

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Application for New Charter

Request

Valor Preparatory Academy, LLC (“Applicant”) submitted a new charter application package on May 23, 2018. The Technical Review Panel (“TRP”) evaluated the application package and determined that the revised application package does not meet the minimum scoring requirements set by the Board for the 2019-2020 application cycle. Valor Preparatory Academy, LLC has requested that the revised application package not meeting the scoring criteria move forward for Board consideration. 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
Valor Preparatory Academy	July 29, 2019	Goodyear	6-12	184 days

Mission Statement

Valor Preparatory Academy’s mission is to provide every student, no matter how they learn or regardless of their academic background an educational experience that values a blended approach using teacher facilitated instruction, digital curriculum and technology to develop Arizona college and career ready citizens into contributing members of the community, one in which excels in collaboration, critical thinking and show competency in mastery of the Arizona State Standards.

Target Population

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

The Applicant plans to serve students in Goodyear and the surrounding zip codes. The narrative indicates that Goodyear’s population of 81,400 is steadily increasing and is projected to nearly double by 2030. Within five miles of the proposed location “there are 3 Charter, 1 Private and 10 Public schools serving grade levels from 6th – 12th.” Based upon data gathered by the Applicant, the “expected baseline growth percentile for students entering the school is 38.70% for ELA and 44.30% for Math.” The Applicant states that its “model is for students who have flexible scheduling needs that allow them to benefit from a blended learning experience”, specifically, those students “who aren’t finding the right option with the more traditional school” and the children of military families, as the school intends to be located just 5 miles from Luke Air Force Base.

Three Year Plan

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Grade Levels	6-9	6-10	6-11
Enrollment	340	425	510

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

The Applicant has a secured facility at 2840 N. Dysart Road in Goodyear.

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.

The Applicant plans to provide “students with a flexible, flipped blended learning educational experience using digital curricula to meet the Arizona State Standards”. Students will be assessed from the day they enroll to determine their academic level, develop a personalized plan, and be “placed into one of three instructional tier groups”. Students will move through three instructional tiers: guided, support, or modified. Each of these tiers will include a different amount of on site teacher-led facilitated learning in combination with online learning completed at home. The instructional model will utilize a “structured teacher-led facilitated blended learning model along with the StrongMind digital online curriculum” that is aligned to state standards. “Teachers will use a small group instructional model that provides direct instruction, inquiry, critical thinking, application of learning, Socratic seminars, collaboration and an understanding of how to work as a team member”.

The Applicant proposes to open a school with an online instruction component; therefore, it was required to submit an Arizona Online Instruction additional information package (“AOI package”) as a component of its written application package. The AOI package was submitted by the deadline and forwarded to Rio Salado Community College for a substantive review and in-person demonstration. The AOI package submitted by the Applicant met 100% of the required criteria (See Appendix C: AOI Rubric).

Governance

Corporate Board Members	School Governing Body Members	Type
Scott Barker	Scott Barker	Other
Damian Creamer	Damian Creamer	Other
Ryan Shook	Troy Wallin	Other
Troy Wallin		

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	Yes

	Preliminary TRP Scores		Revised TRP Scores	
	Meets	Percent Meets	Meets	Percent Meets
Educational Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	No	89%	Yes	98%
Operational Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	No	82%	No	90%
Business Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	No	88%	Yes	97%

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: Scott Barker

Current Affiliation(s): 8 years as CEO of Global Pacific Management, Inc. (Scottsdale)

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- Former Chairman and CEO of Core Digital Technologies



- Former Chairman and Managing Director of Bluegum Group Pty. Ltd.

Principal Name: Damian Creamer

Current Affiliation(s):

- 18 years as CEO of Primavera Online High School (Chandler)
- 18 years as CEO of StrongMind

Past Affiliation(s) of Note: None

Principal Name: Ryan Shook

Current Affiliation(s): 1 year as Senior VP, Corporate Development at Primavera Technical Learning Center (Chandler)

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- 8 years as Vice President of Operations at Charter School Management Corporation (Temecula, CA)

Principal Name: Troy Wallin

Current Affiliation(s): 11 years as an attorney at Waller Hester, PLC (Gilbert)

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- 5 years as a Partner and Associate Attorney with Hutchison Steffen and Wallin (Gilbert and Las Vegas)

Additional Background Information

Additional data is included below to provide information related to the Applicant principals' experience, qualifications, and current and prior charter compliance as an indicator of the Applicant's ability to implement a charter or operate a charter school.

