Applicant's history

Sierra Preparatory Academy began as a concept by Edward Denny, who has over 20 years of experience as an educator, including at Tempe Preparatory Academy and Chandler Preparatory Academy and consulting at Great Hearts Academies. Encouraged by his colleagues, other educators and community leaders, Edward Denny decided to take what he had learned working at the top schools in Metro Phoenix and combine it with his own research and convictions about how to create an academic institution that exemplifies a classical liberal arts education model. Establishing and operating the new Sierra Preparatory Academy charter became a mission for Edward Denny in the pursuit of delivering high quality public education. He did so by blending best educational, academic, management and community practices developed over the years at Tempe Preparatory Academy, Chandler Preparatory Academy and other leading classical liberal arts schools in Arizona and nationally.

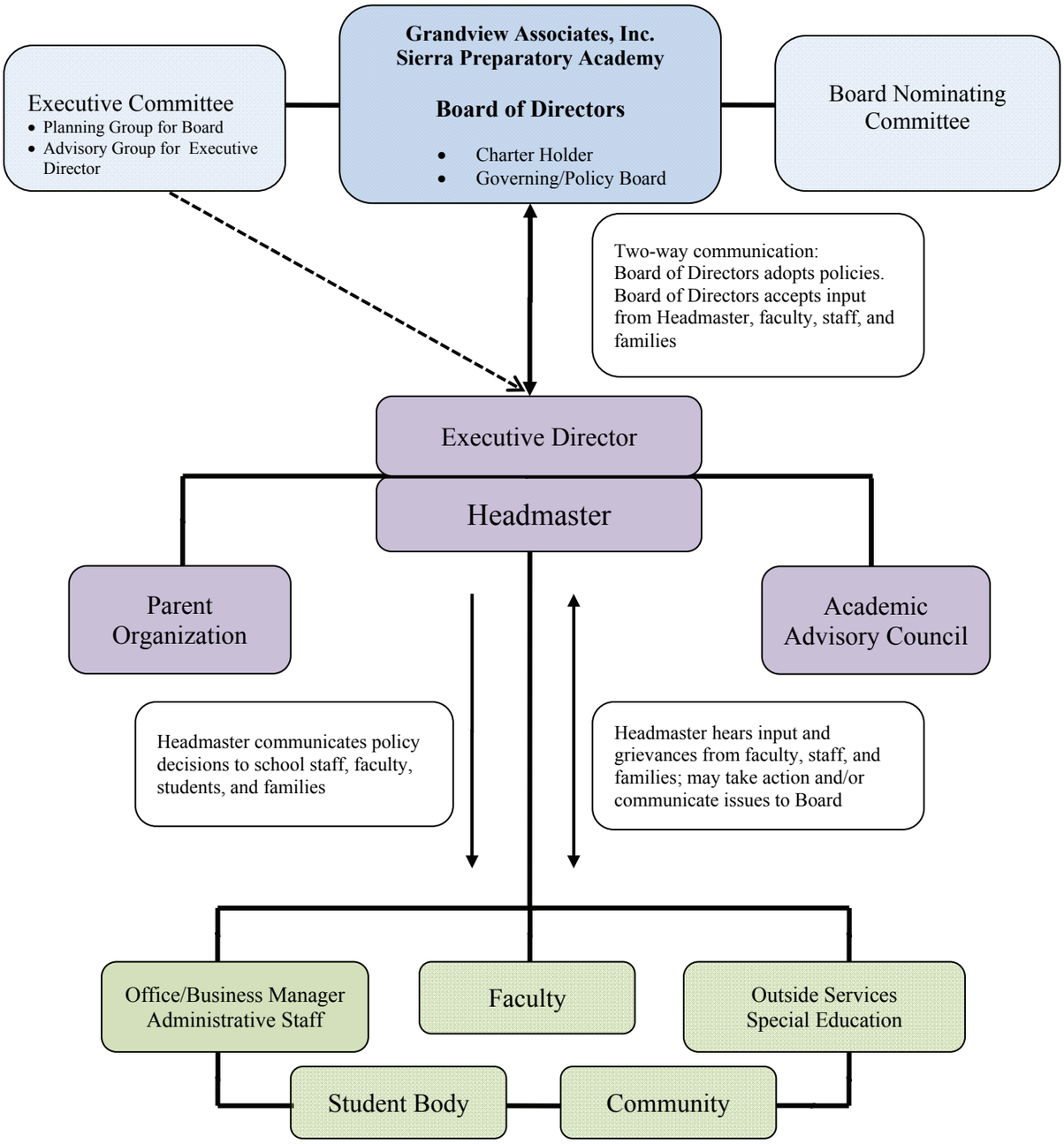
Yuliya Yatsyshina, Edward Denny's wife, helped with the business side of founding Sierra Preparatory Academy. Yuliya brings valuable business, finance and marketing experience to the organization. She graduated from Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics and Information Systems with a major in finance and received her MBA degree in strategic management from Northwest Nazarene University. She served as the American Program Manager for the International Relations and Programs Department at the Kazakh-American Free University in Ust-Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan, and she taught International Business, Economics and Entrepreneurship while there. Yuliya also obtained valuable community relations experience in the U.S. as a volunteer development coordinator at Tempe Preparatory Academy and as a campaign assistant for Hugh Hallman for Governor of Arizona.

