

**AGENDA ITEM: Academy Del Sol, Inc. Application Overview**

Academy Del Sol, Inc. submitted an application for a new charter school on June 24, 2008.

- Academy Del Sol, Inc. is a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation that was created on June 20, 2008 with the purpose of conducting public education.
- The name of the school is Academy Del Sol and will be located in Tucson, Arizona.
- The applicant will initially serve grades K-6 and have an enrollment cap of 250 in the first year and grow to 350 by year three while serving K-8 grades.
- The applicant has met all the substantive eligibility criteria as documented in the following pages and in the [attached scoring rubric](#).
- Fingerprint clearance cards and background information including credit, employment and education have been verified for all corporate principals.

Academy Del Sol, Inc	
<b>Instructional Program</b>	
Mission	It is the mission of Academy Del Sol to provide all students, regardless of socio-economic status, race, or ethnicity, with a superior quality education that will install students with the “essentials” of academic knowledge that will have infinite importance to people everywhere. This education is not only limited to nurturing a student’s intellect in teaching them <i>how</i> to think, but it also nurtures their body and spirit while allowing students to “learn by doing.”
Description of Community and Target Market	The community is primarily English and Spanish speaking with median household incomes of \$25,904. The target population is children living in the lower socioeconomic community described. The average residential turnover is 27.05%.
Methods of Instruction	A continuum of methods including traditional teacher centered methods integrated with constructivist/student-centered approaches such as: Direct instruction; Cooperative-learning; Lecture/Presentation; Problem-based; Concept Teaching; Classroom Discussion.
School Calendar	Standard 180 day Schedule
<b>Organizational Structure</b>	
Corporate Principals	Jason Riegert; Sara Riegert
Governing Body	2 Charter Organization members: Jason Riegert and Sara Riegert 1 School Staff Member: To Be Determined 1 Parent Member: To Be Determined 1 Community Member: To Be Determined 2 Other Members: Joseph G. Riegert, To Be Determined
<b>Site Information</b>	
Location	Sacred Heart Church, 601 East Ft. Lowell Road, Tucson, AZ 85705
Secured Facility	TOTAL: ~32,100 sq. ft.: 13 classrooms (~6,400 sq. ft.), offices (~2,400 sq. ft.), cafeteria and kitchen (~5,300 sq. ft.), open recreation area ~18,000 sq. ft.)

Year	Grades Served	# of Students	# of Sites
1	K-6	250	1
2	K-6	300	1
3	K-6	350	1

**The following information is being provided for consideration:**

**Applicant's Background Information:**

1. The corporation has two members, with both serving on the governing board:
  - Sara Riegert will serve as the charter representative for the applicant and as the director for the charter school. Since 2000, Ms. Riegert has had a multitude of experiences with children in grades K-8 in various educational settings. She possesses a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education and a Master of Arts Degree in Teaching and Teacher Education from the University of Arizona. Ms. Riegert has been chosen as a teacher trainer for The Princeton Review, functioned as a mentor teacher for the Northern Arizona University teacher preparation program and served on mathematics committees through TUSD. In addition to her director duties, Ms. Riegert will develop curriculum for grades K-6 and serve on the interview panel.
  - Jason Riegert will serve as the site administrator and assume all administrative duties for the charter school. Mr. Riegert previously functioned as a site administrator (vice principal: four years, principal: one year) for a local charter school in Tucson. During his time as an administrator, Mr. Riegert served as the NCLB coordinator, the Homeless Liaison, the ELL coordinator, AIMS Testing Coordinator and curriculum specialist. Mr. Riegert is also the president of Riegert Enterprises, Inc., (in "Good Standing" with the Arizona Corporation Commission as of 12/9/2008) which owns and operates a Quizno's Subs. Mr. Riegert has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Creative Writing with a Minor in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Arizona. Currently, he is working on a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University.

**New Charter Application Background:**

**Comprehensive Program of Instruction/Curriculum**

*Short description:* Academy Del Sol proposes to operate an essential skills curriculum aligned with Arizona Academic Standards with an emphasis on incorporating the fine arts into each student's daily experience. Learning progress will be monitored regularly both by teachers and site leadership. A remediation plan will be implemented that will intervene when students fail to meet learning goals each quarter.

Curriculum samples were provided. The school provided samples that demonstrated sufficient understanding of instruction and alignment with Arizona Academic Standards. The school has budgeted sufficient funds for purchase and upgrade of curricular and instructional resources and staff development.

The application fails to meet the minimum requirements in one area of one of the curriculum samples provided, **Curriculum Samples Section "1.3.2d," Summative Assessment.**

**Business Plan/Budget**

*Short description:* The applicant has designated \$15,000 for start-up purposes. The applicant is proposing to defer compensation for salaries and will personally provide clerical functions through July 15, 2009. As a result, the applicant is able to allocate 37% of projected start-up expenditures for SAIS software, marketing and consultant services. Operations and Maintenance costs are minimized during start up due to access to secured facility. During years 2 and 3, the applicant seeks to increase maintenance and operations expenditures in order to refurbish cafeteria/kitchen areas and acquire 2 vans for field trips. Transportation to/from school is not being offered.

The operational budget is based on only 47% of the projected first year opening enrollment. The application has a sufficient amount of budget balance should it be required.

The application fails to meet the minimum requirements in the following area of the Business Plan provided:

## **1. Section 2.6 Corporate Filings**

- Articles of Incorporation: #4 on page 208. It is unclear who is able to receive reasonable compensation for services rendered. Who is this referring to and what type of services? In addition, #4 mentions members, however the next page indicates there are no members.
- By-Laws: Article 3 indicates an affirmative vote of 75% can remove an officer. How is 75% reached provided membership of the board? The revised application does not provide revised responses relevant to TRP comments.

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### **Motion Notes for Academy Del Sol:**

- The application includes all required curriculum samples to operate a K-6 program.
- The application meets the scoring criteria in both the Program of Instruction and the Business Plan sections.