

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
Arizona State Board of Education
1700 W. Washington St., Room 164, Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 364-3080 Fax (602) 364-3089
www.asbcs.az.gov

CHARTER GRADE LEVEL AMENDMENT REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) Nosotros, Inc. (CTDS) 108707000
(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 440 North Grande Avenue
(City, State) Tucson, AZ (Zip) 85745
(Charter Representative's Name) Paul M. Felix
(Phone Number) 520-624-1023 (Fax Number) 520-624-7999

Failure to submit all required documentation will result in the Amendment Request being returned without being processed. Faxed copies will not be accepted. Please send originals.

Check appropriate box

Adding grade levels served for charter

Included are the following:

- Board minutes approving the change (minutes must comply with Open Meeting Law ARS §38-431.01)
- Narrative describing how the additional grades support the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis, and mission of the charter
- Mastery of coursework for additional grades
- Expected student performance on state mandated tests at all grade levels impacted by the addition
- Timeline for implementation
- Changes in staffing to support the requirements for Highly Qualified.

For K-8

For each grade level being added, provide the following as a representation of a program of instruction aligned to the State Academic Standards and to the methods of instruction described in the charter:

- Math - A completed curriculum sample template including all required attachments as outlined on the template attached.
- Language Arts - A completed curriculum sample template, for both reading and writing, including all required attachments as outlined on the template attached.

For 9-12

For each grade level being added, provide the following as a representation of a program of instruction aligned to the State Academic Standards and to the methods of instruction described in the charter:

- Math - A math course description and a completed curriculum sample template including all required attachments as outlined on the template (template is available on the ASBCS website).
- Language Arts - A language arts course description and a completed curriculum sample template, for both reading and writing, including all required attachments as outlined on the template (template is available on the ASBCS website).
- Graduation requirements (number of credits in each content area and electives)
- Course level proficiency required for credit and acceptance of transfer credit

Decreasing grade levels served for charter

Included is the following:

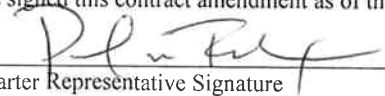
- Board minutes approving the change (minutes must comply with Open Meeting Law ARS §38-431.01)
- Rationale for decrease in grade levels served and effective date of change

The Arizona State Board for Charter Schools and Nosotros, Inc (Charter Holder), herein agree to amend the terms of the charter contract as follows:

FROM: Grades 9,10,11,12

TO: Grades 6,7,8,9,10,11,12

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 9th day of March, 2009, and the State Board for Charter Schools has signed this contract amendment as of this ____ day of ____, 200__, to take effect at such time as it is signed by both parties.


Charter Representative Signature

Representative Signature for the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

NOSOTROS ACADEMY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, December 10, 2008

LOCATION: Nosotros Academy
440 N. Grande Ave.
Tucson, Arizona 85745

MEMBERS PRESENT: C. David Foust, Chairman
Ruben D. Suarez, Vice Chairman
Rudy Gallego, Treasurer
Luis Kamei, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gene Benton, Member
Margaret Romero, Member
Hector Morales, Member

OTHERS ABSENT: Monsignor Carrillo, Advisory Board Member
Ana Valenzuela, Advisory Board Member

STAFF PRESENT: Paul M. Felix, Principal & Interim CEO
Ron Kovar, CPA

GUEST: Mary DeVries, DeVries CPA

CALL TO ORDER: C. David Foust – 4:07 p.m.

CALL TO AUDIENCE: None

MINUTES: Approval of October 8, 2008 minutes as printed

- Motion to approve: R. Suarez
- 2nd: R. Gallego
- Approved by unanimous voice vote

NEW BUSINESS:

External Audit

Discussion led by M. DeVries of external audit.

- DeVries presentation of external audit.
- Discussion of inventory process for physical items like computers and furniture.
- Discussion of suggestions involving the Academy and Day Care.
- Discussion of Day Care payroll process.
- Discussion of review of key employee compensation.

Building #1 Remodel Proposal

Discussion led by architect Phil Carhuff of proposal to remodel building #1 for middle school classrooms.

- Carhuff presents the design and costs associated with remodeling building #1
- Proposal estimates cost at about \$80 per sq. ft. and can house up to 150 students.

OLD BUSINESS:

Technology Plan

Discussion of the major changes to the existing technology plan and other new items in the revised technology plan. The Board was especially pleased to have an emphasis on creating a website for the school. The Board also felt the changes were reasonable and sensible.