On March 6, 2013 Edward Denny and Yuliya Yatsyshina founded Grandview Associates, Inc., an Arizona not-for-profit corporation with the purpose to operate Sierra Preparatory Academy, a 6th through 12th grade charter school in Mesa, Arizona, as reflected in the Articles of Incorporation, as well as documented in the resolution of intent to apply for a charter. The corporation papers (Articles of Incorporation) have been properly filed with the Arizona Corporation Commission. The corporation has developed and adopted its bylaws. The corporation will obtain an EIN (Employer Identification Number) and a DUNS (Dunn and Bradstreet) number. The corporation will subsequently obtain a CCR registration, necessary to conduct its business and operations as a charter school. Additionally, the corporation will be applying for a 503 (c) (3) tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code. The corporation has secured financing, as reflected in the Consent to Verify the Availability of Funds Form, necessary for the start-up period of the school.

Board Composition

Grandview Associates, Inc. was established with an initial Board of Directors, consisting of two directors, including Edward Denny - President and Yuliya Yatsyshina – Secretary and Treasurer. The initial Board of Directors has the education, knowledge, experience, and skills to plan, design and implement the classical liberal arts education model of Sierra Preparatory Academy. Future Board Directors will be appointed by a majority vote once a charter is granted and will be made up of a cross-section of educators, community and business leaders.

b) Provide an organizational chart and describe the reporting structure within the entity consistent with the narrative.



Reporting Structure:

Board of Directors: The Board of Directors of Grandview Associates, Inc. will also act as the governing body for Sierra Preparatory Academy. The Board of Directors will ensure compliance with the charter contract granted by the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools and will formulate and adopt all policies, aligned with the school's mission and educational philosophy, necessary for the operation of the school.

- *Executive Committee:* The Executive Committee is established by the Board as a standing committee. This committee will be chaired by the President and will consist of all other officers of the corporation and may include others as is deemed appropriate by the Board. This committee will serve as the central planning group for the corporation and as an advisory group to the Executive Director.
- *Nominating Committee:* The President shall appoint a nominating committee of the Board to present a slate of officers for nomination at the annual meeting.

Executive Director: The Board may select an Executive Director who may be employed by the corporation pursuant to terms established by the Board. The Executive Director shall be responsible to, but only to, the Board. The Executive Director shall carry out the duties prescribed by the Board. The Executive Director shall be an ex-officio member of the Board and all committees. During the start-up period and prior to any new site expansions the Headmaster will perform the duties of the Executive Director as they are prescribed by the Board.

Headmaster: The Headmaster is appointed by the Board of Directors and reports directly to the Board of Directors. The Headmaster is responsible for developing and implementing the procedures to execute the Board's policies and for the day-to-day management of the school. The Headmaster oversees the implementation of the Academy's curriculum and State Academic Standards, and manages the faculty, administrative staff and outside services at Sierra Preparatory Academy. The Board of Directors supervises the work of the Headmaster. All other employees will be supervised and report to the Headmaster.

Office/Business Manager: The Office/Business Manager for Sierra Preparatory Academy manages the finances and the front office of the school and works closely with the Headmaster. The Office/Business Manager reports to the Headmaster. The office/business manager also assists families with records and school business unrelated to student discipline, curriculum, or the classroom. The office/business manager is assisted by a full-time front desk receptionist.

