approving the change (If the body is subject to Open Meeting Law, minutes must comply with ARS §38-431.01)
- Narrative that 1) provides background and support for expansion; 2) how the additional grades support the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis, and mission of the charter
- Timeline for implementation
- Proficiency level required for credit and/or promotion and credit transfer policies

For each grade level being added, provide the following as a representation of a program of instruction aligned to the State Academic Standards and to the methods of instruction described in the charter:

- Math – A completed curriculum sample template including all required attachments as outlined on the template attached.
- Language Arts - A completed curriculum sample template, for both reading and writing, including all required attachments as outlined on the template attached.
 - **Blueprint Education thrives by using the curriculum resources provided by the Arizona Department of Education. The Learning Resource Manager provided on the IDEAL website is a resource in which most of the lesson plans presented in this application were extracted. We have altered the lesson plans to best fit the school schedule, learning styles, and needs of our students.**

The Arizona State Board for Charter Schools and Blueprint Education (Charter Holder), herein agree to amend the terms of the charter contract as follows:

FROM SERVING GRADES: 9-12

TO SERVING GRADES: 7-12

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 28 day of Oct, 2010, and the State Board for Charter Schools has signed this contract amendment as of this ____ day of ____, 20__, to take effect at such time as it is signed by both parties.

Charter Representative Signature

Representative Signature for the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

KIDS AT HOPE ACADEMY, INC.

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION LISTED BELOW WHEN SUBMITTING ITEMS INTENDED FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO BE PLACED ON THE OFFICIAL AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD.

TOPIC APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO EXPAND CHARTER GRADE LEVELS

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: OCTOBER 13, 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a proposed recommendation that the charter apply to the Arizona State Board of Charter Schools for a Charter Grade Level Amendment. Upon approval by the Kids at Hope Academies School Board, Blueprint Education will submit final documents required to attain expansion to grades 7 and 8 in the 2011-2012 school year. Adding these grades will allow Blueprint the opportunity to work with students to improve their academic performance and impact student achievement and success prior to students entering our current high schools.

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION

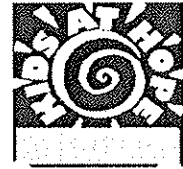
IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO SUBMIT 7TH AND 8TH GRADE EXPANSION PROPOSAL TO THE CHARTER ASSOCIATION AGENDA FOR APPROVAL

SUBMITTED BY DR. BETH COLLINS
Superintendent



KIDS AT HOPE ACADEMY

A CHARTER SCHOOL BY BLUEPRINT EDUCATION,
5651 WEST TALAVI BOULEVARD, SUITE 170, GLENDALE, AZ 85306



Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of Kids at Hope Academy

Blueprint Education Conference Room
5651 West Talavi #170
Glendale, AZ 85306

October 13, 2010

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

1. **Call to Order.** President Mark French called the meeting to order at 3:35.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance.** The Board repeated the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Roll Call.** Present were Mark French, President, Dr. Beth Collins, Member, Arlene Duston, and Terri Mainwaring, Secretary-Treasurer. Staff and guests present were Ric Rodriguez, Director of Hope High School, Jennifer Blackstone, Assistant Superintendent of Hope High School Line, Heather Jones of Heinfeld Meech, and Valarie Schuler. Absent from the meeting were Board Members Kenny Brunk and Vice-President Rick Miller.
4. **Adoption of Agenda.** Arlene Duston moved to adopt the agenda as posted. Dr. Collins seconded the motion and passed with a vote of 4:0.
5. **Public Comments – None.**

The Board of Directors will consider and possibly take action on the following items:

6. **New Business**

- A. Change the Capitalization Policy – Mark French informed the Board that the current capitalization policy states that any vehicles, furniture, and equipment with both a useful life of one year or more and a cost of \$300 or more be capitalized. He suggested the policy be changed to read that any vehicles, furniture, and equipment with both a useful life of one year or more and a cost of \$1000 or more be capitalized. Terri Mainwaring moved to approve the new capitalization policy. Mark French seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 4:0.

