

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
Arizona State Board of Education
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www.asbcs.az.gov

RECEIVED MAR 17 2010

ADDING GRADE LEVELS TO CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) CAMBRIDGE ACADEMY EAST (CTDS) 078768000

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 9412 E. BROWN RD.

(City, State) MESA, ARIZONA (Zip) 85207

(Charter Representative's Name) JULIO GONZALEZ

(Phone Number) 480-641-2828 (Fax Number) 480-325-2365

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.

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.

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

FROM SERVING GRADES: K-6

TO SERVING GRADES: K-8

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this _____ day of _____, 20____, 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

Cambridge Academy East, Inc.
Governing Board
Minutes of Organizational Meeting held February 9, 2010

Attendance:

The following board members were present: Julio Gonzalez, Linda Gonzalez, Lisa Chamberlain, Ruth Redd, Regina Holzbaaur

Public in attendance: Lisa Fonseca, Joyce Hartley

Call to Order: Julio Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

Consideration of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Linda Gonzalez and seconded by Ruth Redd to approve the minutes for the January 12, 2010. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Regina Holzbaaur and seconded by Linda Gonzalez to approve the agenda as prepared. Motion carried.

Call to the Public:

None

Items for Consideration:

Consideration of the addition of 7th and 8th grade

A motion was made by Lisa Chamberlain and seconded by Linda Gonzalez to approve the addition of 7th and 8th grade. Motion carried. Paperwork request will be sent to the State Board for Charter Schools for approval.

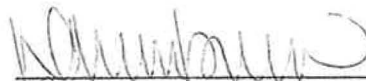
Consideration of the resolution of changing the Governing Board

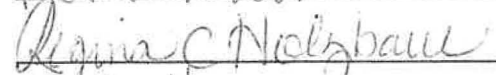
A motion was made by Julio Gonzalez and seconded by Regina Holzbaaur to approve changing the Governing Board from 5 members to 7 members. Motion carried. The newest members will be Lisa Fonseca, a parent, and Joyce Hartley, a teacher.


Adjournment:


A motion was made by Julio Gonzalez and seconded by Lisa Chamberlain to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.


APPROVED BY THE BOARD











NARATIVE

BACKGROUND AND SUPPORT FOR EXPANSION

Cambridge Academy East has been a successful charter school in East Mesa for over ten years providing a quality, standards based education, incorporating outstanding educators and a challenging curriculum to elementary students. We first began in 1999 with just a kindergarten. We then successfully increased our enrollment, adding a grade level each year until we served grades K-6. Our reputation and commitment to the students and parents, along with our ability to foster graduates that are prepared for the future persuaded families from the neighboring community of Queen Creek to commute up to 25 miles one way to our Mesa campus. The need for high achieving schools and support from community members prompted us to open a second location in Queen Creek last year serving grades K-6. The students at our Queen Creek campus have made tremendous progress this year, and the parents began early in the school year asking about the possibility of 7th and 8th grades being added. The Queen Creek area elementary schools service grades K-5, while 6th, 7th, and 8th grades are at middle schools. Many of the parents at our school have expressed the need and want for their students to be able to continue their education at Cambridge Academy East through the 8th grade. We feel that by offering our students a K-8 education they will be better prepared for high school and beyond. Due to this outcry from the community and informal surveys, we feel it is in the best interest of the school and community to add 7th and 8th grade to our school. The recent purchase of our new, larger facility in Queen Creek, due to open for the 2010-2011 school year will accommodate the additional grades with ease.

HOW ADDING 7th AND 8th GRADES WILL SUPPORT THE PHILOSOPHY, METHODS OF INSTRUCTION, SPECIAL EMPHASIS, AND MISSION OF THE CHARTER

Philosophy-

Cambridge Academy East is an elementary school whose curricular philosophy and program of instruction are designed to meet the needs of the students it serves. By adding 7th and 8th grades to our school, we will continue to meet our students' needs in a variety of ways.

- We will work to attain academic excellence while respecting individual achievement and diversity.
- Students, parents, teachers and administrators share a commitment to teamwork, a willingness to meet challenges, and a dedication to lifelong learning.
- We will continue to support the philosophy behind a developmentally appropriate instructional methodology.
- We will provide students with a variety of educational experiences to compete and succeed in today's global economy.
- Students will learn to work and study cooperatively.
- Students will be immersed in fine arts, foreign language, physical fitness and technology.
- Cultural literacy will be emphasized, encouraged, and infused throughout the curriculum.
- We will provide a strong skill-based curriculum that is meaningful and relevant.
- We will continue to enforce and set appropriate guidelines for behavior.
- We believe learning should be fun and it should take place in a safe, supportive environment.
- We will continue to foster graduates that have acquired a solid educational foundation, an appreciation for hard work, and the abilities to succeed at the next level.

Methods of Instruction-

The same methods of instruction will be implemented throughout the school.

- Differentiated instruction
- Cooperative learning
- Priority teaching
- Interdisciplinary approach
- Stress success
- Cross curricular thematic units
- Cross curricular project based learning
- Low pupil / teacher ratios
- Focus on technology

Special Emphasis –

Cambridge Academy East students are college bound. Our goal is to inspire and prepare our students to go to college while placing an emphasis on technology. The same curriculum will be used throughout grades K-8 and align with the special emphasis of the school. Students that have been attending Cambridge Academy East will experience a flow in their education as they move into 7th and 8th grades.

Mission –

The mission of Cambridge Academy East is to ensure that all students learn to use their full potential and become contributing citizens in a rapidly changing world by providing a quality, standards based education, incorporating outstanding educators and challenging curriculum, in partnership with parents and the community. We will continue to stand by our mission statement, and infuse these principles into the foundation of our school.

- Character Education
- Highly Qualified Teachers

- Parents as Partners
- Emphasis on Technology
- Cultural Literacy

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The 7th and 8th grade classes will be added for the 2010-2011 school year, which begins July 28, 2010. The schedule and times will be the same as the rest of the school.

PROFICIENCY LEVEL REQUIRED FOR **MASTERY OF COURSEWORK AND** **PROMOTION**

The goal at Cambridge Academy East for our additional 7th and 8th grades is the same as our goal for the rest of our students. Our students are considered to have mastered a concept when they score 80% or above on an assessment given for that concept. Standardized tests results are used to guide the curriculum and instructional decisions.

The components of the curriculum at Cambridge Academy East are designed to provide opportunity for students to acquire the academic, social, and emotional skills necessary for success in life. When students are lacking in skills, sending them to the next grade level is often a frustrating and unsuccessful experience for that child. Students may not be recommended for promotion to the next grade level for any of the following reasons:

- Student has an average of 60% or lower in 1 or more core subject areas.
- Student exhibits social/emotional delays that interfere with successful performance.
- Student has had excessive absences that have created subsequent gaps in the skills necessary to succeed at the next grade level.
- Student is performing at 1 or more grade levels below his current grade.