Academic Advisory Council: The Academic Advisory Council includes parents, local college and university faculty, members of foundations and research institutes located locally and nationwide. The Academic Advisory Council will help to ensure the high academic standards of Sierra Preparatory Academy by participating in curriculum development, advanced studies and special seminars.

Parent Organization: The role of the Parent Organization is to encourage parents to become involved in planning of school events, fund raising activities, assisting teachers in the classroom, tutoring and acting as lunchroom monitors. The Parent Organization is represented on the Board of Directors in an ex officio capacity as a means of uniting the two entities towards the shared vision.

Subsidiary relationship of the Applicant entity to another organization

The applicant entity, Grandview Associates, Inc., an Arizona nonprofit corporation does not have any subsidiary relationship to another organization.

Current or prior charter operation by the Applicant

The applicant for this new charter is Grandview Associates, Inc., an Arizona nonprofit corporation, created on March 6, 2013 with the purpose of operating Sierra Preparatory Academy, a 6-12 grade tuition-free charter public school. Grandview Associates, Inc. does not have any current or prior charter operations.

Role of each Principal in the entity

Edward Denny is founder, Corporate Director, Chairman of the Board of Directors and officer (President) of Grandview Associates, Inc. He will serve as the Authorized Representative for the charter. He will also be involved in the day-to-day operations of the school as the Headmaster for Sierra Preparatory Academy.

Edward Denny has the education, knowledge, experience and skills to operate a charter school. He contributes educational and business knowledge, experience and skills to the organization. He is an accomplished school educator and leader with over 20 years of experience at some of the best schools in Metro Phoenix. He graduated from Hamilton College, Clinton, NY with a B.A. in Classics with further concentration in Music. He graduated from Arizona State University with an M.A. degree in U.S. History, with an emphasis on Constitutional studies that was sponsored by a full scholarship from the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation and which included studies at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He is currently pursuing an M.A. in English through Middlebury's Bread Loaf School of English in Middlebury, Vermont. Edward Denny is a long-term educator, whose teaching experience started at Bryant and Stratton Institute, Buffalo, NY as an instructor of College English, and Written Communications for business majors and continued further on. While working as a non-profit arts administrator in Buffalo, NY, he taught Latin at Nardin Academy (one of Buffalo's premier private schools) on his lunch hour. After moving to Arizona, he worked as a volunteer docent at both the Heard Museum and Desert Botanical Gardens working with both adults and school groups of all ages. Edward Denny acquired valuable tax and financial experience and knowledge while working at James E. Denny, Tax and Financial Services in Buffalo, NY where he assisted in the preparation and proofreading of state and federal tax returns for individual and corporate clients. Following his passion to teach Latin and the Humanities, Edward Denny joined the faculty at Tempe Preparatory Academy (TPA), the leading charter school in liberal arts education in Arizona, shaping and influencing the Humanities studies there as the Humanities Department Chair and Director of the Senior Thesis program. Edward Denny developed TPA's curricula for Chemistry, U.S. Humane Letters, and Senior Thesis; developed the TPA Style Guide to improve the writing curriculum, as well as a documentary text to improve the Humane Letters American history curriculum. He was a Speech and Debate team advisor and tournament judge and led many professional development activities at TPA. He was also involved with the students outside the classroom as the chaperone for student trips including those to London, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles. He actively contributed to the business and operations of the school - he was the faculty representative to the Board of Directors, Chair of the Salary Schedule Committee, Chair of the Strategic Academic Improvement Committee and Member of the Headmaster Search Committee. At present, Edward Denny is an instructor for 9th grade Humane Letters, American Literature and History, at Great Hearts' Chandler Preparatory Academy as well as the Curriculum Consultant assisting in the training and evaluation of chemistry teachers at the Great Hearts Academies network of liberal arts academies.

