

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

(Charter Holder Name) Sonoran Science Academy-Ahwatukee (CTDS) _____

RECEIVED APR 21 2009

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 14647 South 50th Street, Building 1, Suite 125

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(City, State) Phoenix (Zip) 85044

(Charter Representative's Name) Abdullah Yilmaz

(Phone Number) 480-814-1600 (Fax Number) 480-814-1661

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:

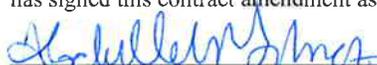
- Board minutes approving the change (minutes must comply with Open Meeting Law ARS §38-431.01)
- Rationale for decrease in grade levels served and effective date of change

The Arizona State Board for Charter Schools and Sonoran Science Academy-Ahwatukee (Charter Holder), herein agree to amend the terms of the charter contract as follows:

FROM: Kindergarten-5th grade

TO: Kindergarten-6th grade

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 20 day of April, 2009, 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.


Charter Representative Signature

Representative Signature for the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

DAISY EDUCATION CORPORATION BOARD MEETING

Place of Meeting: 6880 E Broadway Blvd Tucson, AZ

Date of Meeting: April 8, 2009

Time of Meeting: 7:00 PM

Abdullah Yilmaz is present in the meeting
Ismail Emre Araci is present for the meeting
Akif Baysal is present for the meeting
Metin Yildirim is absent for the meeting

Agenda:

Roll Call
Call to the public
Approval of agenda
District Report
 Superintendent's report
Secretary's Report
Budget Update

New Business

- SSA Phoenix Site Improvement Projects
- SSA Tucson Elementary School Site Improvement Projects
- Uniform Policy
- Uniform Vendor Selection Process Update
- PSA Elem Relocation to its New Location for 09-10 School Year
- Change of Grade Levels Served for PSA-Elem From K-5 to K-6 for 09-10 School Year
- Kindergarten Afternoon Activity Fee Policy

- 1- Abdullah Yilmaz called the meeting to order at 7:36pm. Jessica Lindskog took roll. One members absent.
- 2- Abdullah Yilmaz asked for public comment. Dave Zarse asked for clarification on the uniform policy and asked if the board realized there would be fallout. Jessica Lindskog answered some questions regarding policy and explained the policy would be brought before the board this evening for approval or rejection.
- 3- Abdullah Yilmaz moved to accept the agenda as presented. Mr. Baysal seconded the motion. All members present voted yes to the proposal.

RESOLVED that the agenda be accepted as presented.

- 4- Dr. Yildiz gave the update on the district, first saying that almost every competition that our schools entered the students received 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place awards and some students are now going forward and competing in national and international contests. SSA-

Phoenix received 1st place in the First Tech challenge. At SSA-NW Mr. Hobbins won the Science Teacher of the Year and is sending students to the National Final Science Project Competition. SSA-NW Mathcounts team won the Mathcounts competition. State mandated testing has started, all schools are working hard. The goal is for 98% of the students to meet or exceed the standards on the tests. Title 1 Monitoring was successful. Many areas are in progress right now including Budget Training for Principals, Office Trainings, School Leaders Training, Student recruitment/ Advertising, Staff recruitments SSA Phoenix Site Projects, SSA Elementary Site Projects, SSA Ahwatukee aka Paragon Science Academy Elementary relocation, Uniform vendor negotiations, and a 21st century skills summer partnership.

- 5- Jessica Lindskog read the minutes from the last meeting. Abdullah Yilmaz moved to accept the minutes as read. Dr. Baysal seconded the motion and all members present voted yes to the proposal.

RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as read.

- 6- Dr. Yildiz reviewed the current budget. All Title 1 funds are received, as well as still receiving 301 and 201 monies. The stimulus fund will bring the school about \$120,000. The district has secured an equipment loan and balanced the cash flow. PSA Elementary School secured the new location and the tenant is giving money for building improvements. SSA Phoenix has been approved for a \$30,000 special education grant. District staff completed the initial interview with the Walton Foundation for a new site grant and an application for the Charter School Growth fund is being prepared.

Dr. Yildiz is urging all campus to keep expenditures low, write donation letters, use all state funding sources, apply for additional private loans, have waiting lists for all grade levels, use resources wisely and finish the fiscal year with a positive balance.

Long term plans for the district are to spend more time in building, wait lists each year, start new projects with start-up funds, involve private investors, apply for corporation grants, create discussion sessions for the budget with the finance team.

Mr. Yilmaz replied that with the current economic hardships expansion needs to be carefully thought out and perhaps limited. Dr. Yildiz responded that some states are limiting the number of charters that can open and we need to decide are we a few charters in a district or a charter management group. Mr. Baysal stated that on the other hand building and real estate is cheap and a good time for expansion especially given that we do have waiting lists.

- 7- Mr. Suat Acar discussed the need for site improvements at the SSA-Phoenix location. He is projecting 330-340 students for this next year and to accommodate the increase in students the building will need some improvements. He is looking into affordable options. One way is to expand the current building the other is to find a new building for high school students. Improvement projects he is looking into is to cover the patio and make one of the MPR's into 2 classrooms. Other areas that need improvement are the entry doors, fences for security purposes and a grassy area added. Mr. Yilmaz responded by saying that he should discuss this with Dr. Yildiz if the budget allows for the improvements to start gathering bids.

