

AGENDA ITEM: BNE Ashur Organization Application Overview

BNE Ashur Organization submitted an application for a new charter school on July 28, 2008.

- BNE Ashur Organization is a nonprofit organization that was created on June 16, 2005 with the purpose of providing education, knowledge and wisdom.
- The name of the school is BNE Ashur Charter School and will be located in Surprise, Arizona.
- The applicant will initially serve grades K-6 and have an enrollment cap of 200 in the first year and grow to 300 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](#). However, the applicant included a letter requesting the Board’s consideration.
- Fingerprint clearance cards and background information for all appropriate parties were provided and verified. Additional information has been provided.
- Related party operations of note:
 - 2 Performing school sites.

BNE Ashur Organization	
Instructional Program	
Mission	The Mission and Goal of BNE Ashur Charter School is: to establish a safe and healthy learning environment that emphasizes academic success, cultural and language explorations, collaborative efforts between the school staff and the community including parents, business sponsors, and other community entities through which student intellectual growth, social/emotional growth and skills, and safety and order are measured as a result of and through: AIMS, AIMS-A (when applicable), Terra Nova, AZELLA, clinical based measurements e.g, BASC II. Note: A mission Statement needs to include all stakeholders including but not exhaustive of the principal, teachers, parents, and community representatives. Therefore, the Mission Statement will change with the input from these entities once the Charter is approved.
Description of Community and Target Market	The applicant has identified an area where many foreign languages are spoken and anticipates serving a high ELL population.
Methods of Instruction	The applicant plans to offer direct instruction lessons along with small group instruction, cooperative learning, Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP), and collaborative exercises.
School Calendar	Standard, 180 instructional days
Organizational Structure	
Corporate Principals	Banipal Benjamin and Patricia Shaw
Governing Body	1 Charter Organization Member: Banipal Benjamin 1 School Staff Member: Esther Davis-Winn 1 Parent Member: To be Determined
Site Information	
Location	Assyrian Church of the East: 17334 N. 63 rd Ave, Glendale, 85308
Secured Facility	The facility provides 5000 sq. ft. of classroom space, including 9 classrooms, handicapped bathrooms, storage spaces and available office space. There is additionally a 5000 sq. ft. multi-purpose hall. The facility is located on 5 acres with additional open space to add more classrooms to accommodate planned growth.

Year	Grades Served	# of Students	# of Sites
1	K-6	200	1
2	K-6	220	1
3	K-6	300	1

The following information is being provided for consideration:

Applicant’s Background Information:

- The corporation has two members, with one serving on the governing board:
 - Banipal Benjamin is the Founder and President of the organization and will serve on both the corporate and governing boards. Mr. Benjamin will oversee the accounting affairs of the school, ensure compliance with State and Federal mandates and manage all legal issues through the guidance of a law firm. Additionally, Mr. Benjamin will serve as the Facilities Manager, Project Director for the CSP Grant and will coordinate with ReSolutions to prepare for the opening of the school. He has experience as an electrical contractor and as a real estate agent in Arizona. Currently, Mr. Benjamin owns and operates Lighting Power Inc.
 - Patricia Shaw is co-founder and President of Intelli-Schools. She has a Bachelors Degree in Psychology, a Masters Degree in Social Work, and a Post-Baccalaureate Degree in Secondary Education. Ms. Shaw is the President of ReSolutions Education Services. ReSolutions provides office support and services to charter schools. Ms. Shaw has also served as the President of the Arizona Charter Schools Association. Ms. Shaw is affiliated with Intelli-Schools, Inc. and PAS Charter School, Inc.
- The AZ LEARNS profiles and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) designations for the existing campuses under “Intelli-Schools”:

School Name	AZ LEARNS	AYP
Intelli-School Metro	Performing	Not Met, Warning Year
Intelli-School Paradise Valley	Performing	Met

New Charter Application Background:

Comprehensive Program of Instruction/Curriculum

Short description:

BNE Ashur Charter School has developed a curriculum framework that utilizes the best of state standards and a range of innovative and well recognized academic approached to learning. The applicant has identified the methods of direct instruction, small group instruction, cooperative learning, SIOP, collaborative exercises with relevant activities and projects aimed at promoting a high level of academic rigor. The applicant also plans to offer Language Arts instruction to students before and after school for a nominal fee. Benchmark assessments will be DIBELS, Galileo Computerized Assessments, and paper and pencil curriculum based measurements.

