B.1 Applicant Organization

Organization's History

Incito Schools was organized in June 2011 by April Castillo and Amanda Jelleson. Incito Schools is currently a non-profit corporation. The organization is newly formed and has no existing operations. Incito Schools is working hard to establish itself as a non-profit high-quality educational institution. April Castillo and Amanda Jelleson have a combined 22 years in education and have worked with schools of high need in low income areas. Their experiences include teaching, instructional coaching, school administration, professional development coordinators, and instructional specialists. April Castillo and Amanda Jelleson hold bachelor degrees in Elementary Education, Masters Degrees in Educational Leadership, Reading Endorsements, and ESL Endorsements. The two incorporating board members, April Castillo and Amanda Jelleson have a passion for high-quality education and would like to offer that education and school choice in the city of Goodyear. April Castillo and Amanda Jelleson currently support lower performing school districts in high poverty areas through the Maricopa County Education Service Agency. During her time as a school administrator, April Castillo was influential in the success of a Math and Science focused school. With her leadership and expertise, she led this innovative school to an Excelling label which the school district proudly promoted. As a school administrator, Amanda Jelleson implemented student intervention programs and unique attendance programs that led the school out of school improvement. These programs served as a model for the entire school district and received district awards. This work, and past educational experiences, has fueled their passion to create a charter school to meet the needs of Goodyear families. April Castillo and Amanda Jelleson recognized that there was not a school of choice for students and families near the Goodyear area and shared the same drive to offer students a quality education. Through many educational experiences in the surrounding area and extensive dialogue, April Castillo and Amanda Jelleson cultivated a vision for a school that will establish a standard for education excellence, where all students will achieve their potential and collaboratively contribute to their local and global communities. It is their mission to provide a rigorous, relevant, college preparatory environment to ensure that all students have meaningful options for life and succeed—academically, emotionally, physically, and socially. April Castillo and Amanda Jelleson sought the financial, communication, and journalism expertise of Kristina Vasquez. Kristina Vasquez's knowledge of the community and her volunteer experience contributes needed expertise for Incito Schools. Kristina Vasquez has been the project manager for several volunteer projects and has overseen approximately 350 volunteers. Kristina Vasquez serves as problem solver for a multi-million dollar company and directly collaborates with leadership and employees. Incito plans to utilize Kristina Vasquez's expertise in financial management and communication skills. These three Corporate Board Members have identified and recruited a list of three possible additional Board Members, who share the same vision and passion and possess extensive background knowledge and experience in education, financial management, and/or business management. Upon Charter approval in January 2012, current board members will interview the prospective board members. At least two prospective board members will be appointed by a majority vote of the existing board members at the first public and scheduled board meeting. Following the appointment of these new board members, Incito will ensure that newly appointed members receive training on Incito's mission, vision, instructional program, roles and responsibilities of being a board member, and Open Meeting Law.

Incito Schools has secured the services of Carter Law Group to ensure compliance with non-profit law and obtainment of 501 (c) 3 status. Incito Schools received approval of its Articles of Incorporation from the Arizona Corporation Commission on June 8, 2011 (File No.16853862). Incito Schools is a non-profit corporation with the initial purpose of promoting education and social welfare by forming and maintaining a charter school to benefit, improve, and educate the youth of America. Incito Schools has received an Employer Identification Number, which is 45-2533966. The application to the Internal Revenue Service for 501(c) 3 status for Incito Schools has been submitted along with payment to the U.S.

Treasury. Incito has also filed Form 1023, Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) along with Form 2848, Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative, in order to claim Tax-exempt status.

Role and Responsibility of the Organization

The Corporate Board of Incito Schools will provide leadership for the school's vision and mission as well as serve as the governing body of the school. As stated above, the current Corporate Board members are April Castillo who is the president, Amanda Jelleson who is the vice president and serves as the Authorized Representative, and Kristina Vasquez who serves as the Secretary. One of these board members' main responsibilities as the initial board is to recruit additional board members. Each member is responsible for attending board meetings and making sound decisions to further Incito Schools' mission. Responsibilities per title (i.e., president, secretary, etc.) are outlined in the by-laws. The board is ultimately responsible for all organization activities and governing responsibilities for the school(s) it is authorized to operate (section B.3 provides further explanation of the governing responsibilities).

Establishing Additional Principles

As stated above, current Principles of the corporation have and will continue to seek additional board members that represent relevant expertise and can contribute to providing oversight and resources that ensure the corporation complies with its charter and advances its mission. Relevant areas of expertise may include academics, finance, governance, fundraising, law, real estate, and knowledge of the community. The process for election of board members will be as follows: The initial three directors are the incorporators and are listed on our Articles of Incorporation. At the first scheduled board meeting following the charter approval and in transition to a governing board, the board president will propose a list of at least two additional members. The whole board will discuss and vote on at least two additional members, expanding the size of the board to five, which is in alignment with the bylaws. If a vacancy were to occur, it will be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term. The Board of Directors will begin the election process as soon as possible and begin identifying additional members.