8- Fatih Adak gave an update on the SSA-NW elementary site improvements. Currently they have 285 students, 244 new applications, and 170 students on the waiting list for next year. He received a third bid for the 3rd building at \$540,000 however, is also now looking into modular buildings. Other site improvements needed is the expansion of the parking lot. He is looking for private investors and spoke to some people who are impressed the audit numbers. He has received a verbal ok of 1.5 million dollars and is waiting on an email communication. Mr. Yilmaz responded to double check the interest rate, since we don't pay taxes 7% could in fact come to 10%.

9- Jessica Lindskog presented the uniform policy. A vendor has not been selected but should be in the next two weeks. Abdullah Yilmaz moved to accept the uniform policy as presented. Mr. Araci seconded the motion and all members present voted yes to the proposal.

RESOLVED that the uniform policy as presented by accepted.

10-Dr. Argin gave an update on the SSA-Ahwatukee location. The lease has been signed and the school is in possession of the keys. Improvements to the building are underway.

11-Dr. Argin asked the board to consider changing the grade levels served of the PSA-Elementary school from K-5 to K-6 explaining that schools in the area are a K-6 program and that middle school starts in the 7th grade. This way we will be offering a complete elementary program. The building has sufficient room to handle the increase in grade levels served. Abdullah Yilmaz moved to expand the grade levels served for PSA-Elementary school from K-5 to K-6. Dr. Baysal seconded the motion and all members present voted yes to the proposal.

RESOLVED that the PSA- Elementary school will expand their grade levels served to Kindergarten through 6th grade.

12- Ozgur Yildiz presented the Kindergarten enrichment fee policy. District near our schools were researched and many said they may charge a fee for kindergarten for next school year. They are waiting for the state to release the budget for this next year before they decide. Schools will provide the core curriculum in the morning but would charge for enrichment activities in the afternoon. The Enrichment Fee would be a voluntary process. Dr. Yildiz explained for now this is just information as we are also waiting on the state budget to be released before moving forward.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

We, the board members, have read these minutes and do hereby approve and confirm all business transacted as reported here.

Abdullah Yilmaz

Ismail Emre Araci

Akif Baysal

Metin Yildirim

SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-AHWATUKEE GRADE-LEVEL AMENDMENT
NARRATIVE

Sonoran Science Academy-Ahwatukee (SSA-Ahwatukee) is serving Kindergarten through 5th grades in Chandler, Arizona. SSA-Ahwatukee has served elementary grades with its exceptional focus on math, science, and computer technology oriented curriculum including a solid liberal arts foundation. SSA-Ahwatukee's Board of Directors and School Administration would like to extend this program to include 6th grade for the 2009-2010 school year, creating a continuation and completion of the elementary school program. In addition, neighboring schools in the area have a Kindergarten-6th grade program, by adding 6th grade to the charter for Sonoran Science Academy-Ahwatukee allows for a complete elementary program to be offered before the student progress to a neighboring middle school. We are requesting to add 6th grades to our existing Kindergarten through 5th grade charter beginning in the 2009-2010 school year. The addition of these grades will enable us to implement our educational philosophy that emphasizes math, science, and computer technology to students and a solid liberal arts foundation of all elementary ages.

Mission and Philosophy

The mission of Sonoran Science Academy-Ahwatukee (SSA) is college preparation for students to achieve success in the high-tech community of the new millennium through a science and mathematics instructional program that includes high educational standards, a liberal arts foundation and well-rounded academic excellence.

SSA-Ahwatukee is predicated on our understanding that the need for highly trained people in science, math, and technology is great and will become greater in the years ahead.

The philosophy of SSA-Ahwatukee, aligned with its mission, is that educated citizens of the 21st century must have a solid background in science, math, history, and literature. With such knowledge, they will not only be able to keep up with the rapid growth of science and technology, but also will be able to contextually comprehend its essence. Educated citizens of the 21st century must have a love of learning that will enable them to be lifetime learners so that they can adopt easily and quickly to changes in our core knowledge. They must be able to work productively and cooperatively in a multicultural environment. In addition, they must be effective communicators, adopt at writing and speaking, and they must be committed to the intellectual virtues of objectivity, respect for the truth, critical thinking, and social and moral awareness.

SSA-Ahwatukee believes that an educated citizen in the 21st century must have the skills and understanding to participate and work productively in a technologically oriented, global environment.

SSA-Ahwatukee aims to increase the quality of the elementary school by expanding its grades to K through 6. This addition of 6th grade will allow for SSA-Ahwatukee to provide a complete elementary program that will successfully prepare students to enter into a challenging middle school curriculum. Our elementary school curriculum focuses on challenging math, science, and liberal arts programs; these programs require a higher level of critical thinking, problem solving, and reading/writing skills. SSA-Ahwatukee believes that adding 6th grades will allow students to improve these skills before they start middle school. With the addition of the 6th grade, students will be able to grow with a strong math and science foundation that will prepare them a challenging, rigorous middle school.

