

Adding Grade Levels to Charter Amendment Request

Charterholder Info

Charter Holder

Name:
Imagine Superstition Middle,
Inc.

CTDS:
07-85-52-000

Mailing Address:
18052 N. Black Canyon
Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85053
> [View detailed info](#)

Representative

Name:
Monte Lange

Phone Number:

Downloads

 [Download all files](#)

Current Grade Levels

Current Grade Levels Served

- 7th Grade
- 8th Grade

New Grade Levels

For each grade level being added, provide the following as a representation of a program of instruction aligned to the State's approved academic standards and to methods of instruction described in the charter. Please note that a separate upload must be prepared for each grade level and content area and be named as such. Additionally, applicants must restate the name of the file in the Brief Description box (e.g., First Grade Reading, HS Algebra II).

For K-8

Language Arts & Math: A completed curriculum sample for reading, writing, and math for each grade level being added including all attachments as outlined on the [required template and instructions](#).

For 9-12

Language Arts & Math: A completed curriculum sample for reading, writing, and math coursework for each grade level being added including all attachments as outlined on the [required template and instructions](#). Each course must align with the State's graduation requirements.

Add Grade Levels

6th

Curriculum Samples

No documents were uploaded.


Effective Date

01/19/2015

Attachments

Board Minutes –  [Download File](#)

Narrative –  [Download File](#)

Timeline for implementation –  [Download File](#)

Additional Information*

No documents were uploaded.

Signature

Charter Representative Signature
Monte Lange 01/18/2015



Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

Eligibility Form

Review the **Academic Performance Eligibility** instructions for the amendment or notification request being submitted; fill out the following information, sign at bottom, scan, and upload as described in the appropriate amendment or notification instructions.

Charter Holder Information	
Name of Charter Holder	Imagine Superstition Middle Inc
Schools operated under charter requesting amendment/notification	Imagine Superstition Middle
Charter Representative name	Brad Uchacz
Target date of implementation	August of 2014
Amendment/Notification Request type(s)	Addition of Grade Level

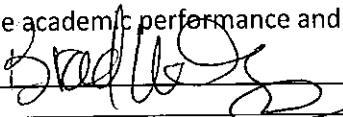
Check box below to indicate completion of eligibility review by charter holder

I understand that to be eligible to apply for reduced submission requirements for the purposes of an amendment or notification request, the following criteria must be met by each school operated by the Charter Holder, as specified in the Academic Performance Eligibility and Consideration of Operational Compliance instructions. I have reviewed all relevant Academic Dashboards, and operational compliance, and found that these criteria have been met.

- Each school operated under the charter for which expansion is being requested is eligible to receive an overall rating and has an overall rating of "Meets" or "Exceeds" Standard in the most recent fiscal year that State assessment data is available, or
- The school operated under the charter for which expansion is specifically being requested has an overall rating of "Meets" or "Exceeds" Standards in the most recent fiscal year that State assessment data is available, and
- The Charter Holder requesting expansion is currently in compliance with all areas listed in the Consideration of Operational Compliance instructions.

Signature (Replace the [brackets] with the requested information before printing.)

I, *Brad Uchacz*, acting on behalf of *Imagine Superstition Middle Inc.*, believe *Imagine Superstition Middle* meets the eligibility requirements for reduced submission requirements outlined above, and understand that Board staff will review the academic performance and operational compliance of the Charter Holder to confirm eligibility.

Signed:  Date: January 16, 2015

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 15, 2014 JOINT MEETING
OF THE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF
IMAGINE SUPERSTITION MIDDLE, INC.,
IMAGINE PREP SUPERSTITION, INC.,
IMAGINE MIDDLE AT SURPRISE, INC.,
IMAGINE PREP SURPRISE, INC.,
IMAGINE AVONDALE ELEMENTARY, INC.,
IMAGINE AVONDALE MIDDLE, INC.**

Pursuant to the notice of public meeting, a joint meeting of the Boards of Directors (the “Board”) of Imagine Superstition Middle, Inc. (“ISTM”), Imagine Prep Superstition, Inc. (“IPST”), Imagine Middle at Surprise, Inc. (“IMSU”), Imagine Prep Surprise, Inc. (“IPSU”), Imagine Avondale Elementary, Inc. (“IAVE”), and Imagine Avondale Middle, Inc. (“IAVM”), (collectively the “Schools”), was held at Imagine Schools Southwest Group Office located at 18052 North Black Canyon Highway, Phoenix, Arizona 85053 at approximately 10:00 a.m. (Arizona Time), on the 15th day of December 2014.

