

AGENDA ITEM: Successful Beginnings, Inc. Application Overview

Successful Beginnings, Inc. submitted an application for a new charter school on June 13, 2008.

- Successful Beginnings, Inc. is a for-profit corporation that was created on June 23, 2005, with the purpose of conducting the business of child care.
- The name of the school is Successful Beginnings Charter School and will be located in Show Low, Arizona.
- The applicant will initially serve grades K-5 with an enrollment cap of 54 in the first year and maintain the same cap by year three while serving the same grade levels.
- 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.

Successful Beginnings, Inc.	
Instructional Program	
Mission	Our mission at Successful Beginnings Charter School is to foster a high level of academic achievement by using a multi-faceted, competency base curriculum. Through small class size, emphasis on individualized instruction and character development, students will be provided a unique and nurturing environment where they can, with support from family and the community, reach their full potential.
Description of Community and Target Market	The applicant will target students in the Show Low and Blue Ridge Unified School Districts. The city of Show Low experienced 37.2% growth from 2000-2006 and the public schools that service those students have not grown to accommodate the increase in population.
Methods of Instruction	The methods of instruction will focus on integrating the curriculum to be inter-disciplinary. Through the use of direct instruction and cooperative learning, children will be given the opportunity to learn through a variety of modalities. Lesson plans and activities will promote higher order thinking and incorporate shared inquiry.
School Calendar	Standard with 184 instructional days
Organizational Structure	
Corporate Principals	Eve Hoskins and Janet Tamburo
Governing Body	Two Charter Organization Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eve Hoskins ▪ Janet Tamburo One School Staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Laurel Hostler Two Community Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tammy Morris ▪ Norm Ehmke or Anita Ehmke
Site Information	
Location	Ehmke’s Childhaven Preschool 841 E. McNeil St., Show Low, AZ 85901
Secured Facility	The school will be approximately 2,132 square feet with approximately 1,500 square feet devoted to classroom space. There will be three classrooms. K-1 will have their own room and 2-3 and 4-5 will share a large room divided into two classrooms.

Year	Grades Served	# of Students	# of Sites
1	K-5	54	1
2	K-5	54	1
3	K-5	54	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:
 - Eve Hoskins: Ms. Hoskins owns and operates Ehmke's Childhaven Preschool in Show Low. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University at Northridge, with a major in child development and a minor in psychology.
 - Janet Tamburo: Ms. Tamburo is retired from Bank of America. During her employment, she held various management positions for Bank of America and Western Financial/Wachovia. She attended California State University at Los Angeles.

New Charter Application Background:

Comprehensive Program of Instruction/Curriculum

Short description:

Successful Beginnings Charter School targets a general elementary school population. The school will provide an interdisciplinary curriculum in multi-age classrooms. By using direct instruction and cooperative learning, students will be given an opportunity to learn through a variety of modalities. The school will adapt curriculum and teaching styles to meet individual student needs and children will receive extra help in areas of weakness and be able to accelerate in areas of strength. Standards-based assessment tools will be used by staff to aid in lesson planning and instructional methods. The school will use various reading, math, and writing assessments, as well as state tests, to document student progress. Staff will have ongoing professional development on early release days to support curriculum planning and instructional improvement.

The application fails to meet the minimum requirements in the following areas of the Program of Instruction:

1. Area 1.3.2d – Second Grade Assessment
 - The Reading and Writing assessments do not allow students to demonstrate mastery of the identified performance objectives.
2. Area 1.3.3d – Third Grade Assessment
 - The Reading assessment does not allow students to demonstrate mastery of the identified performance objectives.

Business Plan/Budget

Short description:

The applicant has designated \$100,000 for start-up purposes. More than half of the start-up budget (\$60,000) will be to build-out an existing facility for necessary space for the school. Approximately \$21,500 of the start-up budget will be spent on instructional materials.

The operational budget is based on 85% of the projected enrollment in the initial year of operation. The application has a sufficient amount of budget balance should it be required. The three-year operating budget also includes a line item to pay back all start-up costs.

The business section has one area that does not meet the scoring criteria. The following area remains deficient:

1. Area 2.9e – Three Year Operating Budget
 - The revised application did not address concerns or include assumptions made for budget calculations based on student enrollment.

Motion Notes for Successful Beginnings, 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 and Business Plan sections.