

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
Arizona State Board of Education
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AZ

CHARTER GRADE LEVEL AMENDMENT REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) Desert Star Community School (CTDS) 138714000

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 1240 S. Recycler Road

(City, State) Cornville, AZ (Zip) 86325

(Charter Representative's Name) Catherine Weld

(Phone Number) 928-282-0171 (Fax Number) 928-284-9565

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.

Check appropriate box

Adding grade levels served for charter

Included are the following:

- Board minutes approving the change (minutes must comply with Open Meeting Law ARS §38-431.01)
- Narrative describing how the additional grades support the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis, and mission of the charter
- Mastery of coursework for additional grades
- Expected student performance on state mandated tests at all grade levels impacted by the addition
- Timeline for implementation
- Changes in staffing to support the requirements for Highly Qualified.

For K-8

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.

For 9-12

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 math course description and a completed curriculum sample template including all required attachments as outlined on the template (template is available on the ASBCS website).
- Language Arts - A language arts course description and a completed curriculum sample template, for both reading and writing, including all required attachments as outlined on the template (template is available on the ASBCS website).
- Graduation requirements (number of credits in each content area and electives)
- Course level proficiency required for credit and acceptance of transfer credit

Decreasing grade levels served for charter

Included is the following:

- Board minutes approving the change (minutes must comply with Open Meeting Law ARS §38-431.01)
- Rationale for decrease in grade levels served and effective date of change

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

FROM: Kindergarten through grade six

TO: Kindergarten through grade seven

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 9 day of December, 2008, and the State Board for Charter Schools has signed this contract amendment as of this ____ day of _____, 200__, 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

**Desert Star Community Charter School
1240 Recycler Road
Cornville, AZ**

Board Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2008

A. Meeting was called to order by Catherine Weld President.

Roll call, board members present:

Catherine Weld, Tomas Winn, Susan Simon, Pam Israelson, Rhonda Beirman, Kathy Klein, Yvan Rochon,

B. Public Comments: none

**C. Discussion of recent audit by Cronstrom Osuch & Co. and current financial state:
Jennifer Young**

1. Jennifer reviewed the Audited Financial Statements year end June 30, 2008 with the board
2. Review of results of audit
3. Discussion of our relationship with ETC accounting service.
4. Review of Desert Star's current financial status and outlook and options for future strategic planning.

5. Board approval of expenses:

- Revolver Account: Dates 6/30/08 – 8/19/08 = \$36,472.66

- Transfer approval to Revolver Account:

7/3, 7/14, 7/22, 7/23, 7/25, 7/30, 8/13, 8/18 = \$39,750.00

- Expense approval Revolver Account: 8/20/08 – 10/30/08 = \$7,403.82

- Transfer approval to Revolver Account: 9/29, 10/06, 10/27 = \$3,650.00

- Expense approval:

11/18/08 = \$12,793.91

12/02/08 = \$8,688.78

1/1/09 = \$1,162.43

12/1/08 = \$1,162.43

11/21/08 = \$6,141.73

7/22/08 = \$5,025.50

- Payroll approval 12/05/08 = \$19,580.14, for pay period: 11/16 – 11/30

- Payroll approval 11/20/08 = \$19,996.21, for pay period: 11/1 – 11/15

6. Overview of strategy options

D. Board Study: The Five Dysfunctions of Charter School Boards, by Brian Carpenter: The board is reviewing this piece and looking at ways to improve board meeting procedures.

E. Review and approval of minutes: The minutes of October 28, 2008 were presented for approval.

MOTION: Tomas moves to approve the minutes of October 28th

SECOND: Rhonda

VOTE: Vote to approve is unanimous

F. Discussion of school expansion for 2009-2010

- Susan reported that the faculty the question of expansion at their last meeting.
- The board discussed the need to continue to look at the financial picture and asses various funding scenarios. It was determined that there is a need for \$50,000 to finish our current campus there would then be the need for an additional \$100,000 to add a new classroom in order to offer a 6th/7th grade class next year. An additional \$200,000 would then be needed the following year to add two more classrooms to provide the school individual classrooms for each grade from K – 8th.

G. Discussion on amending the charter to include grades 7 & 8

MOTION: Pam moves we go forward with the process of amending the charter to add a grade 7 curriculum for next year and Desert Star pay a one time fee of up to \$1,000 to have the curriculum written for the December 10, 2008 deadline.

SECOND: Yvan

Discussion: Catherine consulted with the State Charter Board and was informed that if we are considering adding the 7th grade next year we need to submit a curriculum for this grade by December 10th in order to hear back by March. If we submit our curriculum later, we will not hear back from the Charter Board in time to begin remodel or construction of an additional classroom for the new class. It

VOTE: Five votes to approve, with Catherine abstaining.

H. Reports:

1. Administrative Report: Susan

- Current enrollment is at 89 students
- Susan reported on the new State Standards for technology. It will be necessary to work with our faculty and check with other Waldorf Schools to create a policy regarding the use of technology in all grades at DS.
- Child Abuse Reporting 101 is being reviewed by the faculty.