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

- Area 1.1f: Promotion and Retention Plan
 - The revised application provides student proficiency levels (80%); however the criteria and policies for promotion/retention remain unclear.
- Area 1.3.1d: First Grade Assessment
 - The revised application does not allow students to demonstrate mastery of all the identified POs for math. The description of the assessment does not ask the student to formulate

- questions and therefore does not align to S2C1PO1. Additionally, computer based instruction was included into the revised application. No sample assessment was included.
3. Area 1.3.1e: First Grade Scoring Rubric
 - The revised application does not include a rubric that assesses students' abilities to formulate questions and therefore remains unaligned to S2C1PO1.
 4. Area 1.3.2d: Second Grade Assessment
 - The revised application changed the original writing assessment to worksheets. The worksheets were presented in a format that was unable to be read. The alignment is unable to be determined.
 5. Area 1.3.5b: Fifth Grade Instruction
 - The revised application changed the Strand(s), Concept(s) and PO(s). For reading, the instruction does not align, for writing there is partial alignment.
 6. Area 1.3.5c: Fifth Grade Student Activities
 - For Reading, the revised application does not provide a logical progression to the assessment. For writing, the student activities only partially align to some of the POs.
 7. Area 1.3.5d: Fifth Grade Assessment
 - For reading and writing, no assessment was provided that allows the students an opportunity to demonstrate mastery of the identified POs. For math, the revised application addresses the previous concern.
 8. Area 1.3.5e: Fifth Grade Scoring Rubric
 - The description provided for how the assessment will be evaluated does not address the previous concern.
 9. Area 1.3.6b: Sixth Grade Instruction
 - The revised application provides a new math curriculum sample that does not provide instruction aligned to the identified POs. The identified PO for mastery involves solving logic problems and the curriculum involves converting recipes to match serving sizes.
 10. Area 1.3.6c: Sixth Grade Student Activities
 - Student activities do not align to the Performance Objectives identified for Math.
 11. Area 1.3.6d: Sixth Grade Assessment
 - In math, the assessment provided does not align to the identified POs
 12. Area 1.3.6e: Sixth Grade Scoring Rubric
 - In math, the rubric provided does not align to the identified POs.

Business Plan/Budget

Short description:

During the 2009/2010 Application Cycle, the Corporate Board for BNE Ashur (the applicant) has gone through several changes in membership. Originally, Banipal Benjamin, James Essa, Frank Yanez and Marilyn Griffin were all members of the organization. Over the course of the application cycle, Marilyn Griffin, Frank Yanez and James Essa all left the organization and were replaced by Patricia Shaw. The applicant has contracted with ReSolutions Educational Services as their education advisor, provider of required reporting and compliance issues, Special Education Services, SAIS reporting, payroll, etc. Patricia Shaw is the CEO of ReSolutions Educational Services.

The BNE Ashur Organization has designated \$150,000 for start-up purposes as the applicant has been awarded a three year Planning and Implementation Grant from the US Department of Education approximately totaling \$450,000.

The operational budget is based on 80% of the projected enrollment. The application has a sufficient amount of budget balance should it be required.

The business section has two areas that do not meet the scoring criteria. The following area remains deficient:

1. Area 2.1b: Articles of Incorporation
 - The revised application changed its corporate membership and does not contain current documentation for the change on file with the Arizona Corporation Commission.
2. Area 2.9n: Consistent Operating Expenses
 - The revised application contains many inconsistencies between the CSP Grant for years 2 and 3 and the Operating Budget. Additionally, the wrong years have been identified for when the money will be awarded on the Operational Budget.

Motion Notes for BNE Ashur Organization:

- The application includes all required curriculum samples to operate a K-6 program.
- The application failed to meet the scoring criteria:
 - In the program of instruction section, 12 out of 53 areas received a score of "Approaching" and
 - In the business section, 2 out of 38 areas received a score of "Approaching".
- The applicant failed to provide documentation of a current corporate membership on file with the Arizona Corporation Commission.