

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 DEC 21 2009

CHARTER GRADE LEVEL AMENDMENT REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy (CTDS) 038750000

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 3100 N. Fort Valley Rd. #41

(City, State) Flagstaff (Zip) 86001

(Charter Representative's Name) Dan Slayton

(Phone Number) 928-779-7223 (Fax Number) 928-779-7041

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:

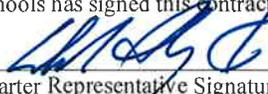
- Board minutes approving the change (minutes must comply with Open Meeting Law ARS §38-431.01)
- Rationale for decrease in grade levels served and effective date of change

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

FROM: 9-12

TO: 7-12

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 18th day of December, 2009, 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

Meeting Minutes

Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy Board of Trustees Governing Board

FALA Room #1, 3100 N. Fort Valley Road #41, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

Monday, December 14, 2009, 5:30pm

BOT Members present:

Robert Breunig, Dave Eckert, David Edwards, Sara Morley, Bill Gallen (present by phone), Dan Slayton (present by phone).

Public Present:

Ari Wilder, Mindy Bell, Ben Anderson, Becky Daggett

Call To Order Sara Morley, Secretary, 5:35pm

Approval Of Consent Agenda:

Robert moves to approve the agenda, David Edwards seconds. Unanimous approval.

Call to Public – None

Information Items

1. Middle School Potential -- Ari Wilder shared a PowerPoint presentation proposing the addition of a middle school to the school. She addressed both the pros and cons of the possibility.
2. Executive Director Report – Becky Daggett presented a handout highlighting events of the past month.
3. Review Financials – Becky Daggett – presented financials, emphasized that the budget is tight in part due to campus maintenance issues and unexpected expenditures relating to the new campus, but assures the board that we will be able to make payroll. When FALA receives its bond, expenses paid to date will be reimbursed.

Action Items

1. Discussion of adding middle school – Robert Breunig moves to approve moving forward with middle school. Sara questions whether more public opinion should be gathered before moving forward. Ari and Becky emphasize time constraints. David Edwards seconds. Unanimous approval.
2. Discussion of November 2009 financials – Dave Eckert moves to approve, David Edwards seconds. Unanimous approval.
3. Nomination of officers – Sara Morley is nominated for interim president, Robert Breunig is nominated for treasurer, Dave Eckert is nominated for secretary. Robert Breunig moves to approve, Dan Slayton seconds. Unanimous approval.

Executive Session

Robert Breunig moves to move into executive session, David Edwards seconds. Unanimous approval.

Executive Session minutes are sealed

Open Session

Meeting Adjourned at 6:35, Robert moved, David Eckert seconds. Unanimous Approval.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 11, 2010.

Flagstaff Arts & Leadership Academy

3100 N. Ft. Valley Rd. #41, Flagstaff, AZ, 86001
Phone (928) 779-7223 Fax (928) 779-7041

RECEIVED DEC 17 2009

December 16, 2009

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
Arizona State Board of Education
1700 W. Washington St., Room 164
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Arizona State Board for Charter Schools,

This is our submittal letter in support of our application to add middle school under the Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy (FALA) charter. Since our inception, FALA has operated on the grounds of the Museum of Northern Arizona. While we still enjoy the academic and artistic benefits of this relationship, FALA is currently in the process of purchasing a piece of land on which to relocate.

We are working with William Gelm of the law firm BuchalterNemer on obtaining bond financing for our new campus. Our expectation is that we will obtain this financing and close escrow on the property by the end of February (2010) and that we will be moved onto our new campus by the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year.

The administration, board, and faculty of FALA have discussed adding a middle school for several years, but were limited by space on our current campus. Now that we are expanding, we are able to realize this goal. Adding a middle school would be in keeping with FALA's mission and would be positive for our school on many fronts.

There is an unmet need for additional middle school instruction in Flagstaff. Every member of our faculty and staff has been asked by a friend, colleague, or family member of a current FALA student whether we are contemplating adding a middle school.

FALA is currently rated as an 'Excelling' school and the addition of middle school would allow us the opportunity to begin working with students at a younger age and prepare them for the academic rigor of our school. These extra two years will help to ensure that our high school graduates are even better prepared for college—both academically and artistically.

The addition of middle school has the full support of our entire faculty, staff, and board. We submit the enclosed materials in the hopes that you will grant us this opportunity and that we may begin middle school instruction in the fall of 2010. We look forward to providing the same excellent academic and arts education to Flagstaff's middle school students as we have to high school students for the past 13 years.

