

AGENDA ITEM: The Odyssey Preparatory Academy, Inc. Application Overview

The Odyssey Preparatory Academy, Inc. submitted an application for a new charter school on August 1, 2008.

- The Odyssey Preparatory Academy, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation that was created on April 11, 2008, with the purpose of conducting public education.
- The name of the school is The Odyssey Preparatory Academy and will be located in Buckeye, Arizona.
- The applicant will initially serve grades K-5 and have an enrollment capacity of 300 students in the first year and grow to 450 students by year three serving grades K-7.
- The applicant met all the substantive eligibility criteria as documented in the following pages and in the [attached scoring rubric](#).
- Fingerprint clearance cards and background information for all appropriate parties were provided and reviewed. Additional information has been provided.

| The Odyssey Preparatory Academy, Inc. | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|-----------------------|--|--|
| Instructional Program | | | | | | | | | |
| Mission | The Mission at The Odyssey Preparatory Academy is to make certain that all students develop the character, intellectual and creative problem solving skills as well as the technological where with-all needed for success. | | | | | | | | |
| Description of Community and Target Market | The target population will be students who live within five square miles of Buckeye’s downtown area. This area will include low SES households as well as some newer communities with middle class populations. | | | | | | | | |
| Methods of Instruction | The Odyssey Preparatory Academy will follow a Core Knowledge Sequence in order to promote consistency through the grade levels. Methods of instruction include direct instruction, integrated technology, differentiated instruction, cooperative learning, cross-curricular thematic units, and cross-curricula project based learning. Through on-going assessments and progress monitoring, each student will have a continuously updated individualized education plan. | | | | | | | | |
| School Calendar | Alternative - 144 day schedule; four-day week, Monday-Thursday | | | | | | | | |
| Organizational Structure | | | | | | | | | |
| Corporate Principals | Megan Olson, Mary Alvarez, and Frank Yanez | | | | | | | | |
| Governing Body | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Three Charter Organization Members:</td> <td>One School Staff:</td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Megan Olson ▪ Mary Alvarez ▪ Frank Yanez </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yet To Be Determined </td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>One Community Member:</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yet To Be Determined </td> </tr> </table> | Three Charter Organization Members: | One School Staff: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Megan Olson ▪ Mary Alvarez ▪ Frank Yanez | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yet To Be Determined | | One Community Member: | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yet To Be Determined |
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| Site Information | | | | | | | | | |
| Location | Target location is within a ten-mile radius from 210 S. 6 th Street, Buckeye, AZ | | | | | | | | |
| Unsecured Facility | The initial build of 18,043 ft ² will include 12- 28X28 ft ² classrooms, a 9,408 ft ² multipurpose room with 7,115 ft ² office/conference/workroom space. The facility will also include 3- 28X28 ft ² classrooms for special education. There will be additional room on the property for a playground and required parking space. | | | | | | | | |

| Year | Grades Served | # of Students | # of Sites |
|------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| 1 | K-5 | 300 | 1 |
| 2 | K-6 | 375 | 1 |
| 3 | K-7 | 450 | 1 |

The following information is being provided for consideration:

Applicant's Background Information:

1. The corporation has three members, with all three serving on the governing board:
 - Megan Olson: Currently teaches 8th grade math at Buckeye Middle School in Buckeye Elementary School District. Ms. Olson has an A.A. degree from Eastern Arizona College and a Bachelor of Arts in History-Secondary Education from Montana State University. She is currently pursuing a M.Ed. in Administration and Supervision from the University of Phoenix. Pursuant to the background check, the applicant stated on the employment history that she was a manager with Rainbow Motel. Owner Rochelle Gibson verified that applicant was the desk clerk. Subsequent to a staff request that the applicant explain the discrepancy, the owner of the Rainbow Motel submitted an email changing her previous verification and stating that Megan Olson was the manager from 10/01 to 7/03. Ms. Olson's credit report indicated no concerns. The education verification was validated with no concerns.
 - Mary Alvarez: Currently teaches an 8th grade self-contained classroom at Buckeye Middle School in Buckeye Elementary School District. Ms. Alvarez has a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education for the University of Montana. Fingerprint clearance card and background information were provided and verified.
 - Frank Yanez: Mr. Yanez is president of F.M.Y. Consultants, LLC, a consulting company he started in 2004, which provides financial management advice as well as full bookkeeping services to charter schools. He is also managing partner and a founder of Sun Valley Education Business Advisors, LLC, which is a provider of financial services. Mr. Yanez is a graduate of Buckeye Union High School and attended Glendale Community College, Estrella Mountain Community College, and the University of Phoenix. Fingerprint clearance card and background information were provided and verified.

New Charter Application Background:

Comprehensive Program of Instruction/Curriculum

Short description:

Odyssey Preparatory Academy will implement the Core Knowledge® curriculum. The Core Knowledge® curriculum sequences specific topics for language arts, American and world history, geography, visual arts, music, math and science. The school plans to also implement The Singapore Math program. Both programs are intended to provide a rigorous curriculum that is both culturally rich and aimed at closing what the applicants describe as a wide achievement gap between students currently enrolled in surrounding schools and state performance objectives.

The application meets the minimum requirements in all the areas of the comprehensive Program of Instruction.

Business Plan/Budget

Short description:

The applicant has signed a letter of intent with US Charter Development to finance and construct the Odyssey Preparatory Academy facility. US Charter Development provided a letter of commitment to the applicant for such construction and financing, including a \$75,000 start up budget, through 20-year lease. Lease payments will commence pending occupancy. As stated in the letter, the applicant retains the option to purchase the facility after year 1, but before year 4.

The operational budget is based on 100% of the 300 student enrollment projected for FY09. The application does allow for adjusting expenditures should enrollment projections not be met.

The application meets the minimum requirements in all the areas of the Detailed Business Plan.

Motion Notes for Odyssey Preparatory Academy, Inc.:

- The application includes all required curriculum samples to operate a K-5 program.
- The application meets the scoring criteria in both the Program of Instruction section and Business Plan areas.