

Decreasing Grade Levels to Charter Amendment Request

Charterholder Info

Charter Holder

Name:
Challenge Foundation
Academies of Arizona, Inc.

CTDS:
07-85-50-000

Mailing Address:
6510 W. Clarendon Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85033
> [View detailed info](#)

Representative

Name:
Tony Best

Phone Number:
813-832-3832

Fax Number:
480-222-2044

Downloads

 [Download all files](#)

Current Grade Levels

Current Grade Levels Served

- Kindergarten
- 1st Grade
- 2nd Grade
- 3rd Grade
- 4th Grade
- 5th Grade
- 6th Grade
- 7th Grade
- 8th Grade

Remove Grade Levels

Remove Grade Levels

7th
8th

Effective Date
05/21/2014

Attachments

Board Minutes —  [Download File](#)

Narrative —  [Download File](#)

Additional Information*
No documents were uploaded.

Signature

Additional Information*
No documents were uploaded.

Charter Representative Signature
Tony Best 01/28/2014

Pioneer Preparatory School: A Challenge Foundation Academy

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

Monday, January 27, 2014

**Meeting was held at Pioneer Preparatory School
6510 West Clarendon Avenue
Phoenix AZ 85033**

Board Members Present: Jonathan Butcher, Chris Klonoski, Wendy Riddell, John Fisher joined at 5:30 via the phone

Absent Members: Mary Kremer

Also Present: Tony Best, School Director
Tisha Crisler, Bookkeeper

J. Butcher called the board meeting to order at 4:05 as a quorum was established. W. Riddell moved to adopt the agenda, C. Klonoski seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

J. Butcher asked the board to consider the minutes from the last Board Meeting, December 9, 2013. C. Klonoski moved that they be approved, W. Riddell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

J. Butcher commented that we would discuss the repayment from Ridgeline during the Treasurer's Report.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

PTSA monthly report:

- PTSA wants to use the \$5,000 dollars they have raised to improve the library.
- Since there are only 40 days until AIMS, it is very important that the parents are informed about AIMS
- This week PTSA scheduled meetings with Stand for Children to brainstorm ideas as to how to bring awareness to parents of the school because we want an "A" rating for Pioneer.
- Concerns that local schools are offering extra curricular activities that Pioneer is not.
- When is the CKLA curriculum going to be used for 4-5th grades?
- PTSA wants a stronger Code of Discipline/Conduct and strict uniforms adherence. Make common courtesies a part of the classroom.
- PTSA wants to be pro-active. How can PTSA work with Mr. Best to implement changes to Family Handbook? Assist in retaining and attracting students?
- Please provide parent orientations early on, not in the middle of the year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Please see the attached report.

T. Best explained that CKLA for 4th and 5th grade is only in the pilot program stage. We will implement the curriculum as soon as it is available.

Thank you to Jenny Boyts and Wendy Riddell for providing an opportunity for Pioneer students to attend the Science Center's, Ripley's Believe It or Not exhibit.

Dean of Students Report: Discipline is going much better due to a different process that involves T. Best overview.

We are strengthening the dress code.

T. Best announce that the Student Handbook has been translated into Spanish and is available on the website and in the front office.

There are Galileo gaps in 4th and 6th when it comes to math. 8th grade is below the 60% mark so Pioneer is implementing a targeted instruction and after-school tutoring program for the bottom 16%.

6th and 7th Saturday boot camps for math in junior high – starting Super Bowl weekend, 3 hours a Saturday. **T. Best to send us an email as to how many kids showed up and participated.**

T. Best to research the following: how many of the bottom 16% are our kids (they have been with us since K)? Is there an anomaly? What do they have in common?

TREASURER'S REPORT

Please see attached report.

The large line item was a purchase of a large amount of laptops. **Are they insured? Alert the insurance company that we made the purchase.**

Ridgeline is current for the current year 2014 premiums and they are making payments on 2013 as they agreed to. 20,000 a month over eight months and we are about three months in. It will be complete by the end of the year.

The board requested T. Crisler to provide a comparison of last year and this year's general budget, 2012 to 2013.

W. Riddell moved that we accept the vouchers and C. Klonoski seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

TeamCFA UPDATE

The list of teachers who will attend the conference is due by the end of the month. TeamCFA Board Reps will be attending training in Atlanta this weekend.

The Building Refinancing topic was tabled.

Action Items

In May we can evaluate the impact of Galileo. We signed a three-year contract.

T. Crisler will provide a comparison budget.

Please keep the board meeting agenda in Spanish and English, as well as the public comment cards and sign-in sheet.

J. Butcher announced that M. Kremer will no longer serve on the Pioneer Board and he introduced Shelley Baltodano as the new TeamCFA Board Representative for the Board's consideration. C. Klonoski moved that we accept S. Baltodano onto the Pioneer School Board, W. Riddell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Letter to charter board regarding Pioneer's plans to become a K-6 school. We can continue enrolling just K-6, which does not violate compliance and is in accordance with our charter. W. Riddell moved that the Board review the letter and Klonoski seconded. Opened to comments. Passed unanimously including S. Baltodano.

In February, T. Best will address how he plans to deal with influx of 6th grade students. Preview: He wants four classes per grade level, with up to 25 students in a class. He wants an enrollment of 650 and a waiting list.

Butcher moved that we go into Executive Session, Seconded by Riddell, carried unanimously. Board went into Executive Session at 5:18PM.

T. Best left at 5:28

J. Fisher joined the meeting at 5:30.

J. Fisher to review the evaluation model and report back to the board.

Motion to adjourn by Riddell, seconded by Fisher, Motion carried unanimously and the meeting closed at 5:48.

Next meeting is February 24, 2014.

January 28, 2014

Pioneer Preparatory School: A Challenge Foundation Academy ("Pioneer Prep") is requesting a decrease in grade levels served, as of the start of the 2014-2015 school year, reducing grade levels served from kindergarten through grade 8 to kindergarten through grade 6.

TeamCFA Foundation is the sole corporate member and educational management organization for both Pioneer Prep and the newly-approved Western School of Science and Technology, Inc. ("Western Tech"). Western Tech will serve grades 7 through 12. Because Pioneer Prep and Western Tech believe that both schools can provide better educational programs for all grade levels by realigning the schools' educational programs to serve K-6 and 7-12, respectively, Pioneer Prep has wishes to realign its program to allow students in grades 7 and 8 to attend Western Tech.

If approved, this reduction in grade levels served will displace approximately 140 students. All of these students will be encouraged to enroll in Western Tech and our understanding is that, pursuant to A.R.S. §15-184.D.2, Western Tech can provide them assured enrollment through permissible enrollment preferences. Pioneer Prep would appreciate confirmation of this enrollment preference before the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools approves this request for a decrease in grade levels served. For those students that choose not to enroll at Western Tech, Pioneer Prep will be providing a series of junior-high school information nights and open houses to inform and assist parents in finding other schools for their students. Pioneer Prep will also assist the families with the transition and work with other schools in the area to make the transition as seamless as possible.

Pioneer Prep genuinely believes that this decrease in grade levels served will benefit all of its students, along with the students of Western Tech. We welcome any questions and appreciate your consideration. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tony Best

School Director