

AGENDA ITEM: Arizona Academy of Leadership, Inc. Application Overview

Arizona Academy of Leadership, Inc. submitted an application for a new charter school on Aug. 1, 2008.

- Arizona Academy of Leadership, Inc. is a non-profit corporation that was created on June 17, 2005 with the purpose of functioning as a conduit of well educated children and leaders.
- The name of the school is Sun Valley Charter School and will be located in Phoenix, Arizona.
- The applicant will initially serve grades K-6 and have an enrollment cap of 175 in the first year and grow to 275 by year three while serving the same grade levels.
- The applicant has not 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:
 - 1 school operating: Performing

Arizona Academy of Leadership, Inc.	
Instructional Program	
Mission	Sun Valley Charter School will provide a premium education. Academic and social skills will be further enhanced through the development of leadership skills. Students of Sun Valley Charter School will employ their leadership skills, to positively impact society, by way of various forms of community service.
Description of Community and Target Market	The community will be the under served students and families of the Roosevelt School district and Laveen School District areas. It is anticipated that the target population will include families of low socioeconomic status as well as English Language Learners.
Methods of Instruction	The methods of instruction will include direct instruction, small group instruction, hands-on activities, cooperative/collaborative learning, and observations designed to aid students' investigations.
School Calendar	Standard 180 day schedule
Organizational Structure	
Corporate Principals	Tonya R. Strozier, Tanae M. Morrison, Randiesia Fletcher, Ronnie Burton, Crystal Brooks
Governing Body	1 Charter Organization Member: Tanae Morrison 1 School Staff Member: To Be Determined 2 Parent Members: To Be Determined 1 Community Member: To Be Determined
Site Information	
Location	Near the intersection of Central Ave. and Buckeye Rd
Unsecured Facility	7,100 sq. ft. minimally: 7-11 classrooms, 2 offices, reception area and play area.

Year	Grades Served	# of Students	# of Sites
1	K-6	175	1
2	K-6	225	1
3	K-6	275	1

The following information is being provided for consideration:

Applicant's Background Information:

1. The corporation has five members, with one serving on the governing board:
 - Tonya Strozier is the charter representative for the existing charter held by Arizona Academy of Leadership, Inc. Ms. Strozier wrote the original charter application, signed the contract on May, 9, 2007, gained experience opening and operating the school and now operates three sites. Mr. Strozier has a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University and a Bachelors Degree in Family and Consumer Resources from the University of Arizona.
 - Tanae Morrison serves as the vice-president of Arizona Academy of Leadership, Inc., will serve on the governing body for the Phoenix site, and will be the principal of the proposed school. Ms. Morrison has over ten years of experience in the field of education and currently works in the Chandler Unified School District as a counselor. In addition to her counseling duties, Ms. Morrison manages the special education program. Ms. Morrison has a Masters in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University and has a Masters in Educational Psychology and a Bachelors Degree in Agriculture from the University of Arizona. .
 - Randiesia Fletcher is the secretary of Arizona Academy of Leadership, Inc. Ms. Fletcher is a graduate student of the University of Phoenix where she earned a Masters Degree in Secondary Education. While in the Marines, Ms. Fletcher served as a chief logistician, where she managed financial and budgeting worksheets for battalion ledgers. Ms. Fletcher has also provided regular support for the schools operated by the Arizona Academy of Leadership, Inc.
 - Ronnie Burton is the treasurer for the applicant and is currently serving as the Civic and Community Events Project Manager/Superintendent for the Tucson Parks and Recreation Department since 2000. Mr. Burton was responsible for bringing the Kid-Co Recreation Program to the Tucson area and secured the implementation of the Kid-Co program at the Arizona Academy of Leadership in Tucson; which is only one of a few charter schools operating the program.
 - Crystal Brooks is a member of the corporate board and provides financial expertise. Since 1992, Ms. Brooks has worked for the family care service provider The Tunland Corporation. Currently, Ms. Brooks is a program manager managing the operation of three group homes, one day program, four managers and twenty-eight individuals with a variety of disabilities. In addition, Ms. Brooks is responsible for supervising four budgets ensuring the funds are spent appropriately. Ms. Brooks has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Speech Communications from Northern Arizona University.
2. Arizona Academy of Leadership, Inc. (Corporate Principals - Tonya R. Strozier {Charter Representative}, Tanae M. Morrison, Randiesia Fletcher, Ronnie Burton, Crystal Brooks) has 3 schools in operation, 2 of which opened FY09. The Arizona Academy of Leadership in Tucson has a 2008 AZ LEARNS profile of Performing and met AYP in 2008.

New Charter Application Background:

Comprehensive Program of Instruction/Curriculum

Short description:

Sun Valley Charter School will maintain focus on Arizona State Standards while adding a leadership and service component. Kindergarten through third grade students will plan and participate in community service projects twice each academic year to put leadership into practice. Students in grade three through six will complete Leadership Development Plans. Upon exiting the school, students will have completed

a Leadership Portfolio culminating their leadership development. The portfolio will document the student's leadership experiences gained through service projects and instruction.

Throughout the school year, pre and post assessments will be using for measuring Writing and Leadership instruction. Writing pre and post assessments will be scored based on the "6 Traits of Writing" according to a specific genre. In addition, grade level benchmarks such as Galileo/ATI will be given at the beginning, middle, and end of each school year to measure student growth and indicate areas where remediation or re-teaching is necessary. In order to communication with parents and students, teachers will be required to have on display in the classroom the standards that are being taught. In addition, all teachers will be required to maintain and track documentation of student mastery.

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

1. Curriculum Samples Section "c" Student Activities and Section "d" Assessment – Second Grade (2 Total)
 - The student activities in the revised application do not align with the identified performance objective and the assessment does not allow students to demonstrate proficiency on the identified performance objective.

Business Plan/Budget

Short description:

The corporate board will be solely responsible for the financial activities of the corporation. They also appoint the members of the governing board. The budget is based on 80% of the targeted student count, modest revenue from the Classroom Site Fund, and no Title funding. Arizona Academy of Leadership, Inc. has received additional funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Charter School Program Grant (CSP). The award will be primarily used for curriculum, professional development, furniture, and equipment. The award breakdown is as follows: Year 1 - \$148,900, Year 2 - \$150,000, and Year 3 - \$134,500. Corporate principals Tonya Strozier and Tanae Morrison will lend approximately \$18,000 to Sun Valley Charter School to be repaid with interest once chartered.

The first year operational budget is based on a projected enrollment of 140 students. Total expenditures for the first year are anticipated to be \$763,161 with a carryover of \$256,067 for year two.

The application fails to meet the minimum requirements in the following areas of the Business Section:

1. Section 2.7b Communication Chart (1 Total)
 - The narrative in the revised application does not reflect the chart provided.
2. Section 2.9i Expenditures for Personnel (1 Total)
 - The revised application did not address that the portions of the benefits paid by the school are too low. The employee benefits are figured to be 5.7% of total salaries which is not sufficient to cover ERE expenses.

Motion Notes for Arizona Academy of Leadership, Inc.:

- The application includes all required curriculum samples to operate a grade K-6 program.
- The application failed to meet the criteria for the application in that there were more than 1 "Approaches" in 1 section of the curriculum samples.