

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

Arizona State Board of Education

1700 W. Washington St., Room 164, Phoenix, AZ 85007

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www.asbcs.az.gov

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PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION AMENDMENT REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) Freedom Academy (CTDS) 078528000

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 22616 N 39th Terrace

(City, State) Phoenix (Zip) 85050

(Charter Representative's Name) Linda Hoffman

(Phone Number) 602-424-0771 (Fax Number) 602-424-0771

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.

- 4 Changes in instructional methodology, and/or delivery that affects the emphasis, program of instruction or mission as described in the charter

Included are the following:

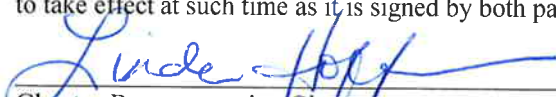
- Board minutes approving the change (If the body is subject to Open Meeting Law, minutes must comply with ARS §38-431.01)
- Narrative describing the change, the rationale for the change, and how the change will meet the ASBCS' adequate level of academic performance for student achievement.

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

FROM: Houghton-Mifflin Reading - grades K-2
We still use Houghton-Mifflin as supplemental

TO: Rowland Reading - SuperKids - grades K-2

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 11th day of Feb, 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



February 11, 2010

RE: Rowland Reading
Superkids - Grades K-2

Freedom Academy has been using Houghton-Mifflin as a course of instruction across the board in all grades for the past six years. While it has been highly successful for most areas, we feel our younger grades have not progressed as rapidly as we'd like.

Rowland Reading was reviewed and we were impressed with their high level of success in early literacy and writing.

Our board accepted the proposal of adding this to our existing program. We purchased the program this fall and have used it on a trial basis to see if it is a program we wish to fully adopt.

This program covers reading, writing, and spelling. The program is formatted to specifically take children through the process of reading using phonics, sight words, and a clear path of spiraling instruction.

To date, we have found our kindergarteners are at the same level at this time of the year that our 1st graders are normally exiting the school year. The success rate is high for all children. We believe this program exceeds the No Child Left Behind ideals and will help all our children succeed at higher grade levels.

Linda Hoffman
Administrator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Hoff". The signature is written in a cursive style and extends to the right with a long, sweeping line.

FREEDOM ACADEMY BOARD MEETING April 16, 2009

Freedom Academy
15014 N. 56th Street
Scottsdale, Az 85254

5:36 P.M. Meeting convened in meeting room, main office

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Attendance was called by Mrs. Maddux;

Present: Linda Hoffman
Lori Maddux
Barbara Guenther
Rebecca Fraker
Bruce Wilson

Absent: Al St. Amand
Geordie Wendt

Attendees:

President, Mrs. Maddux confirms that we have a quorum and can vote.

Agenda Items reviewed:

1. Review Minutes of the January meeting
2. Lease with SFA
3. Rowland Reading Program
4. Grant Writer
5. Financial update
 - 301 Follow-up /Salary Changes
 - Budget Cuts
 - 2009-10 Budget

1. Review minutes of the last meeting.

Mrs. Hoffman makes a motion to accept the minutes of the April Meeting

Mrs. Fraker seconds the motion.

Vote is Unanimous to accept the minutes of the January 2009 Board Meeting

2. SFA LEASE

Mrs. Hoffman presents the lease to the board for review. Please note that the lease states the amount of rent paid will be 12% of the state ADM payout based on the number of students enrolled with a cap of \$15,000. Also, updated insurance waiver to include a \$5 million limit of liability as requested by the SFA board. A short discussion of how the enrollment looks and what is projected took place.

Mrs. Hoffman moves to accept the lease as written with SFA

Mrs. Maddux seconds the motion.

Vote is unanimous to accept the lease as written with SFA.

2. Rowland Reading Program

Mrs. Hoffman shared her interest and the need for a new Reading Program. Superkids, created by Barbara Rowland is designed for kids in K-2nd grade to read and begin to write using a unique approach. Test scores across the board for both ethnic and socioeconomic groups nearly doubled after utilizing the program. Several teachers visited and observed a school in Tucson who has been using the program. They were very impressed and talked to teachers who explained that even the children who could not speak English coming into Kindergarten were reading fluently, chapter books, by the end of the school year. Cost for such a program sharing materials for two K's, 2 first grades, and a second grade at the south campus and one K, one first, and one second at the north campus would be in the range of \$25,000-\$30,000.

Discussion regarding the budget and money appropriated to adopt a new reading curriculum.

Mrs. Maddux moves that \$25,000 be appropriated for purchase of a new curriculum.

Mrs. Hoffman seconds the motion.

Vote is unanimous to approve \$25,000 to be spent on the Rowland Reading program.

4. Grant Writer

Mrs. Hoffman explains that we have researched finding a grant writer to search for available grant money from private or government sources. We have talked to a woman who will do this for a price but we are not sure whether her cost for doing this is justified. Mrs. Hoffman suggests that we table the discussion until we can gather more information.

5. Financial Update

Mrs. Hoffman mentions that the recent budget cuts will affect the budget for next year, however, currently our financial situation looks much better than originally projected. Although there was approximately \$240,000 at the end of last year in savings, this year it appears we will be closer to about half that amount. Still very good considering all that Pinnacle Education paid for that first year we were independent. Currently the Prop 301 money is sufficient and available for teacher salary increases for next year, year end bonuses, and signing bonuses slated for pay out next September.

Mrs. Fraker suggests that we take a look a very careful look at the year-end budget and discuss any additional changes that will need to be made.

Mrs. Maddux agrees.

Mrs. Maddux moves that the meeting be adjourned.

Mrs. Fraker seconds the motion.

Vote is unanimous to adjourn the April 16th meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.