Charter Principal Affiliations

Authorized Representative Name: Andrew Szczepaniak

Principal Name: Damian Creamer

Current Affiliation: Primavera Online

Notes: Mr. Szczepaniak currently serves as the Executive Director of Primavera Online Middle and High School, an online only program. Mr. Creamer is the Founder and CEO of Primavera Online High School.

Academic Performance

Below is a copy of the FY 2017 Academic Dashboard and additional academic performance data for Primavera Online. This school is currently designated as an alternative school and identified as a Comprehensive Support and Improvement school by the Arizona Department of Education for FY 2017 and FY 2018.

Primavera Online		
FY 2017		
Alternative		
K12 6-12		
	Measure	Rating
1a. A-F Letter Grade	TBD	TBD
1b. School Improvement	Comprehensive	Falls Far Below
OVERALL RATING	Falls Far Below Standard	

School Name	Primavera Online		
Date Open	August 2003		
Location	N/A-Online School		
Grades Served	6-12		
	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18
ELA AzMERIT (13% ⁺)	31%	28%	36%
Math AzMERIT (10% ⁺)	18%	17%	23%
Science AIMS (*)	27%	28%	32%

**FY 18 State Average Passing for Alternative Schools*

**FY 18 State Average Passing for Alternative Schools in Science is Not Available*



Operational Performance

Below is a copy of the Operational Dashboard for American Virtual Academy, the charter holder entity for Primavera Online.

Measure	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
1.a. Does the delivery of the education program and operation reflect the essential terms of the educational program as described in the charter contract?	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	--
1.b. Does the charter holder adhere with applicable education requirements defined in state and federal law?	Meets	Meets	Meets	Does Not Meet	--
2.a. Do the charter holder's annual audit reporting packages reflect sound operations?	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	--
2.b. Is the charter holder administering student admission and attendance appropriately?	Does Not Meet	Meets	Meets	Meets	--
2.c. Is the charter holder maintaining a safe environment consistent with state and local requirements?	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	--
2.d. Is the charter holder transparent in its operations?	Does Not Meet	Meets	Meets	Meets	--
2.e. Is the charter holder complying with its obligations to the Board?	Does Not Meet	Meets	Meets	Meets	--
2.f. Is the charter holder complying with reporting requirements of other entities to which the charter holder is accountable?	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	--
3. Is the charter holder complying with all other obligations?	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	--
OVERALL RATING	Meets Operational Standard	Meets Operational Standard	Meets Operational Standard	Meets Operational Standard	--
BOARD EXPECTATIONS	--	--	Meets Operational Expectations	Meets Operational Expectations	--

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Financial Performance

Below is a copy of the Financial Dashboard for American Virtual Academy, the charter holder entity for Primavera Online.

American Virtual Academy

Interpreting the Financial Performance Dashboard

Fiscal Year 2017

Fiscal Year 2018

Near-Term Measures

	Fiscal Year 2017		Fiscal Year 2018	
Going Concern	No	Meets	No	Meets
Unrestricted Days Liquidity <30, but ≥15: Does Not Meet <15: Falls Far Below	84.25	Meets	67.39	Meets
Default	No	Meets	No	Meets

Sustainability Measures*

	Fiscal Year 2017			Fiscal Year 2018		
Net Income ≥0: Does Not Meet	\$4,548,352		Meets	\$4,967,021		Meets
Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio <1.10: Does Not Meet	17.88		Meets	16.57		Meets
Cash Flow (3-Year Cumulative) Negative: Does Not Meet**	\$2,751,156		Meets	\$3,485,946		Meets
Cash Flow Detail by FY	FY 2017	FY 2016	FY 2015	FY 2018	FY 2017	FY 2016
	(\$2,557,535)	\$5,308,691	—	\$734,790	(\$2,557,535)	\$5,308,691

Meets Board's Financial Performance Expectations

* Negative numbers indicated by parentheses.
** Target effective beginning with FY16 audits.

