

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Application for New Charter

Request

Alexander Hamilton Community School: A Challenge Foundation Academy (“Applicant”) submitted a new charter application package on May 24, 2018. The Technical Review Panel (“TRP”) evaluated the application package and determined that the revised application package meets the minimum scoring requirements set by the Board for the 2019-2020 application cycle. The Applicant also attended a capacity interview conducted by the TRP. Upon consideration of the application package and results of the capacity interview, the TRP recommends that the revised application package for the Applicant be approved.

Applicant Summary

Proposed School Name	Target Start Date	School Location	Grade Levels	School Calendar
Alexander Hamilton Community School	August 5, 2019	Phoenix (Maryvale)	K-4	181 days

Mission Statement

Alexander Hamilton Community School: A Challenge Foundation Academy exists to support our scholars in being academically and professionally successful by coupling high expectations with rigorous instruction, activating student leadership, and strategically partnering with families, organizations, and leaders from the community, resulting in scholars meeting and exceeding academic standards.

Target Population

The following was excerpted from the Applicant’s Educational Plan A.2: Target Population narrative.

Alexander Hamilton Community School: A Challenge Foundation Academy (“AHCS”) proposes to serve students and families in Phoenix’s Maryvale community, roughly defined as the area south of Camelback Road, east of 91st Avenue, north of Interstate 10, and west of Grand Avenue. The majority of the target community is in Arizona’s Legislative District 30. In addition, the neighborhood includes portions of the Alhambra Elementary, Cartwright Elementary, Isaac Elementary, Pendergast Elementary, and Phoenix Union High School Districts. According to the 2010 Census, there are approximately 75,000 students in the target community to be served by AHCS. According to the Children’s Action Alliance, 78% of the district’s children are Hispanic/Latino, 12% are non-Hispanic White, 5% are Black, and 4% are of other races, including Native American and Asian.

Three Year Plan

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Grade Levels	K-2	K-3	K-4
Enrollment	150	200	250

Proposed Location (see Business Plan C.1: Facilities Acquisition):

Unconfirmed locations:

- 6502 North 27th Avenue, Suite C, Phoenix
- 3102 North 29th Avenue, Phoenix
- 6502 North 27th Avenue, Suite B, Phoenix

Program of Instruction

This summary is based on information submitted for the Applicant’s Educational Plan A.1: Educational Philosophy and A.3: Program of Instruction narratives.

According to the Applicant, the program of instruction will include a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum and “highly-effective instruction facilitated by highly-qualified and developed teachers that meets the needs of all students, as determined by data.” English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Visual Arts and Music instruction will follow the *Core Knowledge Sequence* and Mathematics will align to the *Core Knowledge Sequence*, but utilize materials from the Singapore Math program. AHCS will “utilize research-based instructional best practices” such as objective-driven instruction, cooperative learning structures, high-yield instructional strategies, differentiation strategies, and Teach Like a Champion techniques.

Corporate Board Members
Anthony "Tony" Best
Peter Boyle
Jessica Roman-Salazar
James Sandoval

School Governing Body Members	Type
Mario Gonzalez	Community Member
LaSetta Hogans	Community Member
Dustin Panoff	Community Member

See Charter Principal Resumes in Appendix B.

TRP Recommendation and Scoring

The TRP assessed the application package against the evaluation criteria published in the New Charter Application Instructions. Approval is based on either receiving 95% or higher for each plan (Educational, Operational, and Business) and/or through showing capacity throughout the interview process. The following is a summary of the evaluation information in support of the recommendation by the TRP based on the revised application package and the capacity interview.

Overall Scoring Results

	Preliminary TRP Scores		Revised TRP Scores	
Any Falls Below the Expectations ratings?	No		No	
Any section in which more than one evaluation area scored Approaches ?	Yes		No	
		Percent Meets		Percent Meets
Educational Plan Score \geq 95% Meet standard?	No	90%	Yes	100%
Operational Plan Score \geq 95% Meet standard?	Yes	96%	Yes	96%
Business Plan Score \geq 95% Meet standard?	Yes	100%	Yes	100%

The TRP provided the Applicant with written technical assistance based on its review of the preliminary written application package and the revised written application package prior to the in-person capacity interview.