The following directors of the Schools were present by telephone:

Dr. Leonora Ketyer
Herman Orcutt
Rick Miller

The following others were present in person:

Bradie Orton – Administrative Assistant

The following others were present by telephone:

Monte Lange – Executive Vice President
Brad Uchacz – Executive Vice President
Heidi Lindsay – Regional Director
MaryAnn Stackhouse – Regional Finance Director
Darrin Anderson – Regional Director
Jason Archuleta – Regional Director
Brandon Dahl – Regional Finance Director
Vanessa Arias – Registrar
Frank Stirpe – Principal, Superstition
Julia Reed – Test Coordinator
Tim Rouiller – Business Administrator
Chris Polk – Business Administrator, Surprise

Chris McComb – Principal, Surprise
Kim Agnew – Principal, Avondale
Marie Wurth – Business Manager, Avondale
Ross Whitley – Auditor, Berman Hopkins
Georgia McGraw – Auditor, Ball & McGraw
Marian Zapata-Rossa, Esq., Quarles & Brady LLP

Dr. Leonora Ketyer called the meeting to order and took roll of the governing Board members. Dr. Ketyer served as Chairman of the meeting, Bradie Orton tape-recorded the meeting and Marian Zapata-Rossa recorded the minutes.

The Chairman stated that the first item of business was the report, review, and possible action regarding the 2013-2014 Annual Audits of ISTM and IPST. Brandon Dahl presented a summary report on the 2013-2014 Annual Audit of ISTM and IPST based on the annual audit performed by Joel D. Huber, CPA, P.C. He reported ISTM and IPST received a loss mitigation contribution from Imagine, but otherwise had no findings and received a clean audit. Dr. Ketyer commented on the importance of the legal compliance questionnaire. There being no further discussion, upon motion of Mr. Orcutt duly made and seconded by Mr. Miller, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, that the 2013-2014 Annual Audit of ISTM be, and hereby is, received and accepted by the Board.

RESOLVED, that the 2013-2014 Annual Audit of IPST be, and hereby is, received and accepted by the Board.

The Chairman stated that the next item of business was the report, review, and possible action regarding the 2013-2014 Annual Audit of IMSU and IPSU. Ross Whitley presented a summary report on the 2013-2014 Annual Audit of IMSU. He reported IMSU and IPSU received a loss mitigation contribution from Imagine. He also reported on comments from the prior year, which appear to be related to the transition of the Business Manager, concerning purchase card approval and accounts payable. The accounts payable comment was cleared as of

June 30, 2014. The issue concerning purchase card approval was repeated. IPSU also had a repeated comment concerning the approval of journal entries. Mr. Whitley further reported the Annual Financial Report (“AFR”) was not submitted until after the due date, which was also related to the transition in Business Manager. Finally, Mr. Whitley reported the IMSU had legal compliance issues related to attendance and residency verification. There being no further discussion, upon motion of Mr. Orcutt duly made and seconded by Mr. Miller, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, that the 2013-2014 Annual Audit of IMSU be, and hereby is, received and accepted by the Board.

RESOLVED, that the 2013-2014 Annual Audit of IPSU be, and hereby is, received and accepted by the Board.

The Chairman stated that the next item of business was the report, review, and possible action regarding the 2013-2014 Annual Audit of IAVE. Georgia McGraw presented a summary report on the 2013-2014 Annual Audit of IAVE. She reported a legal compliance issue concerning a misunderstanding over recording 10 consecutive absences. She also reported a misunderstanding concerning reporting reimbursable expenditures related to OMB-A133 Compliance Supplement. Ms. McGraw indicated a new Business Manager is now in place. Dr. Ketyer commented that Title I grant reporting must be exact. There being no further discussion, upon motion of Mr. Orcutt duly made and seconded by Mr. Miller, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, that the 2013-2014 Annual Audit of IAVE be, and hereby is, received and accepted by the Board.

