

**AGENDA ITEM: Research Based Education Corporation Application Overview**

Research Based Education Corporation submitted an application for a new charter school on July 26, 2008.

- Research Based Education Corporation is a non-profit corporation that was created on May 30, 2008 with the purpose of operating exclusively for charitable, educational, scientific, religious and literary purposes.
- The name of the school is Paulden Community School and will be located in Paulden, Arizona.
- The applicant will serve grades K-8 and have an enrollment cap of 200 in the first three years of operation.
- 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:
  - Pillar Charter School has 1 school in operation. Pillar Academy of Business & Finance received a 2008 AZ LEARNS designation of ALT-HS Performing and met AYP in 2008.

Research Based Education Corporation	
<b>Instructional Program</b>	
Mission	The School’s mission is to develop a diverse community of learners who support the concept of solid performance, to create an environment that places a high premium on human dignity and common decency, and to instill a lifelong interest in learning.
Description of Community and Target Market	The need in Paulden is access to a geographically close “neighborhood” school. The closest public school to Paulden is over 11 miles away by bus. Students transported from Paulden to the closest public school will spend 60-90 minutes per day on a bus.
Methods of Instruction	Instructional methodologies are goals based on Mortimer Adler’s model of providing a rigorous liberal arts education in grades K-8. The method is based on the Socratic Method and teachers use a more interactive approach including small seminars, didactic instruction, and academic coaching.
School Calendar	Standard calendar with 180 instructional days starting 8-17-2009.
<b>Organizational Structure</b>	
Corporate Principals	Richard Hay, Curtis Porter, and James Sexton
Governing Body	Charter Organization (3) - Richard Hay, Curtis Porter, and James Sexton. School Staff (1) – Dr. Marv Lamer
<b>Site Information</b>	
Location	24850 Naples Dr, Paulden, AZ 86334 – Yavapai County
Secured Facility	7,200 sq ft is the combined space of 3 modular buildings housing 5 classrooms.

Year	Grades Served	# of Students	# of Sites
1	K-8	200	1
2	K-8	200	1
3	K-8	200	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. Each currently serves as Director of Pillar Charter School:
  - Richard Hay: Currently serves at the Vice President for Development for EdVantage Partners/RDH Consulting. He has served in that capacity since 2001. Richard has a M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from Northcentral University. Richard was a Co-Founder of New School for the Arts (1995) and Metropolitan Arts Institute (1998), Advisor for Career Pathways Academy (1998), and a Corporate Founder for Pillar Academy for Business & Finance (2003).
  - Curtis Porter: Currently serves as the President/CEO of EdVantage Partners and has served in that capacity since 2004. Curtis has taken Business Management and Finance coursework from Northern Arizona University.
  - James Sexton: Currently serves as the Vice President Educational Services of EdVantage Partners and has served in that capacity since 2001. James obtained a B.S. in Elementary Education and an M.A. in Curriculum & Instruction from Northern Arizona University.

### **New Charter Application Background:**

#### Comprehensive Program of Instruction/Curriculum

##### *Short description:*

Each student will have an Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) which will be developed with input from teachers, parents, the student, and other relevant parties. Students of Paulden Community School are expected to demonstrate grade level mastery in History/Social Studies, Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, and World Language upon promotion/graduation. The school's instructional model requires that teachers use a three-column lesson plan detailing both teacher and student behaviors across the didactic, coaching, and seminar phases of the lesson as aligned to the Arizona Articulated Academic Standards.

Formal assessment procedures include all state-mandated assessments (AIMS, AIMS-DPA) and a quarterly benchmark assessment administered by Bookette Software. The benchmark assessment evaluates student progress toward meeting or exceeding grade level outcomes aligned with the Arizona Articulated Academic Standards. The Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) will also be used beginning in Kindergarten to monitor student growth in reading.

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

1. Curriculum Samples Section "e" Scoring Rubric in grades K-5 (6 Total)
  - The revised application includes a scoring rubric that is unreadable and therefore could not be evaluated.
2. Curriculum Samples Section "d" Assessment in First Grade
  - The revised application does not provide a reading assessment that demonstrates proficiency for the identified performance objective.
3. Curriculum Samples Sections "a" State Academic Standards, "b" Instruction, and "c" Student Activities in Fifth Grade (3 Total)
  - The revised application included a new reading PO that could not be identified for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level.
  - In review of the revised curriculum sample provided, no student instruction or activities related to reading could be identified.
4. Curriculum Samples Section "d" Assessment in Seventh Grade
  - The revised application does not contain a reading assessment that is aligned to the identified performance objective.

## Business Plan/Budget

### *Short description:*

Research Based Education Corporation (RBEC) is currently under a letter of intent to purchase the former site of Rolling Hills Charter School in Paulden, AZ. This facility became available when the Rolling Hills Charter School ceased operations in May 2006. RBEC is purchasing the property from SKS Finance LLC who acquired the property through a Trustee sale conducted on December 14, 2007. The officers of RBEC will also execute loan documents with SKS Finance to access up to \$100,000 of start-up funding to secure the organization has the financial resources to implement the start-up plan. The first year budget includes a \$33,000 playground structure and \$21,000 towards curriculum and other instructional materials. Since the site was formally a charter school, RBEC is already equipped with all classroom and office furniture and no budget has been allocated to purchase those items.

The operational budget is based on a projected enrollment of 75 students. First year total revenues are anticipated to be \$565,514 with a projected carryover of \$6,570 for the second year of operation.

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

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### **Motion Notes for Research Based Education Corporation:**

- The application includes all required curriculum samples to operate a 6-8 program.
- The application failed to meet the minimum requirements for the Program of Instruction in 11 out of 63 areas (82.5%).