

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
Arizona State Board of Education
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CHARTER GRADE LEVEL AMENDMENT REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) Valley of the Sun Waldorf Education Association (CTDS) 078964000

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 6210 S 28th Street

(City, State) Phoenix, AZ (Zip) 85042

(Charter Representative's Name) Jill Thomas and Jamie Shaver

(Phone Number) 602-243-6909 (Fax Number) 602-243-6933

Failure to submit all required documentation will result in the Amendment Request being returned without being processed.
Faxed copies will not be accepted. Please send originals.

Check appropriate box

Adding grade levels served for charter

Included are the following:

- Board minutes approving the change (minutes must comply with Open Meeting Law ARS §38-431.01)
Narrative describing how the additional grades support the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis, and mission of the charter
Mastery of coursework for additional grades
Expected student performance on state mandated tests at all grade levels impacted by the addition
Timeline for implementation
Changes in staffing to support the requirements for Highly Qualified.

For K-8

For each grade level being added, provide the following as a representation of a program of instruction aligned to the State Academic Standards and to the methods of instruction described in the charter:

- Math - A completed curriculum sample template including all required attachments as outlined on the template attached.
Language Arts - A completed curriculum sample template, for both reading and writing, including all required attachments as outlined on the template attached.

For 9-12

For each grade level being added, provide the following as a representation of a program of instruction aligned to the State Academic Standards and to the methods of instruction described in the charter:

- Math - A math course description and a completed curriculum sample template including all required attachments as outlined on the template (template is available on the ASBCS website).
Language Arts - A language arts course description and a completed curriculum sample template, for both reading and writing, including all required attachments as outlined on the template (template is available on the ASBCS website).
Graduation requirements (number of credits in each content area and electives)
Course level proficiency required for credit and acceptance of transfer credit

Decreasing grade levels served for charter

Included is the following:

- Board minutes approving the change (minutes must comply with Open Meeting Law ARS §38-431.01)
Rationale for decrease in grade levels served and effective date of change

The Arizona State Board for Charter Schools and Valley of the Sun Waldorf Education Association (Charter Holder), herein agree to amend the terms of the charter contract as follows:

FROM: K-8

TO: K-12 (Add Grade 9 2009-2010
Grade 10 2010-2011
Grade 11 2011-2012
Grade 12 2012-2013)

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 15th day of October, 2008, and the State Board for Charter Schools has signed this contract amendment as of this ___ day of ___, 200___, to take effect at such time as it is signed by both parties.

Jill Thomas
Charter Representative Signature

[Signature]
Representative Signature for the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

Representative Signature for the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

Narrative describing how the additional grades support the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis, and mission of the charter:

The Desert Marigold School applies a philosophy inspired by Waldorf education. Waldorf schools have offered grades 9-12 programs since the early years of the Waldorf education movement in the 1920's. The program tenets have been fully reiterated and are consistently practiced in high schools throughout the U.S. as well as much of the world. The Waldorf high school is often seen as the culmination of many methodological aspects of the earlier K-8 grades. For example, the rather didactic music instruction in 1st through 8th grades forms the knowledgeable and ethical foundation for the independent music exploration found in high school improvisational jazz work; and the prescriptive adherence to a particular unfolding of global literature in the primary grades builds the essential framework for a somewhat eclectic study of periods alternatively integrated to general experiential themes that high school-age youth experience. In fact, Waldorf indicates that a most favorable education of the human being from Kindergarten entirely through the 12th grade is one strategically aligning instructional activity to critical cognitive, emotional, and physical developmental phases. This strategic activity does not end upon the promotion of the 8th grade student into the 9th grade, but continues on through the 12th grade.

Mastery of coursework for additional grades:

The definition of "Mastery" of all coursework for the 9th through 12th grades will echo the principle that the school has utilized in the elementary and middle school grades for over ten years: meeting or exceeding standards (or nothing less than 70% ("C" average) cumulative status) in coursework as reported no less than quarterly. When any grades 9-12 student demonstrates that they are experiencing difficulty in achieving the above proficiency in any subject matter and/or coursework, the student's morning track classroom teacher (or in collaboration with the classroom teacher if the difficulty occurs in block or in specialty content like music, etc.) shall coordinate and/or provide interventions as necessary amidst a community paradigm of "No Excuses", and not limited to the following: specialized extra main track, block, or specialty lessons during the day, tutoring, in-class and/or pull-out group and individual programs, instructional diversification, student support group, physical remedial work, etc., until such time as the student again demonstrates "Mastery" in all subject matter and coursework.

Expected student performance on state mandated tests at all grade levels impacted by the addition:

All students in grade 9 shall take the *TerraNova* test, a national norm-referenced assessment currently covering language arts and mathematics. All students beginning in grade 10 take the *AIMS HS* (High School) assessment and continue to test twice annually in Grades 11-12 until they have met or exceeded the standard in each area tested. The *AIMS HS* is a criterion-referenced graduation requirement test currently prescribed in four content areas: Writing, Reading, Mathematics, and Science (solely the later not currently being required for graduation).

Desert Marigold School expects each high school student to demonstrate mastery of content areas tested on the 9th grade *TerraNova* as demonstrated by minimally exceeding the 60th percentile (*National Percentile Scale*) in reading, writing, and mathematics.

Desert Marigold School expects each high school student to minimally demonstrate a "Meets the Standard" level on all *AIMS HS* assessments by graduation.