Students at our school receive a quality and advanced level education. Students entering the 6th grade will continue to take placement tests as our current kindergarten-5th grade and will be placed in their academic level within their grade level. Due to the demographics of the location, a majority of the students are expected to be placed at a higher level, enabling us to teach accelerated classes. We will also have paraprofessionals to assist low achieving students in class in order to ensure academic growth, student success and increase their academic achievement to that of their peers.

Special emphasis

SSA-Ahwatukee has provided quality education for Kindergarten-5th grade students with particular emphasize on math, science, and technology including a solid liberal arts foundation. The main motivation for this emphasis derived from the report made by the U.S. Commission on National Security for the 21st Century. This entity suggested that the country is at the verge of a downward spiral due to a current scarcity in high-quality professionals and competent teachers in science, mathematics, and technology. Coming from this venue, SSA-Ahwatukee is devoted to serve the society that will make sure the nation remains scientifically and technologically competitive. Also, we are confident that a science-literate society will provide necessary support, funding, and promotion to ensure future generations continue to improve upon modern advances that benefit everyone.

We will continue to use a research-based science program, which is the basis of our current courses. The science program requires hands-on activities as part of the science instruction at the school. Currently, students are required to conduct research and prepare science projects. This program will also be implemented for 6th grades. The Saxon math program that is used for our current grade levels will also be used for the 6th grades. This math program allows us to provide skill-based math education to different level students, enabling them to be challenged and to advance at the same time supporting SSA-Ahwatukee in its pursuit of academic excellence for the 21st century.

SSA-Ahwatukee teaches the fundamentals of computer technology for the elementary grade levels. With the addition of 6th grade the curriculum will include a TIE program. This program allows concepts to be taught and applied in technology thereby integrating Math and Technology and establishing a solid technology foundation for middle school.

Methods of Instruction

One of the main goals of SSA-Ahwatukee is to prepare students for academic success in their secondary and post-secondary education by providing a high quality education, and providing students with integrated curriculum with up-to-date technology and science.

Students will continue to receive a quality education in 6th grade since they will be academically placed based on their skills which will allow for the student placement in advanced level classes as necessary. As in Kindergarten-5th grade classrooms, 6th grade classrooms will be equipped with overhead projectors and LCD projectors. It helps teachers to integrate technology into their curriculum.

SSA-Ahwatukee promotes cross-curricular activities to integrate math, science, technology, language arts, and social studies classes, since today's successful college education requires not only subject matter knowledge, but also a well-rounded curriculum, including the relationships between subjects learned. SSA-Ahwatukee's recent practices with kindergarten-5th grade students showed that students should continue to be exposed to integrated curriculum in 6th grade as well. The continuation in methods of instruction at 6th grade will enable students to keep open a broad spectrum of options for their future and prepare them as responsible, creative, and productive citizens.

MASTERY OF COURSEWORK FOR ADDITIONAL GRADE

Goals	Measurable Objectives/ Benchmarks
<p>1. SSA-Ahwatukee will prepare students to be able to not only perform, but also exceed basic skill levels at assigned grade level.</p>	<p>1a. 90% of students will exceed assigned grade level at AIMS/ Terra Nova testing.</p> <p>1b. All students will demonstrate grade-level proficiency in all subject areas of the curriculum, including math, science, social studies, language arts, and computer, according to the Arizona State Standards and the No Child Left Behind Law (NCLB).</p>
<p>2. SSA-Ahwatukee will prepare students to be proficient in Information Technologies knowledge (<i>with particular focus on Math, Science, and Technology</i>).</p>	<p>2a. 100% of students will be able to use computer technologies in their curriculum effectively.</p> <p>2b. SSA-Ahwatukee will test students' abilities throughout the year in computer labs.</p>
<p>3. In compliance with NCLB, at least 95% of SSA-Ahwatukee students will participate in state testing, demonstrate achievement, and exceed assigned grade level.</p>	<p>3a. 95% of SSA-Ahwatukee students will meet or exceed the math standards on the AIMS tests.</p> <p>3b. 95% of SSA-Ahwatukee students will meet or exceed the reading standards on the AIMS tests.</p> <p>3c. 95% of SSA-Ahwatukee students will meet or exceed the writing standards on the AIMS tests.</p>

EXPECTED STUDENT PERFORMANCE ON STATE-MANDATED TESTS AT ALL GRADE LEVELS IMPACTED BY THE ADDITION

Our current students have just taken the AIMS tests for this school year, but students are outperforming in the subject matter that they are learning. In addition, students are taking advanced level classes too.

The addition of 6th grade will not create significant changes in the test results, since students who are expected to come to our school are from the neighborhood schools and those students' test scores are above state standards too.

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The class space and curriculum are already in place. 6th grade classes will begin on the same day as current elementary students for the 2009-2010 school year.

CHANGES IN STAFFING TO SUPPORT THE REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS

SSA-Ahwatukee already has highly qualified teachers for its current grades and will hire one more highly qualified teacher for 6th grade. We do not anticipate any problem in filling this position since quality of our program attracts more teachers to our school.