

AGENDA ITEM: Leading Edge Academy Maricopa Application

Leading Edge Academy Maricopa (LEAM) submitted an application package for the Board’s consideration. This report contains:

- Background information regarding the qualifications of the applicant,
- A copy of the scoring rubric which confirms the application package meets the requirements as demonstrated through the review of the preliminary application package submitted on August 3, 2009, the technical assistance provided to the applicant, and a review of the revised application package submitted on December 18, 2009, and
- Staff’s overview and summary of the application package.

The following background information is provided for your consideration:

Leading Edge Academy Maricopa is a not-for-profit corporation that was created on June 15, 2009 for the purpose of conducting public education with two (2) directors: Delmer Geesey became a member 06/15/2009; and Ron Body became a member 06/15/2009.

Background Information

Corporate Principal	Education History	Employment History	FCC	Notes
Delmer Geesey	Attendance only	Pastor, Life Community church, 1990 – present.	Valid	There were no concerns identified in the background and credit check.
Ron Body	Associates degree in Data Processing Technology	Director of Operations, LEAD Charter Schools, 2002 – present.	Valid	There were no concerns identified in the background and credit check.

Current and Prior Charter Compliance

Corporate Principal	Compliance Information
Delmer Geesey Ron Body (Employee for current charter and is not a corporate principal.)	<p>These applicants are also identified as corporate principals and employee for one (1) other charter sponsored by the Board:</p> <p>LEAD Charter Schools was granted a charter by the Board May 13, 2002. LEAD Charter Schools operates four school sites serving grades K-12. Leading Edge Academy serves grades K-6 and is Performing Plus. Leading Edge Academy at East Mesa serves grades K-6 and is Performing.</p> <p>Leading Edge Academy High School has been Excelling for the last three years and serves grades 7-12. Leading Edge Academy - Queen Creek serves grades K-9 and is Highly Performing.</p> <p>There were no compliance issues identified for the charters above.</p>

School Governing Body

Member Type	Number	Name
Organization Principal	1	Ron Body
School Staff	1	Mathew Reese
Parents	1	TBA
Community	1	TBA
Other	1	Jonathan Johnson

Roles and Responsibilities

Applicant	Governing Body
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will operate as specified in Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws • Final authority for charter school • Appoint the Governing Body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies and operating decisions • Annual calendar • Adopt annual budget and financial report • All other State required areas

Program of Instruction

Mission	We will train a generation for excellence using a traditional approach to education that is built upon scientifically-based curriculum in an environment where positive character traits are expected and modeled.				
Description of Community and Target Market	LEAM will provide high quality education to the community of Maricopa and strive to be a school of choice with small class sizes and an intentional focus on school safety and character building. The target population is students who attend in the Maricopa Unified School District as well as others who are enrolled in schools in Chandler and the South Phoenix Valley area. Maricopa community population has exploded from 1,040 in 2000 to approximately 37,863 in 2007 according to U.S. Census Bureau. The diverse population is comprised of 5% Asian, 7% Native American, 14% Black, 32% Hispanic, and 42% White.				
Comprehensive Program of Instruction Summary	In the narrative, the applicant proposes to provide a traditional approach to learning using a variety of instructional methods: direct, small group, collaborative, hands-on, and multi-media. Differentiated instruction will accommodate visual, auditory, read/write, and tactile/kinesthetic learners. Regular assessments are an integral part of information gathering, serving as a feedback system that assists teachers in lesson planning. Remediation will include a combination of in-class modification, small group instruction, or one-on-one tutoring.				
School Calendar	Standard – 180 days				
Student Count		Year	Grades Served	# of Students	# of Sites
		1	K-6	280	1
		2	K-7	320	1
		3	K-8	360	1
Findings	<p>The application meets the minimum requirements, although the following area(s) scored an approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruction: 1 of 7 grade levels (2nd) • Assessments: 2 of 7 grade levels (3rd, 4th) 				

Business Plan/Budget

Budget	Most of the start-up activities will be performed by LEAM's Corporate Principals and initial Governing Body in coordination with its sister school, LEAD Charter. LEAD Charter has also committed \$50,000 as secured funds to cover start-up activities. Years one through three of the operating budget are based on 90% of the projected student enrollment. Projected annual budget balances are: Year One -\$63,003, Year Two - \$53,211, and Year Three - \$43,527. At the end of each month during the first year revenue exceeds expenditures.
Secured Funds	The secured funds as stated by the applicant have been confirmed as available.
Findings	The application met the minimum requirements in the Detailed Business Plan.

Site Information

Name of Proposed School	Leading Edge Academy Maricopa (LEAM)
Location	Confirmed location: 19302 N. Porter Rd Maricopa, AZ 85238
Secured Facility	LEAM has negotiated a long-term lease at this location and has secured up to 20,000 square feet of modular classroom space from LEAD Charter (sister school). The space includes 14 classrooms, resource room, media center, lunch area, and offices.

Scoring Rubric Summary

Preliminary application package scoring rubric results: 31% of the scoring areas did not meet the criteria.
Revised application package scoring rubric results: 3% of the scoring areas did not meet the criteria.

Staff Recommendations

Approve the application and grant a charter to Leading Edge Academy Maricopa to establish Leading Edge Academy Maricopa (LEAM).