

AGENDA ITEM: Vista Pointe Public Charter Elementary School Application Overview

Vista Pointe Public Charter Elementary School submitted an application for a new charter school on July 29, 2008.

- Vista Pointe Public Charter Elementary School is a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation that was created on July 28, 2008 with the purpose of conducting public education. The charter operations would be managed by the Leona Group, Inc.
- The name of the school is Vista Pointe Elementary School and will be located in Phoenix, Arizona.
- The applicant will initially serve grades K-6 and have an enrollment cap of 300 in the first year and grow to 350 by year three while serving the same grade levels.
- 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 including credit, employment and education have been verified for all corporate principals.
- Related party operations of note:
 - 12 schools operating: 8 Performing, 1 Underperforming, 3 new schools

Vista Pointe Public Charter Elementary School	
Instructional Program	
Mission	Vista Pointe will create a student centered environment where students actively engage in meaningful, academically challenging curriculum.
Description of Community and Target Market	Vista Pointe will serve the greater South Mountain community south of Phoenix/Salt River between 27 th Avenue and 48 th Street. This is a highly diverse area. Over 61% Hispanic, 17% Black, 17% White; 45% are eligible for Free/Reduced Federally qualified meals.
Methods of Instruction	Instructional methods focus on the child as a developing individual through differential instructional strategies and accommodations as appropriate. Teachers are active facilitators able assess learning and plan lessons that integrate state standards with assessment and intervention as needed.
School Calendar	Alternative block schedule, 180 instructional days
Organizational Structure	
Corporate Principals	William Coats, Michele Kaye
Governing Body	Charter organization- 1, William Coats
Site Information	
Location	The anticipated location of this school is within a 3-mile radius of 35 th Avenue and Baseline.
Unsecured Facility	A single 5,390 ft ² with central multi-purpose area surrounded by 4 classroom wings housing eighteen 850 ft ² classrooms; administrative area housing six offices, two teacher-work areas, a food preparation area.

Year	Grades Served	# of Students	# of Sites
1	K-6	300	1
2	K-6	325	1
3	K-6	350	1

The following information is being provided for consideration:

Applicant’s Background Information:

1. The corporation has two members of its Board of Directors, with one serving as the governing body
 - Dr. William Coats: Founder and CEO of the Leona Group, Dr. Coats currently serves as Sole Incorporator, Director and President of Vista Pointe Public Charter Elementary School. Dr. Coats oversees 72 charter schools across six states. Dr. Coats is a former superintendent and earned his doctorate in Research and Data Analysis.
 - Michele Kaye: Chief Operating Officer for the Leona Group since 2004. She has served in a variety of roles with the Leona Group and within the charter school arena for the past 10 years. Ms. Kaye holds a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University.
2. The AZ LEARNS profiles and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) designations for the existing campuses under the Leona Group Inc. are as follows:

School Name	AZ LEARNS	AYP
Arts Academy of Mesa	FY09 First Year	FY09 First Year
Gilbert Arts Academy	FY09 First Year	FY09 First Year
Liberty Arts Academy	FY09 First Year	FY09 First Year
Apex Academy	1 st year Underperforming	Yes
El Dorado High School	Performing	Yes
Maya High School	Performing	No
Montezuma Middle School	Performing	Yes
South Pointe Public Charter Elementary School	Performing	No
South Pointe Junior High School	Performing	Yes
Summit High School	Performing	Yes
Tempe Accelerated High School	Performing	No
Tucson Accelerated High School	Performing	No

New Charter Application Background:

Comprehensive Program of Instruction/Curriculum

Short description:

Vista Pointe Elementary School targets a general elementary school population. A full array of developmentally appropriate instructional strategies will ensure mastery of standards. This includes cooperative learning, differentiated instruction, integration of technology, and hands-on manipulative resources. Teachers will continuously assess student achievement and adjust curriculum as needed. Supporting this is regularly scheduled professional development regarding curriculum, planning, special populations and instructional strategies related to needs as determined by student academic performance and needs assessments. Administrative monitoring will occur through monitoring of daily lesson plans; periodic review of curriculum alignment, classroom observations, mentoring with the Curriculum Coach and NCA/AdvancED accreditation process.

The application meets the minimum requirements in all of the Program of Instruction sections provided.

Business Plan/Budget

Short description:

The applicant has designated \$500,000 for start-up purposes. Just over 25% of the expenses associated with the start-up are designated for instructional supplies, materials and training for instructors. Vista Pointe Elementary will hire the Leona Group to manage and operate their school.

The operational budget is based on 100% of the projected enrollment. The application has a sufficient amount of budget balance should it be required.

The application meets the minimum requirements in all of the Business sections provided.

Motion Notes for Vista Pointe Public Charter Elementary School:

- 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 Business Plan sections.