Sincerely,


Becky Daggett
Executive Director


Ari Wilder
Dean of Academy

Narrative describing how the additional grades support the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis, and mission of the charter:

The Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy (FALA) is an educational community committed to academic excellence in the arts, sciences, and humanities. Our mission is to provide students with small class sizes and the individualized attention necessary to participate and succeed in a rapidly changing world. We value each student as an individual and champion the importance of art education as a way to support self-expression, creativity, and awareness. Our liberal arts curriculum seeks to prepare students to think critically, communicate effectively, analyze issues, and develop leadership abilities. Our college preparatory course of study, including Advanced Placement (AP) courses in math, science, English, social studies, fine arts, and music, let all of our students combine artistic expression with rigorous academic study.

Adding 7th and 8th grades to FALA will allow us to develop student abilities and skills from a younger age and increase the potential for academic and artistic success. Our courses are premised on high expectations and follow a sequence that aims to prepare all students for college. We structure our classes so that students can begin taking AP classes during their junior year and most of our seniors are enrolled in at least one AP course. We are eager to have the opportunity to educate middle school students because we are passionate about expanding our effective educational model. We envision that the addition of 7th and 8th grades will lead to better prepared high school students, allowing our high school curriculum to be even more challenging and necessitating less student remediation. Along these same lines, having an additional two years to provide in-depth practical training in the visual and performing arts will promote even greater student achievement in our fine and performing arts.

At FALA, students begin with a broad exposure to the arts by taking at least one course in each core artistic area, including fine arts, dance, music, theatre, and creative writing. Then, students are encouraged to focus on one or two artistic areas of interest through advanced art courses. This breadth and depth of art education guides students to follow their own artistic passions and also gives students exposure to different media and points of view. Middle school students will be able to begin their broad exposure to the arts through a variety of elective art classes during their 7th and 8th grade years. We anticipate that this will allow students to specialize in artistic areas of interest earlier in their high school career and will lead to even more challenging and advanced fine and performing art courses at FALA.

Our rigorous academic and art courses combined with our service-learning program provide a strong foundation of content knowledge, real-world application, leadership development, and opportunities for individual expression and creativity. Students in our English, math, social studies, science, and foreign language courses learn ways of thinking and asking questions specific to the area of study and explore traditional bodies of knowledge from multiple perspectives. In addition to supporting more standard modes of instruction, such as lecture and discussion, we also support instruction that is activity-based and challenges students to apply concepts from class to meaningful and individualized endeavors. Consequently, our assessments include formal tests, quizzes, lab reports, and papers, informal discussions and questions, and culminating projects, presentations, and performances. We also support authentic service learning experiences that connect with course curricula so that students can apply their classroom knowledge to relevant local and global issues. Our instruction and assessment of middle school students will not differ substantially and we envision that adding these grade levels will allow us to offer even more effective instruction and individual support because we will be educating some students over the course of 6 years.

Finally, we are dedicated to providing a safe, nurturing, and welcoming environment. We recently started an Advisory Program at FALA and we are excited about the possibility of including middle school students in this endeavor. Our advisory program ensures that all students reflect on their educational experiences, develop leadership skills, set short and long-term goals for the future, and develop a relationship with an adult mentor at our school. As our enrollment increases, we will continue to support small class sizes and an exceptional selection of academic and art courses. Including 7th and 8th grade students at FALA will provide us with the opportunity to build and develop relationships with students and parents over six years and lead to even more productive interactions and collaborations.

Mastery of coursework for additional grades:

Our 7th grade curriculum will consist of the following 5 required courses and 2-3 electives:

7th Grade English

7th Grade Math: Math Foundations and Pre-Algebra

7th Grade Science: Life Science and Earth and Space Science

7th Grade Social Studies

Great Books 1

2-3 of 5 offered electives in Dance, Theatre and Creative Writing, Music, Fine Art, and Spanish

Our 8th grade curriculum will consist of the following 5 required courses and 2-3 electives:

8th Grade English

8th Grade Math: Pre-Algebra and Algebra 1

8th Grade Science: Life Science and Physical Science

8th Grade Social Studies

Great Books 2

2-3 of 5 offered electives in Dance, Theatre and Creative Writing, Music, Fine Art, and Spanish

The Great Books 1 and 2 courses will be a combination of critical thinking, reading, and writing combined with research and study skills. These courses will focus on readings and projects associated with math, science, social studies, and language arts, rotating between these 4 areas each quarter. This course will be required in 7th grade and 8th grade.