Board of Directors
Mark French - President Rick Miller - Vice-President Terri Mainwaring - Secretary-Treasurer
Beth Collins, Ed.D. – Member Arlene Duston – Member Jane Coody – Member Kenny Brunk - Member

- B. Approval of the AFR – Heather Jones advised that the AFR is due each year on October 15th. This is the final financial statement to the state. Arlene Duston moved that the AFR be approved. Dr. Collins seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 4:0.

7. Old Business

- A. Approve Grade Level Expansion - Jennifer Blackstone advised the Board that the proposal for grade level expansion to include K-8th grade, which was approved by the board in the Spring was not submitted to the Charter Board in time for this school year. The proposal is for 7th & 8th grade and is to be implemented next school year. Mark French moved to approve the Grade Level Expansion. Dr. Collins seconded the motion and passed with a vote of 4:0.

8. Reports

Board of Directors Reports – Dr. Collins reported that she was very impressed at the Let's Talk meeting at Hope High School. The staff was very positive, enthusiasm is high, and the students are optimistic. She also advised that she will be attending the Charter School conference in November. Jennifer Blackstone is running the AOI Growth Committee, which will be meeting in November and all are invited to attend. Jennifer informed the Board that newly elected legislators will be visiting Hope High School in November.

A. School Reports

- Hope High School – Ric Rodriguez reported that total current enrollments are at 179, with new students to begin in November. The attendance rate is 96.48% and the absence rate is 3.52%. The contributing factors to this success are daily phone calls to parents when students are absent, letters being sent home when students have accumulated 3 absences, and parent and student conferences with the Principal when the student has accumulated 5 absences. Parent/Teacher conferences were held October 4th through October 7th. There were 166 conferences held during that time. Course completions are at 243. Many students are sharing positive comments regarding how they are feeling more successful this year. The parents stated that there is a difference in their child's attitude towards school and that there seems to be a positive atmosphere at the school this year.
- Hope High School Online - Jennifer Blackstone reported that there are currently 70 students enrolled at Hope High School Online. The goal is to work towards 85 ADM this school year. Total hours as of October 1st is 20, 311. The goal for the year is 85, 500. One focus for the year is productivity, with the emphasis being on course completion. As of the end of September, there are 100 course completions. Ms. Arnold and Ms. Smith are checking on students this year at a minimum of every 20 days, and super seniors weekly. Another focus is on strategies for enrollment growth. Data is

currently being collected about the online learning market to see how HHSO can position itself to attract students. Donations are currently being collected to help stock the Reward Hot Spot, where students get rewarded for achievements. Donations are tax deductible. Marketing boxes with enrollment packets are being placed around the valley to help attract students. Recent and upcoming events include AIMS testing October 26th, 27th and 28th. Also, all students were given the ECAPS test and assigned an AZCIS web account to assist with career choice and development. HHSO has partnered with TutorChatLive.org to offer free online tutoring to students. The first ever HHSO newsletter will be published in October with contributions from the staff as well as students. This will appear online for students to enjoy.

- Blueprint High School – Saundra Palmer was not in attendance to give a school report.

B. Report of Fiscal Update of Kids at Hope Academy Inc. – Mark French reported that expenses are in line and enrollments need to increase at Blueprint High School. Hope High School needs to continue to grow.

9. Recommended Actions

A. Approval of Minutes of the July 15, 2010 Board Meeting and Personnel Additions and Changes (voted on together) – Arlene Duston moved to approve the Minutes of the July 15th Board Meeting and the Personnel Additions and Changes (Lorraine Hernandez terminated 9/09/10, new hires Edwin Portillo 7/26/10 and Nelson Rusch 7/26/10). Terri Mainwaring seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 4:0.

10. Important Dates to Remember

Board Meeting Dates
November 10, 2010

11. Adjournment – Arlene Duston moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 PM. Dr. Collins seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 4:0.