TRP Recommendation

Based on the Applicant’s application package and the in-person capacity interview, the TRP recommends that the revised application package be approved. A full explanation of the TRP’s recommendation is provided in Appendix A. Recommendation Report

Applicant Background Summary

Additional data is provided in relation to the Applicant’s principals’ experience and qualifications, as an indicator of the Applicant’s ability to implement a charter or operate a charter school.

Principal Name: James Sandoval

Current Affiliation(s): 2 years as the Arizona State Director for Team CFA

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- 9 years as Vice President of Community Initiatives for the Valley of the Sun YMCA
- 2 years as mathematics instructor at James Sandoval Preparatory High School
- 3 years as a School Board Member of Pioneer Preparatory School
- 3 years as Governing Body President of Arizona Virtual Academy

Principal Name: Peter Boyle

Current Affiliation(s): 4 years as School Director of Western School of Science and Technology: A Challenge Foundation



Academy

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- 2 years as a middle school math teacher at Pioneer Preparatory School

Principal Name: Anthony "Tony" Best

Current Affiliation(s): Director of School Support for Team CFA

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- 7 years as School Director at Pioneer Preparatory School: a Challenge Foundation Academy

Principal Name: Jessica Roman-Salazar

Current Affiliation(s): 1 year as a Future School Leader for Team CFA

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- 1 year as Director of Student Advocacy & Outreach at Brophy College Preparatory
- 3 years as a third and fourth grade teacher at Pioneer Preparatory School
- 2 years as a Campus Campaign Coordinator with Teach For America (TFA)

Education Service Provider Background Information

This summary is based on information submitted for the Applicant's Operational Plan B.3.1: Education Service Providers. Additionally, as part of the due diligence process, staff reviewed the academic performance of the ESP the Applicant intends to contract with.

The Applicant team consists of several individuals affiliated with CFA of Arizona, Inc. (also known as TeamCFA), an Arizona nonprofit corporation. The sample management agreement submitted as part of the application package indicates that CFA of Arizona, Inc. intends to provide the Applicant with professional, educational and management services. CFA of Arizona, Inc. provides services to four schools authorized by the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools.

Academic Performance of Associated Schools

- Ethos Academy: A Challenge Foundation Academy, a K-8 school in Glendale, in operation since FY 2016.
- Hirsch Academy: A Challenge Foundation Academy, a K-6 school in Scottsdale, in operation since FY 2014.
- Pioneer Preparatory School: A Challenge Foundation Academy, a K-6 school in Phoenix, in operation since FY 2010.
- Western School of Science and Technology: A Challenge Foundation Academy, a 7-12 school in Phoenix, in operation since FY 2015.

A chart summarizing the academic performance data for these schools is below.

Charter Holder	FY 18 Letter Grade	FY 18 State Assessment Data			FY17 Academic Performance Dashboard Overall Rating
		ELA	Math	Science	
Ethos Academy: A Challenge Foundation Academy	A	37%	36%	80%	Not Reported
Hirsch Academy: A Challenge Foundation Academy, Inc.	D	10%	14%	44%	Falls Far Below Standard
Pioneer Preparatory School: A Challenge Foundation Academy	D	21%	31%	27%	Meets Standard
Western School of Science and Technology: A Challenge Foundation Academy, Inc.	B	33%	27%	44%	Above Standard

Operational Performance of Associated Charters

Charter Holder	FY18 Operational Performance
Ethos Academy: A Challenge Foundation Academy	Meets Operational Expectations
Hirsch Academy: A Challenge Foundation Academy, Inc.	Meets Operational Expectations
Pioneer Preparatory School: A Challenge Foundation Academy	Meets Operational Expectations
Western School of Science and Technology: A Challenge Foundation Academy, Inc.	Meets Operational Expectations

Financial Performance of Associated Charters

Charter Holder	FY18 Financial Performance
Ethos Academy: A Challenge Foundation Academy	Does Not Meet Financial Performance Expectations
Hirsch Academy: A Challenge Foundation Academy, Inc.	Meets Financial Performance Expectations
Pioneer Preparatory School: A Challenge Foundation Academy	Meets Financial Performance Expectations
Western School of Science and Technology: A Challenge Foundation Academy, Inc.	Meets Financial Performance Expectations

Additional information regarding the academic, financial and operational performance of these schools can be found in Appendix C.

