

**AGENDA ITEM: International Charter School of Arizona, Inc. Application**

International Charter School of Arizona, Inc. 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 18, 2009, and
- Staff’s overview and summary of the application package.

The following background information is provided for your consideration:

International Charter School of Arizona, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation that was created on July 30, 2009 for the purpose of conducting public education with five (5) directors: Sebastian Verstraet became a member 07/30/2009; Laurent Badoux became a member 07/30/2009; Mark Doerflein became a member 07/30/2009; Peter Davies became a member 07/30/2009; and Joan Neice became a member 07/30/2009. Through the background review process, additional information was required. Communication with the individuals is documented below:

**Organizational Structure**

Corporate Principals or Sole Proprietor	Communication
Mark Doerflein became member 07/30/2009	11/09/09 sent letter requesting employment verification. See Background Information below.

**Background Information**

Corporate Principal	Education History	Employment History	FCC	Notes
Sebastian Verstraet	Master’s degree in Global Administration and a Master’s degree in Finance	Engineer Lead Project for Honeywell International, 2008 – present.  Business Manager, Cox Media, 2005 – 2007  Online search revealed Mr. Verstraet owns a consulting company, Global Management Concept, is a member of Pacifico Marble and Granite, LLC, and is Chairperson for International School of Arizona, Inc., a for-profit, private school for PS - 5 <sup>th</sup> grade.	Valid	There were no concerns identified in the credit check.
Laurent Badoux	Juris Doctorate degree	Attorney and Shareholder, Littler Mendelson, 2002 – present.	Valid	There were no concerns identified in the background and credit check.

Mark Doerflein	Background Information was incomplete; however, Mr. Doerflein indicated attendance only.	Background Information was incomplete. Staff was unable to verify employment with Fairmont Capital Group. The number provided is not valid and no position with the company was listed. On 11/09/09 staff requested employment verification from Mr. Doerflein.  On 01/20/10, Mr. Doerflein provided staff with verification of employment with Fairmont Capital Group.  Online search revealed Mark Doerflein is owner of Clive Christian in Scottsdale, Julian's Fine Cabinetry and he is a board member for the International School of Arizona, Inc., a for-profit, private school for PS – 5 <sup>th</sup> grade.	Valid	There were no concerns identified in the credit check.
Peter Davies	Doctorate degree in Civil Engineering	CEO, Castle Rock Consultants, Inc., 1984 – present.  CEO, Castle Rock Associates, Inc., 2006 – present.	Valid	There were no concerns identified in the background and credit check.
Joan Neice	Doctorate degree in Postsecondary Education and Organizational Leadership	VP and Chief Development Officer, Institutional Advancement & Alumni Relations, Thunderbird School of Global Management, 2005 – present.  VP, Institutional Advancement, Marylhurst University, 1996 – 2005.	Valid	There were no concerns identified in the background and credit check.

### School Governing Body

Member Type	Number	Name
Organization Principals (also parents)	1	Peter Davies
Organization Principals (also community)	4	Joan Neice, Laurent Badoux, Sebastian Verstraet, Mark Doerflein
School Staff	2	Anne-Cécile Scherer, Veronique Bevali
Parents	1	
Community	1	

## Roles and Responsibilities

Applicant	Governing Body
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall governance and major decisions</li> <li>• Responsibility to ADE and ASBCS</li> <li>• Policies and procedures</li> <li>• Selection, evaluation, and appointment of the Principal and the Executive Directors</li> <li>• Approve annual budgets</li> <li>• Act as final body for grievance appeals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and develop school policies</li> <li>• Oversee school operations in coordination with the school administration</li> </ul>

## Program of Instruction

Mission	The International Charter School of Arizona (ICSA) aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who aspire to create a better and more peaceful world through mutual understanding and respect. ICSA will offer a challenging program of international education based on rigorous assessment. We will encourage our students to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who understand that other people – despite apparent differences – may also be right.					
Description of Community and Target Market	Currently, children from 13 Phoenix metro area cities participate in International School of Arizona’s (ISA) early language learning programs. The school serves nearly 170 students from PS through 5 <sup>th</sup> grade. The motivation to start the new middle school was based on requests and inquiries from families in the community to meet the needs of their post-elementary age children to follow a rigorous international academic program while obtaining or maintaining a strong foundation and high level of fluency in a foreign language. The target population for the ICSA language immersion track initially comprises all fluent or near-fluent French speakers who qualify to enroll in 5 <sup>th</sup> grade, including but not limited to current ISA students who have completed 4 <sup>th</sup> grade.					
Comprehensive Program of Instruction	In the narrative, the applicant proposes to provide foreign language learning opportunities in a multicultural setting. ICSA’s programs will allow students to master one or more foreign languages, following rigorous academic programs with a global focus. Methods of instruction include a blend of conventional and innovative techniques supporting a beginner’s track and an immersion track. Regular evaluation of student progress using both standardized and methodologically sophisticated/rigorous tests tailored for the ICSA multi-lingual curriculum is a fundamental aspect of the ICSA assessment philosophy. Remediation is an ongoing process to guide students to their full potential through intervention, tutoring, or individual plan.					
School Calendar	Standard – 180 days					
Student Count		Year	Grades Served	# of Students	# of Sites	
		1	5	20	1	
		2	5-6	40	1	
		3	5-7	60	1	
Findings	<p>The application fails to meet the minimum requirements in the following area(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment: 1 of 4 grade levels (5<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>• Rubrics: 4 of 4 grade levels (5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>• Professional Development Plan</li> </ul>					

**Business Plan/Budget**

Budget	ICSA startup activities are being carried out by ICSA and ISA Board members, supported by ISA administrative and academic staff. An ISA parental donation of \$10,000 toward founding a language-immersion charter middle school began the formal launch process. A committed loan for \$30,000 is available from ISA. The start-up funds have covered workshop registration fees, legal fees, and personnel costs for drafting curriculum. Years one through three of the operating budget are based on approximately 80% of the projected student enrollment. Projected annual budget balances are: Year One - \$12,564, Year Two - \$6,902, and Year Three - \$10,488. At the end of each month during the first year revenue exceeds expenditures.
Secured Funds	The secured funds as stated by the applicant have been confirmed as available.
Findings	The application fails to meet the minimum requirements in the following area(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outside expertise (elementary education)</li> <li>• Administrative oversight plan (curriculum, training, testing, grants)</li> <li>• Timeline (student counts, training, ordering)</li> </ul>

**Site Information**

Name of Proposed School	International Charter School of Arizona (ICSA)
Location	Confirmed location:  Current ISA building (former Basis Scottsdale) located at 9128 E. San Salvador Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85258
Secured Facility	Modifications to the existing building include: Year 1: 3 rooms, 1500 square feet; Year 2: 4-5 rooms, 2800 square feet; Year 3: 6 rooms, 4000 square feet

**Scoring Rubric Summary**

Preliminary application package scoring rubric results: 45% of the scoring areas did not meet the criteria.  
Revised application package scoring rubric results: 14% of the scoring areas did not meet the criteria.

**Staff Recommendations**

Reject the application and the request for a charter of International Charter School of Arizona, Inc. 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 Academic Standards
- lack of a business and financial plan as stated in the Scoring Rubric