2. Faculty Report: Rhonda

- Rhonda submitted her resignation letter as Faculty Representative to the Board. The faculty will select another member to represent them on the board at the next faculty meeting. The board appreciates all that Rhonda has brought to the board in the last year as faculty representative.

3. PR/FR Committee: Pam

- The PR Committee has been meeting weekly to prioritize the promotional needs of the school. The first issue to be focused upon is the school newsletter. Fifth grade parent, Holly Shantara has volunteered to get the newsletter up and running by using Constant

Contact. The newsletter has begun going out on a weekly basis both via email to entire school community as well as in print form with each child on Fridays. The goals of the newsletter will be #1 to serve as the main source of school wide information for the parent body, #2: to inform and educate all regarding the philosophy and pedagogy of DS, and #3 to promote the school and school to the entire community.

- The website is also being upgraded with links that will benefit the school online.
- A Tax Credit mailing has been organized to be given to all students to recruit 5 tax credit donors per family.
- Events are being discussed to promote DS in the near future.

4. Enrollment Committee: will begin meeting after the new year.

5. Parent Council: Pam

- The new Parent Council has begun meeting on alternating Mondays. Angie Barnes is chairing the group with the of Mike Jefferson. All classes are represented by the parent class representative and all parents are always welcome at the meetings.

Current Parent Council focus will be:

- Organizing parent's commitment to volunteer 50 hours per school year
- Promoting the AZ Tax Credit effort
- Organizing Parent Reps. to communicate to their class via phone trees
- Creating a Hospitality/Welcoming committee for new families
- Contributions to the weekly Desert Star newsletter
- Reports from Class Reps.
- Helping with school festivals

6. Board Nominating Committee: Catherine

- Catherine has received a nomination of Petra Breakstone to fill the board seat vacated by Bridget Van Block.

MOTION: Tomas moves appoint Petra Breakstone to fulfill the term for the board seat vacated by Bridget VanBlock.

SECOND: Pam

VOTE: Vote to approve is unanimous

I. Report from Charter School Board Conference, proposed changes to future agendas:
tabled for next meeting

L. Agenda items and date for next meeting: to be announced.

Catherine Weld
President, Board of Directors

Narrative:

Desert Star Community School is a progressive Waldorf methods school. We opened in August of 2006 with grades kindergarten through sixth grade as is written in our charter. We have grown by 20 additional students each year. The continued growth of Desert Star Community School, the strong request from sixth grade parents to have a seventh grade and the presence of an experienced teacher of 28 years whose major interest is teaching in the middle school has led us to write this amendment to expand to a seventh grade. The majority of elementary schools in this area go through the middle school years so this is consistent with our community. Also, Elementary Waldorf Schools throughout the world are usually a kindergarten through eighth grade school. The Waldorf curriculum will continue to be used in the seventh grade along with Howard Gardner's "Multiple Intelligences". The state standards are taught in every grade at the school. Desert Star will have more possibilities for community involvement with the addition of a seventh grade as well as more direct contact with the Native American reservations with older students. In the future we hope to have a K through 8 school and complete the elementary school years for our students.

Mastery of coursework:

The instruction of the seventh grade students will include the state standards for seventh grade using the Waldorf methodology and the multi-intelligences. The school is already prepared to teach language arts, mathematics, science, foreign language (all students take Spanish), physical education, as well as the arts: music, drama, painting, handwork to the 7th grade. The teachers at Desert Star go to summer trainings each year to further develop their skills. With experienced teachers available to teach the middle school, we are confident of our success.

Expected student performance on state mandated tests at all grade levels impacted by the addition:

We expect all of our students to perform better on the state mandated tests each year. We often have older students reading with younger students or helping them with math. This serves all of the students. As stated in the charter, by the year 2013-2014, we expect 100% of student to meet the requisite standards for proficiency as shown by State assessment scores.

Timeline for implementation:

We expect to implement this change from a K-6 grade school to a K-7 grade school in August 2009.

Changes in staffing to support the requirements for Highly Qualified:

All teaching staff at Desert Star School in the 7th grade will fulfill the requirements to be Highly Qualified.

Rubric

Reading ability to comprehend plot, main idea, describe characters, predict future events and spell and define newly introduced vocabulary

with 50% accuracy	Concern	low interest/low participation
with 51-89% accuracy	Progressing	good interest/minimum participation
with 90-99% accuracy	Mastery	excellent interest/ consistent participation
with 100% accuracy	Excels	outstanding interest/consistent and outstanding participation

Rubric

Writing Ability to write with details supporting the main idea, writing with appropriate voice and word choice, creativity in predicting future events based on the events in the book

Expected student performance on State tests

With the addition of the 7th grade, the expectation is that test scores on State mandated tests will increase by 5% in grades 2-6. The teachers continue to work hard as a faculty, aligning our curriculum with the Arizona State Standards. Being aware of what is expected of 7th graders will assist all of the teachers in better preparation of their students for the succeeding grade.