The Chairman stated that the next item of business was the report, review, and possible action regarding the 2013-2014 Annual Audit of IAVM. Ms. McGraw presented a summary report on the 2013-2014 Annual Audit of IAVM. She found no deficiencies in internal control

and no issues with legal compliance. There being no further discussion, upon motion of Mr. Miller duly made and seconded by Mr. Orcutt, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, that the 2013-2014 Annual Audit of IAVM be, and hereby is, received and accepted by the Board.

The Chairman stated that the next item of business was the review and approval of the minutes of the Schools' Board meeting held on September 29, 2014. There being no further discussion, upon motion of Mr. Orcutt duly made and seconded by Mr. Miller, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Schools' Board meeting held September 29, 2014 be, and hereby are, accepted and approved by the Boards.

The Chairman stated that the next item of business was the quarterly financial reports for the quarter ending September 30, 2014 for the Schools. For the quarter ending September 30, 2014, ISTM had revenue of \$159,569, expenses of \$237,950, leaving a net loss of \$83,070, and actual plus projected revenue for FY 2015 of \$786,762, actual plus projected expenses for FY 2015 of \$1,049,248, and actual plus projected net loss for FY 2015 of \$281,602.

For the quarter ending September 30, 2014, IPST had revenue of \$345,707, expenses of \$707,392, leaving a net loss of \$377,222, and actual plus projected revenue for FY 2015 of \$1,677,494, actual plus projected expenses for FY 2015 of \$2,833,350, and actual plus projected net loss for FY 2015 of \$1,218,004. Mr. Miller inquired whether Imagine's loss mitigation includes rent and leases as well as operating expenses. Monte Lange responded yes, loss mitigation includes any expenses the School is unable to cover.

For the quarter ending September 30, 2014, IMSU had revenue of \$639,906, expenses of \$695,700, leaving a net loss of \$56,548, and actual plus projected revenue for FY 2015 of

\$2,786,368, actual plus projected expenses for FY 2015 of \$3,106,444, and actual plus projected net loss for FY 2015 of \$328,373.

For the quarter ending September 30, 2014, IPSU had revenue of \$474,985, expenses of \$510,105, leaving a net loss of \$35,801, and actual plus projected revenue for FY 2015 of \$2,076,807, actual plus projected expenses for FY 2015 of \$2,196,066, and actual plus projected net loss for FY 2015 of \$121,389.

For the quarter ending September 30, 2014, IAVE had revenue of \$895,249, expenses of \$806,280, leaving a net surplus of \$86,201, and actual plus projected revenue for FY 2015 of \$4,561,066, actual plus projected expenses for FY 2015 of \$4,521,989, and actual plus projected net surplus for FY 2015 of \$28,002.

For the quarter ending September 30, 2014, IAVM had revenue of \$300,964, expenses of \$234,773, leaving a net surplus of \$66,191, and actual plus projected revenue for FY 2015 of \$1,521,957, actual plus projected expenses for FY 2015 of \$1,506,459, and actual plus projected net surplus for FY 2015 of \$15,498.

Dr. Ketyer commented on how through the law firm of Quarles & Brady, LLP, the Imagine Board strives to have transparent policies and deliberations available for the public record. There being no further discussion, upon motion of Mr. Miller duly made and seconded by Mr. Orcutt, each of the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, that the statement of operations (unaudited) for the quarter ending September 30, 2014 for ISTM be, and hereby is, received and accepted by the Board; and

RESOLVED, that the statement of operations (unaudited) for the quarter ending September 30, 2014 for IPST be, and hereby is, received and accepted by the Board.

RESOLVED, that the statement of operations (unaudited) for the quarter ending September 30, 2014 for IMSU be, and hereby is, received and accepted by the Board.

RESOLVED, that the statement of operations (unaudited) for the quarter ending September 30, 2014 for IPSU be, and hereby is, received and accepted by the Board.

RESOLVED, that the statement of operations (unaudited) for the quarter ending September 30, 2014 for IAVE be, and hereby is, received and accepted by the Board.

