

**AGENDA ITEM: Graysmark Schools Corporation Application**

Graysmark Schools Corporation submitted an application package for the Board’s consideration. This report contains:

- Background information regarding the qualifications of the applicant,
- A copy of the scoring rubric which confirms the application package does not meet the requirements as demonstrated through the review of the preliminary application package submitted on August 3, 2009, the technical assistance provided to the applicant, and a review of the revised application package submitted on December 11, 2009, and
- Staff’s overview and summary of the application package.

The following background information is provided for your consideration:

Graysmark Schools Corporation is a not-for-profit corporation that was created on June 26, 2006 for the purpose of conducting public education with two (2) directors: Tanya Graysmark became a member 06/26/2009; and Charles Graysmark became a member 06/26/2009. Winfield Erickson was removed as a corporate principal in final application submission dated 12/11/2009.

**Background Information**

Corporate Principal	Education History	Employment History	FCC	Notes
Tanya Graysmark	Master’s degree in Education/Special Education	Tanya Graysmark owns and operates Graysmark Academy, LLC, a private pre-school and elementary school for children ages 2-14.	Valid	There were no concerns identified with the online search or in the background and credit check.
Charles Graysmark	Bachelor’s degree in Information Technology	Developer for SQL servers working for Lash Group Health Care Consultants, 2006 – present.  Developer for Bank of America, 2002 – 2005	Valid	There were no concerns identified with the background or credit check.
Winfield Erickson	Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice	Mr. Erickson owns and operates IWIS, Inc. which manufactures and markets the POSSE (Point of Sale Security Examiner) and is the President of Acumen Group, Inc. which provides private investigations and protective services in Duluth, Minnesota.	Valid	Winfield Erickson was listed as a corporate principal in the 08/03/09 application submission but removed in final application submission dated 12/11/09.

**School Governing Body**

Member Type	Number	Name
Organization Principal	2	Tanya Graysmark, Charles Graysmark

## Roles and Responsibilities

Applicant	Governing Body
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set policy and direction</li> <li>• Elect and appoint officers</li> <li>• Manage resources</li> <li>• Assess needs and set priorities</li> <li>• Appropriate funds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and goal setting</li> <li>• Employ and evaluate director</li> <li>• Select tests</li> <li>• Set school policy and adopt budgets</li> <li>• Approve instructional programs</li> </ul>
Corporate Board and Governing Body have same membership.	

## Program of Instruction

Mission	<p>At Holsteiner Agri-Equestrian School our mission is to provide a dynamic and richly individualized educational experience for all of our students. Our staff is devoted to an educational climate that is warm, nurturing, and safe. We provide a combination of excellent agricultural experiences and academics, through multiple learning environments both within and beyond the classroom. Teachers and staff strive to cultivate independent learners that are confident and creative. Students are encouraged to meet their academic challenges with openness, enthusiasm and to have a strong will to problem solve. We provide an integrated curriculum that reaches across disciplines and age levels providing building blocks for personal growth. We accept all challenges in our daily studies and find great strength in our diversity in gender, physical and or mental ability, culture and background. We give equal dedication to those with disabilities. We strive to have our parents, out staff and our community members actively involved in our students' education. A climate of expectation and success in encouraged.</p>				
Description of Community and Target Market	<p>There is a great need for an additional charter school option in Maricopa. The target market area is Maricopa families with students in grades K-8. A desire to service students with special needs as well as typical students is based on minimal quality special education program options in this target area. The Maricopa Unified School District (MUSD) currently has over 8% of their student population participating in their special education program. It is believed there are a large number of misplaced special education students searching to find a comfortable learning environment.</p> <p>Maricopa currently has a population of approximately 37,863 and an expected growth rate of 2% annually. Maricopa Unified School District houses 5,386 students in grades PS-8 this school year. Legacy Traditional School is a charter school serving 445 students this year. These two schools do not provide the same services as the proposed charter.</p>				
Comprehensive Program of Instruction Summary	<p>In the narrative, the applicant proposes to provide an excellent academic program which caters to students with learning disabilities. The school would benefit the community by offering a diversified curriculum intertwined with an agricultural-equestrian school context. Multi-age classrooms and incorporating the looping method will be part of the instructional foundation. Methods of instruction include differentiated instruction, cooperative learning, and problem-based learning. Diverse assessment tools support individual student learning styles and inform and guide teacher instruction. A few examples are: baseline assessments, investigative projects, and oral reports. A remediation plan will be created for students who are a year below grade level in reading and math or are experiencing academic challenges within the first grading period.</p>				
School Calendar	Standard – 192 days				
Student Count		Year	Grades Served	# of Students	# of Sites
		1	K-8	75	1
		2	K-8	92	1
		3	K-12	110	1

Findings	<p>The application fails to meet the minimum requirements in the following area(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Achievement Goals and Actions Steps</li> <li>• Activities: 1 of 9 grade levels (4<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>• Rubrics: 2 of 9 grade levels (1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>)</li> </ul>
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**Business Plan/Budget**

Budget	The applicant has designated \$42,500 in start-up funds of which \$10,000 in secured private donations and \$32,500 in a secured additional line of credit are reported. Years one through three of the operating budget are based on 100% of the projected student enrollment. Projected annual budget balances are: Year One - \$35,940, Year Two - \$91,620, and Year Three - \$146,817. Unable to determine at the end of each month during the first year if revenue exceeds expenditures.
Secured Funds	The secured funds as stated by the applicant have been confirmed as available.
Findings	<p>The application fails to meet the minimum requirements in the following area(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate highly qualified personnel to implement program</li> <li>• Sustainability and growth</li> <li>• Personnel expenditures (matching contributions)</li> <li>• Special education program expenditures</li> <li>• Month-by-month cash flow</li> </ul>

**Site Information**

Name of Proposed School	Holsteiner Agri-Equestrian School
Location	Confirmed location: Maricopa Business Center 44400 Honeycutt Rd Maricopa, AZ 85238
Secured Facility	The facility necessary to implement the proposed program would be approximately 2800 square feet containing four classrooms, a resource room, and a reception area. The facility requires a twelve month signed sub-lease and is currently a preschool, Graysmark Academy. The preschool program will relocate to Room #4. The agricultural component will be accommodated by space in the back of the building. In addition, the equestrian program will be facilitated at a local residence with stables and horses being donated to the program. The goal is to move into a permanent facility by the end of year two.

**Scoring Rubric Summary**

Preliminary application package scoring rubric results: 71% of the scoring areas did not meet the criteria.  
Revised application package scoring rubric results: 11% of the scoring areas did not meet the criteria.

**Staff Recommendations**

Reject the application and the request for a charter of Graysmark Schools Corporation to establish a charter school for the reason(s) that its application package failed to meet the requirements of Title 15, Article 8 due to:

- lack of curriculum aligned to the state standards
- lack of a business and financial plan as stated in the Scoring Rubric