Handwritten: Morris
 OCT 15 2010
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October 14, 2010

Dear Ms. Rowe and Ms. Morris,

We have provided the documentation you requested to assist the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools in making their determination for expanding grade levels for Blueprint Education, Inc. to include grades 7 and 8. We believe we have addressed all the points you brought forth in your email to us dated August 27, 2010. If you find anything that you feel still needs to be addressed, please contact us at: jblackstone@blueprinteducation.org or 602-906-4820.

Our original narrative described an expansion for the 2010-2011 school year. However, since that school year has commenced, we have altered that timeline to begin with the 2011-2012 school year instead. Below are the detailed changes. Our school board approved this change at our October 13th meeting. The minutes for that meeting are attached.

Timeline for Implementation

Blueprint Education will begin the process of adding grades 7-8 in the 2011-2012 school year.

Date	Task	Responsibility	Completion Date
Fall 2010 and Spring 2011	Curriculum Development	Jennifer Blackstone	
Summer 2011	2011-2012 Calendar Adoption	School Board	
Spring/Summer 2011	Student Recruiting	Principal, Superintendent, Marketing	
Summer 2011	Faculty Hiring	Principal	
August 2011	New Teacher Orientation	Principal	
August 2011	Student Registration/Orientation	Principal	

Thank you again for your support as we continue this application process.

Blueprint Education Grade Level Addition Grades 7 and 8

Background

For over forty years, Blueprint Education, an international, non-profit educational organization has met the diverse needs of students not only in Arizona but around the globe. Beyond Blueprint's longevity in the industry, Blueprint Education conveys quality, integrity, a caring nature and the highest standards of professionalism evident by its accreditations and wide spread support from students, parents, schools and partnering organizations. Blueprint Education has been accredited by NCA/AdvancED since 1981. **The accreditation process has challenged us to always focus on providing the most appropriate and rigorous education for our students.**

In 1926, Blueprint Education originated as a correspondence school named Phoenix Special Programs, a program for the children of migrant farm workers. In 1969, Phoenix Special Programs was incorporated in the State of Arizona as a private non-profit education corporation governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. **In 2002, the company was granted a charter for grades 9-12 by the Arizona State Board of Charter Schools. In 2004, the organization changed its name to Blueprint Education to reflect its renewed commitment to student success.**

Blueprint Education has operated an alternative education program in the Valley since 1994. Currently, eighteen (18) Arizona school districts entrust their most challenging long term suspended students to the Kids at Hope Academies, off-campus placement programs. Recently added last school year, based on district needs, was a short term suspension program for elementary school districts looking for temporary (1 – 10 days) off-site placement for their students. In addition, special education placements were a new addition this year to the elementary program. **We believe the experiences in running this contractual program have fully prepared us for adding additional grade levels to our current charter.**

Blueprint Education is fully prepared to successfully add grades seven through eight to our current charter. We believe that the addition of these grade levels support our philosophy that "All Students are Capable of Success." Our history provided above is evidence that we are serious about providing learning opportunities for "at risk" students who may have "fallen through the cracks" in a traditional setting. Many of these students come to us below grade level and through direct instruction, online learning options, tutoring and self-paced lessons, we are able to help these students "catch up" and continue to meet the academic standards to remain at grade level and stay in school. By adding these additional grade levels Blueprint will have the opportunity to begin working with students at a much younger age and grade and move them on to the high school where they will be prepared to enter at, or above, grade level academically and stay on target for graduation.

Blueprint Education plans to add grades 7 and 8 at the Hope High School, Blueprint High School physical locations as well as online.

Mission

The Mission of Blueprint Education is to help “at-risk” students become motivated, responsible citizens. Through the charter, our schools provide positive learning environments where students achieve, succeed, and experience personal growth – NO EXCEPTIONS! Our goal is to continue to provide through the addition of 7 and 8 grade levels:

- **Continuing education** in a learning environment where students can be successful and build an appreciation for the worth and value of learning as well as develop **goals for their future**.
- Motivation for students to **achieve academically** to their greatest potential.
- Encouragement for students to make **socially acceptable choices**.
- Students with a **work ethic, study skills and positive self-image** to continue to be successful.