Students will earn a final grade for each semester of completed coursework and then receive an overall grade for the year. Students must earn passing grades (80% or higher) in English, math, science, social studies, and the Great Books course to be promoted to the next grade level (7th to 8th and 8th to 9th). We will retain students who fail 3 or more courses and require students who fail two courses to take summer school coursework. If students do not receive passing grades (80% or higher) in summer school classes then we will retain them. We will consider any students who earn 80% or higher in all required courses to have mastered the curriculum.

All of our 7th and 8th grade courses will be aligned with the Arizona State Standards for grades 7 and 8. This applies to all subject areas including: English, math, science, social studies, dance, theatre and creative writing, music, fine art, and Spanish. Our Great Books course will also be aligned with the Arizona State Standards across a variety of disciplines. The 7th and 8th grade courses will also incorporate Technology and Workplace Skills Standards.

In addition to the courses listed above, all 7th and 8th grade students will also be part of an Advisory Program that will meet once a week. During Advisory students will develop

leadership skills, set short-term and long-term academic and personal goals, participate in character education, and create a middle school portfolio documenting their academic and artistic growth during their time at FALA. Students that continue attending FALA for high school will add to this portfolio through our high school Advisory Program. Students that attend FALA for all 6 years will end their high school career with a physical (or digital) testament to their educational and personal growth.

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

Seventh graders will take the AIMS writing, reading and math. We expect 36 (roughly 80%) or more of our 7th grade students to meet or exceed on their AIMS writing, we expect 39 (roughly 86%) or more of our 7th grade students to meet or exceed on their AIMS Reading, and 36 (roughly 80 %) or more of our 7th graders students to meet or exceed on their AIMS math. Eighth graders will take the AIMS reading, math, and science. We expect 39 (roughly 86%) or more of our 8th grade students to meet or exceed on their AIMS writing, we expect 40 (roughly 90%) or more of our 8th grade students to meet or exceed on their AIMS Reading, and 39 (roughly 86 %) or more of our 8th graders students to meet or exceed on their AIMS math. Since there is not yet state data provided for the AIMS Science, predicted outcomes for eighth graders at FALA on this test will be based on initial test performance.

Timeline for implementation:

We are currently in the process of getting a bond to start construction at a new site. We will find out the status of the bond by the end of February and we anticipate that this site will be operational by the start of the 2010-2011 school year. We plan on creating a middle school quad with four classrooms as part of this new campus. This proposal to add 7th and 8th grades to our current charter is contingent upon us getting the bond. If the bond process is successful we will admit 45 7th graders and 45 8th graders to FALA for the 2010-2011 school year. We will hold 3 open houses for perspective middle school students and families during the month of February, we will accept applications in March (with the understanding that admission is subject to Charter Board approval of the addition of 7th and 8th grades), and we will officially accept students by the end of March through a lottery process if necessary. We will hire 4 new teachers (outlined below) in April and May. These teachers will be paid a stipend during the summer to further develop the curriculum for each grade level and order the necessary books and materials before the end of July. We will be ready to educate 7th and 8th grade students by the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year.

Changes in staffing to support the requirements for highly qualified:

We will admit a total of 90 middle school students evenly divided between Grade 7 (45 students) and Grade 8 (45 students). Each academic area will have two 7th grade classes (one of 22 students and one of 23 students) and two 8th grade classes (one of 22 students and one of 23 students). We will offer 4 middle school science classes, 4 middle school math classes, 4 middle school English classes, and 4 middle school social studies classes. We will hire a highly qualified teacher in each of these four areas (math, science, English, and Social Studies). Each of these teachers will be highly qualified in their subject area according to the Arizona standards for 7th-12th grade teachers. In addition, each of these teachers will also teach the Great Books 1

and 2 courses in their subject area each year (two quarters for 7th graders and two quarters for 8th graders).

The elective courses offered in dance, theatre and creative writing, music, fine art and Spanish will be taught by our current high school teachers who are all highly qualified in their subject areas (7-12). These teachers, or any new teachers that we hire, will have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree **and** either pass the AEPa Subject Knowledge Test in their core academic subject area, hold an advanced degree in their core academic subject area, have National Board certification in their core academic subject area, have a major or 24 credit hours in their core academic subject area, have a minimum of 100 points on the AZ HOSSE rubric prior to June 30, 2007 in their core academic subject area, or have Highly Qualified Teacher Reciprocity in their core academic subject area. In addition to being highly qualified, many of our instructors are also professional fine and performing artists.