RESOLVED, that the statement of operations (unaudited) for the quarter ending September 30, 2014 for IAVM be, and hereby is, received and accepted by the Board.

The Chairman stated that the next item of business was the report, review and possible action regarding approval of school check signers. The Board discussed the requests regarding the approval of check signers for IPSU, IMSU, IAVE, and IAVM. There being no further discussion, upon motion of Mr. Orcutt duly made and seconded by Mr. Miller, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, that the approval of Genie Donohoe as a check signer for IPSU and IMSU be, and hereby is, adopted by the Boards of IPSU and IMSU; and

RESOLVED, that the approval of Carrie Muehlhausen, Genie Donohoe, Anabel Ortiz, and Korina Herrera as check signers for IAVE and IAVM be, and hereby is, adopted by the Boards of IAVE and IAVM.

The Chairman stated that the next item of business was the report, review and possible action regarding adding 6th grade at ISTM. A report was given that offering 6th grade at the Middle School is an appropriate and recommended change so the School can expand the educational services presently being offered. All of the required due diligence and documentation is in place. There being no further discussion, upon motion of Mr. Orcutt duly made and seconded by Mr. Miller, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, that adding 6th grade at ISTM be, and hereby is, accepted and approved by the Board of ISTM.

The Chairman stated that the next item of business was the report, review and possible action regarding the wellness policies. The Board discussed the positive aspects of the wellness policy. There being no further discussion, upon motion of Mr. Orcutt duly made and seconded by Mr. Miller, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Schools' wellness policy be, and hereby is, accepted and approved by the Board.

The Chairman stated that the next item of business was the report, review and possible action regarding policy updates. Heidi Lindsay reported that a change was recommended to update the Schools' enrollment process by moving the selection date for lottery enrollment from the first working day of March to the first working day of February in order to give the Schools more time to market to prospective families for the next school year. There being no further discussion, upon motion of Mr. Miller duly made and seconded by Mr. Orcutt, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, that a change to the Schools' enrollment policy moving the selection date for lottery enrollment from the first working day of March to the first working day of February be, and hereby is, accepted and approved by the Board.

The Chairman stated that the next item of business was the report and review from the Regional Directors. Jason Archuleta gave a summary report for ISTM, IPST, IAVE, and IAVM. Darrin Anderson gave a summary report for IMSU and IPSU. This was informational only; therefore, no action was required.

The Chairman stated that the next item of business was the report and review from the School Leaders. Frank Stripe gave a summary report for ISTM and IPST. Chris McComb gave a summary report for IMSU, IPSU. Kim Agnew gave a summary report for IAVE and IAVM. This was informational only; therefore, no action was required. Mr. Miller commented regarding

the enthusiasm in all of the reports and congratulated the educators for bringing passion to the Schools and to the Imagine organization.

The Chairman then issued a call to the public for issues and there were none. Mr. Lange wished everyone Happy Holidays on behalf of Imagine and thanked the Board members for all of their support to help move the Schools to “A Schools.”

The next regular meeting is March 30, 2014.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:50 a.m. Dr. Ketyer thanked and wished everyone a great break.

APPROVED:

Secretary

Imagine Superstition Middle, Inc.
Imagine Prep Superstition, Inc.
Imagine Middle at Surprise, Inc.
Imagine Prep Surprise, Inc.
Imagine Avondale Elementary, Inc.
Imagine Avondale Middle, Inc.

IMAGINE SUPERSTITION MIDDLE, INC.

Narrative for Adding Grade Levels

Describe the rationale for the increase in grade levels served.

Imagine Prep at Superstition has demonstrated the ability to offer a high quality education to the community as evident by their A rating from the state of Arizona and a meets rating from the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools. Sharing the same facility, our middle school feeds directly into our high school. Over the last 3 years we have rebuilt our academic offerings by building backwards from our high school, a three year consecutive A rated school and winner of the Bronze award from the 2014 U.S. News and World Best High School rankings.

The incoming parents have expressed an interest in offering their child an earlier start at our school. Several surrounding middle schools offer their academic program to include 6th-8th grade. The addition of 6th grade provides the parents of our community the opportunity to start their child in our school as opposed to having them transition in 7th grade, after one year in middle school at another location. Students that are able to enter 6th grade at our school will have the additional year to prepare for our rigorous high school program.