Timeline for implementation:

The high school program will begin in the fall of 2009 with a ninth grade class. A tenth grade class will be added in fall 2010, eleventh grade class in fall 2011, and a twelfth grade class in fall of 2012.

Upon approval of the Charter Grade Level Amendment Request, the school shall a) inform the school community of the approval and engage participation by the entire community to ensure large scale success, b) begin searching for and committing to highly qualified candidates for high school teaching responsibilities, c) establish initial 9th grade enrollment from the existing 8th grade class and open enrolment and implement recruitment activities to the greater community, and, d) approve a transfer of credit policy for the high school.

Changes in staffing to support the requirements for Highly Qualified:

As the Desert Marigold School has so far served all students in self-contained subject classroom settings, to date many teachers have been certified K-8 and/or complied with Arizona Educators Proficiency Assessment (AEPA) expectations by passing the Subject Knowledge Test in Elementary Education or one of the Middle School content areas. With the addition of the high school content areas, employees responsible for teaching grades 9-12 content that is covered by a subject knowledge test as administered by the AEPA (e.g., math, history, English, etc.) shall be required to possess documentation of a passing score in that content area for which they have a responsibility for teaching in the high school. For example, an employee of Desert Marigold School who teaches any

chemistry content shall possess documentation of a passing score on the AEPA in high school chemistry.

approved MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SATURDAY, JULY 12th, 2008
FACULTY LOUNGE, DESERT MARIGOLD SCHOOL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jill Thomas (via conference call), Martin Duncan, Tommy Noble, Juli Curtin.

The president, Jill Thomas, and secretary, Juli Curtin, were present. The vice president, Martin Duncan, presided over the meeting due to the president being on a conference line. A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order at 8.10am.

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Tanner, Linda Roessler, Eric Ebert

GUESTS: Amy Bird, Michael Martin, Laura Alvarado-Coady

OPENING VERSE: 8.10am

BUDGET/FINANCIAL REPORT - Juli Curtin
Adopted State Budget is at it stands as of our June 24th Board meeting.

MOTION – to approve the adopted State budget as presented - Tommy, 2nd – Juli,
VOTE - 4/0/0

ADMIN REPORT – Amy Bird
Administrator’s Report for July 12th Board Meeting was distributed to all Board members on July 11th, then reviewed during meeting by Amy.

Topics of Admin Report:

Project Loan – RSF has communicated past experiences of K-8 Waldorf schools entering into the High School arena and the challenges that they have experienced.

MOTION – to move the following agenda items: Admin Report, Approval of Job Description, Purchase of 6020 S. 28th St House to later once Amy returns to meeting – Tommy, Juli – 2nd, VOTE - 4/0/0

PUBLIC COMMENT – none

APPROVE MINUTES JUNE 24th, 2008 BOARD MEETING

MOTION - to approve minutes of June 24 Board Meeting – Tommy, 2nd – Juli,
VOTE - 4/0/0

MOTION - to table the collaborative report until after Endorsement of College Hiring Recommendation – Tommy, 2nd - Jill, VOTE - 4/0/0

ENDORSEMENT OF COLLEGE HIRING RECOMMENDATION – Juli Curtin
Farm Manager job description was presented as well as an overview of Tony Robson’s experience, skills, strengths and a summary of his reference checks.

MOTION – to endorse the college of teachers hiring of Tony Robson – Tommy, 2nd - Jill,
VOTE - 4/0/0

approved

MOTION – to adjourn for 15 minutes – Tommy, 2nd – Juli, VOTE - 4/0/0

COLLABORATIVE REPORT – Michael Martin

Gila River Indian Community grant is in progress. Michael is working towards applying to other Indian communities for grants. July 23rd is the approval date for our submitted grant, it then goes through the Gila River Indian Community for final approval.

Administration is continuing in the process of negotiating the contract with the Collaborative.

MOTION – to approve the amendment to the charter to add grades 9-12 – Tommy, 2nd – Jill. Discussion ensued. VOTE - 4/0/0

Tommy stepped out at 9.09am. Returned at 9.11am

MOTION - to approve the increase of grades K-12 student enrollment cap – Tommy, 2nd – Jill. Discussion ensued. Amy brought up that we remain open to the consideration of a double tract High School for the social health of the students as well as an awareness of the financial impact. The notification reflected 40 students per grade level.
VOTE - 4/0/0

ADMIN REPORT, CONTINUED – Amy Bird

Topics of Admin Report, Continued

Project Loan – Amy reviewed four possible contingency plans if we fail to raise \$300,000 through our capital campaign.

Contracts

Site Development – meeting is scheduled for July 21 with design team, engineers, new Farm Mgr, Garden Teacher and Caretaker.

Purchase of 6020 S. 28th St – closing may happen on Monday

New Position – Development Director

Procedures Development

APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTION FOR DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR – Amy Bird

MOTION – to approve the job description for the Development Director – Tommy, 2nd – Jill. Discussion ensued. VOTE - 4/0/0

PURCHASE OF 6020 S. 28TH ST HOUSE – Amy Bird

MOTION – to approve purchase of house with authorization for Amy Bird, Juli Curtin or Jill Thomas to sign contract for purchase – Tommy, 2nd – Juli, VOTE - 4/0/0

MOTION to adjourn meeting – Jill, 2nd – Juli, VOTE - 4/0/0

CLOSING VERSE – 10.07am Meeting Adjourned

Prepared by Juli Curtin, July 12, 2008