AGENDA ITEM: Greenhouse Montessori School, Inc.

Greenhouse Montessori School Inc. submitted an application package for the Board's consideration. This report contains:

- A staff overview and summary of the application package, including a description of the proposed education plan, a description of the applicant's organization with a summary of information submitted regarding applicant education and experience, and a description of the applicant's budget plan.
- A copy of the scoring rubric which confirms the application package does meet the requirements as demonstrated through the review of the preliminary application package submitted on July 1, 2010, the technical assistance provided to the applicant, and a review of the revised application package submitted on November 23, 2010,
- The application package submitted by the applicant.

Greenhouse Montessori School Inc. is an Arizona non-profit corporation. The authorized representative for the corporation is Jennifer Papp. The proposed school, Greenhouse Montessori School, will serve grades K-3 in Gilbert. The stated mission of Greenhouse Montessori is to provide children with the tools necessary to become lifelong learners and participating members of society. By using the Montessori philosophy and a beautifully prepared environment, a child's independence, order, concentration, and coordination are established. Every child is an individual and is taught and treated as such. Family involvement is an important part in building community within the school environment and is encouraged both in school and out.

A. EDUCATION PLAN

Educational Philosophy	**Philosophical approach** In the narrative, the applicant states that the school will follow the educational philosophies developed by Maria Montessori. This includes providing a prepared environment of learning materials that entice a child to experience learning in an atmosphere of peaceful community. The school believes that each child best progresses in learning when allowed a degree of freedom, within an ordered environment, to progress at his or her own pace. In the classroom, each child is encouraged to develop a love of learning that will carry on through later years. **Rationale** Greenhouse Montessori School chose the Montessori Approach because they believe it enables children to form solid relationships and a true sense of community with both their peers and their teachers. It also helps develop independence and autonomy in the older child, something that is often lacking in traditional settings. The school believes in this approach because the evidence of success of Montessori education continues to rise.
Target Population	Greenhouse Montessori School plans to target students in Gilbert Arizona. Gilbert is a suburban community with a high proportion of highly educated, young families with small children. Greenhouse Montessori School Inc. will provide these families with a child-directed alternative to traditional elementary school.
Program of Instruction	**Framework** The Montessori Method provides the guideline for the program of instruction. The curriculum includes areas in language, math, culture, history, geography, science, and practical life. **Methods of Instruction** The narrative states that lessons presented to students are individual, small group, or large group. The environment is prepared so the students are organized to work on other materials when not getting direct instruction from the teacher. **Methods of Assessment** The narrative states that formative assessments are ongoing in a Montessori classroom and

	can be as simple as documenting when a student practices lessons, or is presented new content area. These observations allow the teacher to gage where a student is in various content areas, and where the student may need to focus more attention or be directed by the teacher. One type of summative assessment will include the Literacy Assessment Toolkit for Reading. This assessment follows the student through third grade and is documented at quarter increments. AIMS is another assessment that will be used by the school.
School Calendar	Standard 182 Days
Student Count	
PMP	**Reading Target - Year 1:** 70% proficient; **Year 2:** 70% proficient **Math Target - Year 1:** 80% proficient; **Year 2:** 80% proficient ***2010 AIMS State Average Percent Proficient*** K-8 Reading: 74% K-8 Math: 59%

Year	Grades Served	# of Students	# of Sites
1	K-2	40	1
2	K-3	80	2
3	K-3	100	2

B. ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

Greenhouse Montessori School, Inc. is a non-profit corporation, located in Gilbert, AZ, that was created on July 9, 2009 for the purpose of operating a charter school with one Director; Jennifer Papp.

Appointment of Governing Body

Governing body members will select its membership by a simple majority vote. Governing body members will serve two year terms and may serve multiple terms.

Roles and Responsibilities

Corporate Board	Governing Body
• Reviews governing body minutes • Reviews school financial documents • Reviews performance of all staff • Set staff salaries • Recommend staff professional development • Appoints governing body president • Oversees accounting and legal contracted services • Recruit fellow Corporate Board directors • Delegate authority on daily operations to the governing body	• Adhere to Arizona Open Meeting Law as GMS Bylaws • Evaluate the School Director, faculty and staff for Corporate Board Review • Develop and recruit a well-rounded, well qualified governing • Develop school policy • Develop and/or approve a discipline code of conduct policy reflecting the mission, values, and high standards of the school • Establish the Budget and all fiscal policy

Background Information

Corporate Principal	Education History	Employment History	FCC	Comments
Jennifer Papp (Authorized Representative)	B.A. Elementary Education AMS Certification 3-	2007-Present Owner/Director/Teacher Greenhouse Montessori School	Valid	There were no concerns identified through the background or credit

	9 year olds Montessori Training			check.
Robin Schroeder	B.S. Botany Arizona State University	2008-Present Senior Database Developer & Application Programmer Metal Magic	Valid	There were no concerns identified through the background or credit check.
Leslie Coca-Udave	B.S. Accounting Arizona State University	2009-Present Campus Bookstore Supervisor. School District Auditor State of Arizona Office of the Auditor General Tempe Union High School District	Valid	There were no concerns identified through the background or credit check.

Current and Prior Charter Performance

Authorized Representative	
Jennifer Papp	No association with a charter at this time.

C. BUSINESS PLAN

Site Information

Proposed School	School name: Greenhouse Montessori School The school has a secured site located at 505 S. Gilbert Road in Gilbert. Two buildings are located on 1.1 acres of land. One building has 1,824 square feet and currently houses the private preschool and toddler room. The proposed ten charter kindergartners will be included with the private preschool students in this building. It also includes a small kitchen. The other building has 1,264 square feet and will be the site of the elementary classroom and an administrative office. The site also includes a large fenced playground area on sand, a grass area, a seasonal temporary gazebo, and a garden area.

Budget

Budget	Year one operating budget is based on 78% of anticipated student enrollment of 40 students. Annual budgets as presented indicate adequate resources to meet projected expenditures.
Secured Funds	The amount identified for start-up has been confirmed as having been secured.

Findings

Education	The revised application did not address 1 of the requirements in the education section of the application. See A.5.1c of the scoring rubric.
Organization	The application meets the minimum requirements.
Business	The application meets the minimum requirements.

Staff Recommendation
Approve the application and grant a charter to Greenhouse Montessori School, Inc. to establish Greenhouse Montessori School.