How do the additional grades support the mission, educational philosophy, and methods of instruction? How does the implementation of the existing program of instruction meet the needs of students at the grade levels being added?

Mission

Imagine Preparatory at Superstition provides a unique educational experience that emphasizes student engagement and professionalism through a rigorous 21st Century curriculum that fosters collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity. The addition of 6th grade would provide the opportunity to build a solid academic and character foundation for early adolescent students that would support their high school readiness.

Educational philosophy

The addition of 6th grade students under our charter supports the communities need to provide an educational environment that believes all children are capable of success, no exceptions. Our students are expected to work hard, to grow to the limits of their capabilities, and then exceed them. Our students are also expected to behave in ways that reflect integrity and justice. Independent learners take full responsibility for their own learning. Our learners are curious about the world around them and examine multiple solutions to make intelligent deductions. Independent learners strive for measurable progress and chart their accomplishments and failures. Our students persist to understand concepts and welcome feedback from those teaching them. Our students are self-motivated for personal achievement and take responsibility for their learning outcomes. Through systematic and formal reviews of progress our staff are dedicated and committed to assisting students in their growth in all aspects of our education philosophy.

Methods of Instruction:

Research suggests students in early adolescence need a balance of independence and consistent boundaries. Positive relationships with adults including their parents help to encourage a healthy sense of self-worth and ones capacity to reach perceived goals (Steinberg & Morris, 2001). Through our own experiences at Imagine Preparatory at Superstition we have found that project based learning helps to create the balance of independence and consistent

boundaries while helping to foster an environment conducive to positive relationships. Students are gradually exposed to more complex project based assignments as they demonstrate growth throughout the middle school years. Staff are trained in project based learning through our partnership with the New Tech Network.

The New Tech Network is a nonprofit organization that transforms schools into innovative learning environments. Their project-based learning approach engages students with dynamic, rigorous curriculum. Through extensive professional development and hands-on coaching, teachers evolve from keepers of knowledge to facilitators of rich, relevant learning.

The addition of 6th grader would allow students to be exposed to a project based curriculum in addition to a staff that is taught how to provide opportunities for independence but within understandable boundaries. 6th graders would be supported from a staff and administration that has already undergone the trainings necessary to implement a curriculum that is designed for the adolescent learner. 6th graders entering Imagine Preparatory at Superstition would have the opportunity to be introduced to innovative programs that they would not typically encounter until their high school years, such as Project Lead the Way, Robotics clubs and other Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics programs that are currently offered in grades 7th and 8th.

Describe the level of proficiency that students must obtain to demonstrate mastery of academic core content and clear criteria for promotion from one level to the next.

Mastery of a core curriculum is developed over many years of learning. However, mastery of a specific skill, concept, or knowledge on tests and projects is delineated at 80%. The Arizona College and Career Readiness Standards are the primary guides to what we teach and what we assess.

Promotion of students is based upon an evaluation of each student's progress as determined by classroom work, observations, class assessments, state assessments and other relevant information. The classroom teachers recommend promotion or retention of students, subject to review and approval of the principal. Criteria for promotion include:

- Progress towards Mastery of the Arizona College and Career Readiness Standards
- Minimum achievement rate of 59% on Arizona College and Career Readiness Standards for the grade level
- Progress made on benchmark and formative assessments
- Teacher/Principal recommendations
- Conferences with Parents/Guardians
- Imagine Prep Superstition has a "no social promotion" policy and will ensure that all students are adequately equipped before they are passed to the next grade.

What changes in staffing will be needed to implement the new grades, and how will they comply with the Highly Qualified federal guidelines?

Imagine Preparatory at Superstition is currently fully staffed including special area teachers and instructional support staff. We anticipate opening one section of 6th grade therefore we will need to hire one FTE to fill this position. We currently are in compliance with all Highly Qualified federal guidelines and any additional hires would be in compliance.

Reference:

Steinberg, L., & Morris, A. S. (2001). Adolescent development. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 52, 83-110.