As an active community participant Edward Denny contributed to several of the largest organizations in Arizona, including Arizona State Board for Charter Schools, Technical Review Panel, Phoenix, AZ, 2012 as a volunteer evaluator of education plans for new charter applications; Guest Lecturer at the U.S. State Department, American Corners Program, Ust-Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan, 2012; Regular Lecturer on the topics of Southwest Native American culture, U.S. Civil War, and ethnobotany at the regional Pushkin Library; Tour guide specializing in ethnobotany for adult and school groups and Chairman of the Education Sub-Committee for Curriculum Development, 2003 at the Desert Botanical Gardens, Docent, Phoenix, AZ, 1998 – 2004; Heard Museum Education Department, Docent, Phoenix, AZ, 1997 – 2004 - Tour guide of Southwest anthropology and fine art collections for adult and K-12 school groups; Chairman of the Exhibitors Committee for the Heard Museum's Indian Fair and Market, 1999 – 2001; Produced the first comprehensive manual for selecting,

evaluating, and organizing over 500 artists from throughout the United States for the Museum's largest annual fundraising event; Featured Ketoh speaker: Travelogue of Museums across the U.S., 1999 and Junior Guide of the Year, 1998. He has also performed volunteer work at Great Hearts Academies, Arizona Commission on the Arts, Phoenix Symphony, Phoenix Bach Choir, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Clarence Public Library, and Western New York PBS.

Edward Denny's work and studies were recognized twice by the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation. He was a Fellow at Arizona State University (2004) and Georgetown University (2005) and recipient of the Edward Fitch Prize in Greek and two year recipient of the Winchell Prize in Greek at Hamilton College, NY.

He also contributed to many grant projects and conferences in the US and abroad, including the International Educational Conferences at the Kazakh-American Free University in 2011 and 2012, where he presented papers entitled: "The Value of a Liberal Arts Education in a Global Economy" and "Why Literature Matters for Business Majors."; Liberty Fund Conferences in 2005 through 2009 – participated in eight separate conferences on economics, politics, philosophy, and literature with readings including works by Plato, Plutarch, Locke, Hume, Montesquieu, Trenchard and Gordon, Thucydides, Hamilton, Madison, Alchian, Tullock, and Buchanan, among others; National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar Grant, 2004 - Participant in a five-week seminar entitled "Interpretations of the Industrial Revolution in Britain" at Nottingham University, UK; Tempe Preparatory Academy Faculty Development Grant, 2002 - Independent research in the U.S. Civil War and participation in a Flinn Foundation chemistry workshop; Arizona State University, National Science Foundation Sponsored Workshops, Summer 2001 & 2002 - Participant in month-long Modeling Instruction Workshops for Chemistry and Physics.

Yuliya Yatsyshina is the founder, Corporate Director and Officer (Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) of Grandview Associates, Inc. She will be involved in the day-to-day operations of the school as the Office/Business Manager for Sierra Preparatory Academy. Yuliya Yatsyshina has the education, knowledge, experience and skills to operate a charter school.

Yuliya Yatsyshina graduated from Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics and Information Systems with a major in finance and received her MBA degree in strategic management from Northwest Nazarene University. Yuliya's work experience started as an inspector at JSC Kazzinc Quality Control Department in Ust-Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan where she oversaw production processes and compliance with industry standards for international trade partners and provided documentation support. She also worked at JSC Alliance Bank, Legal Entities Services Department Specialist in Ust-Kamenogorsk, where she provided transactional support for individual and corporate clients, executed payment orders and provided general office support. She served as the American Program Manager for the International Relations and Programs Department at the Kazakh-American Free University in Ust-Kamenogorsk and she was instructor of International Business, Economics and Entrepreneurship at the same university. Yuliya also obtained valuable community relations experience in the US as a volunteer development coordinator at Tempe Preparatory Academy and campaign assistant for Hugh Hallman for Governor of Arizona.

Current or prior charter operation by any Principal

The applicant for this new charter is Grandview Associates, Inc., which is an Arizona nonprofit corporation, created on March 6, 2013 with the purpose of operating Sierra Preparatory Academy, a 6-12 grade tuition-free charter public school. Grandview Associates, Inc. does not have any current prior charter operations. None of the corporation's principals have had any involvement in any charter operations.[1]

[1] Edward Denny has held various teaching positions at Tempe Preparatory Academy and Chandler Preparatory Academy.

Required Exhibits

- Articles of Incorporation as a nonprofit on file with the Arizona Corporation Commission
- Corporate Bylaws
- Organizational Chart (within narrative)
- Resolution of intent to apply for a charter