The Elements of Success at our current high school which will be a focus for the additional grade levels are:

- To provide **opportunities to succeed** with **high expectations** in education and career development.
- To **expand students’ social horizons** by exposure to various hobbies and recreational activities.
- To provide **service opportunities** to give back to the community.
- To **involve the family and home** by encouraging active participation.

Methods of Instruction

As part of our continuous efforts to provide **new and innovative** ways for students to achieve, **curriculum** is at the heart of our organization. All curriculum design and instructional planning are done with **student success in mind**. Each lesson is created by highly qualified teachers using the Arizona Academic Standards documents as a foundation. Instructional materials are research based and aligned to the state performance objectives. The focus on a comprehensive curriculum that meets all state standards will apply to the new grade levels added to the Charter.

Currently all Blueprint Education teachers are certified by state departments of education and highly qualified according to No Child Left Behind requirements. It is our plan to continue this practice in grades 7-8.

Methods of instruction will include Direct Instruction, Online Learning and Practice, Small Group Instruction for focus on specific areas of need, and Project Based learning opportunities.

Professional Development is an integral part of our ongoing effort to provide the highest quality education system available to any student in the state. Teachers receive training in:

- Blueprint Education Company Orientation
- Policies and Procedures
- Teacher Evaluation Tool and Alignment to AZ Professional Standards
- Curriculum Delivery Models
- Boys and Girls Town Behavior Intervention Model
- Special Education and ELL Processes/ Policies/ Best Practices
- Technology Basics
- Reading Blocks
- Six Traits Rubric
- Lesson Grading
- AIMS Data Analysis
- Curriculum Mapping and the AZ State Standards
- Using Assessments to Monitor student Progress
- Core subject area techniques
- Best Practices in Teaching
- Student Learning Styles
- Parent/Teacher Conferences

Special Emphasis

Special emphasis is on meeting the specific academic and emotional needs of all students. Lessons will be designed so that teachers can address student needs in areas such as special education, ELL, gifted, CTE and work study. **Our goal is to meet the academic needs of students at an early age so that we are preparing them before they reach high school to ultimately transition into college and the work force.** This includes all students, NO EXCEPTIONS! **This is directly tied to our mission of providing an environment where students are successful and are motivated to work hard to reach their goal of graduation.**

Timeline for Implementation

Our original narrative described an expansion for the 2010-2011 school year. However, since that school year has commenced, we have altered that timeline to begin with the 2011-2012 school year instead. Below are the detailed changes. Our school board approved this change at our October 13th meeting. The minutes for that meeting are attached.

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August 2011	Student Registration/Orientation	Principal

** During the 2011-2012 school year the intention of Blueprint Education is to apply for additional grade levels (K-6) to be added to the charter.

Mastery of Coursework-Proficiency Level Required

7th and 8th Grade Expected Academic Performance Levels:

- 100% - 90% A
- 89% - 80% B
- 79% - 70% C
- 69% - 60% D
- 60% below F

Course grades are determined by grades on lessons, the midterm exam, and the final exam. The minimum passing grade for each area is 60%. Lessons will count for 40% of the overall course grade, and exams will count for the remaining 60%. Additionally, students must score at least 60% on BOTH the midterm and final exams to receive credit for the course.

Students are expected to earn a **minimum** passing grade of "D" (60%) or better in all academic core and elective subjects in order to be promoted to the next grade. Case by case scenarios may occur where students earn an "F" in a course. Students who earn an "F" in an course can only be promoted to the next grade after a meeting including the student, parent, teacher, counselor, and principal in which a remediation plan is created.

Academic core courses and electives are listed below:

Academic Core Subjects	Electives
Mathematics	Life Skills/Character Education
Language Arts	PE/Health
Social Studies	Computer Literacy
Science	Fine Arts
	Exploring Careers