- Motion to approve: R. Gallego
- 2nd: L. Kamei
- Approved by unanimous voice vote

Middle School Amendment (Grades 6-8)

- Discussion of the proposal to amend Nosotros Charter and add grades 6-8.
- Samples of curriculum units for English and Math were reviewed.
- Discussion of emphasis, philosophy, methods of instruction. Timeline of opening the middle school would be Fall '09-'10.
- Request made to amend the current charter to add grades 6, 7, and 8.

- Motion to approve: R. Gallego
- 2nd: R. Suarez
- Approved by unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

C. David Foust at 6:15 p.m.

Nosotros Academy
440 N Grande Ave
Tucson, Arizona 85745
520-624-1023

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
Charter Grade Level Amendment Request

March 30, 2009

(revised per Heather Kelley/ Mike Dunbar email subject: Charter Amendment – Nosotros)

Nosotros Inc. submits this application to add middle school grades six, seven, and eight to its charter.

Narrative:

The Nosotros curriculum is based on individual skill mastery. Students do not go on until they have mastered the current unit. Students receive one-on-one instruction from highly qualified teachers and teacher assistants to assess understanding. Students who master the material quickly are able to move forward to the next unit. Students who need more time to comprehend are allowed this time. This is based on educational research by Dr. William Glasser and the quality classroom and choice theory. According to Dr. William Glasser, the classroom environment can be changed so that discipline problems are eliminated. Emotionally, a "Quality Classroom" is one in which choice theory is the foundation, reality therapy is the method of communication for problem diagnosis and solving, and emotionally connecting with students replaces discipline. Academically, Quality Classrooms teach only higher thinking and are "Competency Based Classrooms." Competency Based Classrooms impose no time limit on reaching subject competency (B, A, and A+) and eliminate labels implying mediocrity or failure: C, D, and F. Nosotros has been working towards this end since 2002, refining and enhancing Glasser's work and the results have been reduced discipline issues and higher quality student engagement and learning.

Nosotros Inc. has successfully provided a high school education for grades 9-12 since 2002. Nosotros Inc. has provided a quality, customized education for a predominantly high risk population. Nosotros has developed and maintained an excellent dual enrollment program and relationship with Pima Community College. On average, eleven Nosotros students are accepted into the school's dual enrollment program each semester, earning college credits and college confidence by the time they have graduated. These students are well prepared to continue higher education post high school. Since the program's inception in January 2005 a total of 79 students have participated in the program. We know of twenty-eight students per our records (number could be higher) who have continued at Pima College after graduation from our high school.

Nosotros expects skill mastery in all coursework for its students. Students must earn an 80% or better in reading and writing and a 75% or better in mathematics. This is an aggressive expectation when students enrolling at the school often test more than two grade levels below their current grade level. By adding grades six through eight, Nosotros believes it can meet the academic needs of middle school students, thus better preparing them for high school and the dual enrollment program with Pima Community College. Nosotros already has demonstrated its ability to run a successful middle school program. Nosotros Inc. earned AYP and Performing determinations from 2004 through 2007 demonstrating its ability to provide a quality education for all of its students. Nosotros Academy was recognized in *Success Measured*, a study conducted by the Arizona Charter Schools Association, for the high reading achievement of its students. It was its middle school that originally called attention to the entire school district. Nosotros Academy was in the top 29 schools out of 259 charters schools reviewed. Eight students from Nosotros' last eighth grade promotion class are currently completing their high school requirements, demonstrating the school's ability to retain its students. Nosotros regrets that it was unable to maintain a middle school campus after 2007 due to limited physical facilities, issues it has since been able to address. Nosotros wanted to temporarily suspend its middle school until the facility issues could be addressed, but that was not an option. Removing the grades from the charter was the only option the school was provided, but it never stopped planning for the return of these grades.

Expected student performance on state mandated tests at all grade levels impacted by the addition is expected to improve by 5% in reading, 8% in writing, and 3% in mathematics as Nosotros is able to intervene at a younger age, students entering high school will be better prepared for state mandated tests.

The expected timeline for the middle school is as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| March 10, 2009 | All course work for Language Arts reading and writing is completed
Mathematics course work is 60% complete for all grades
Additional course work for P.E. and art to be discussed
Classrooms are designated and wired for computers; furniture for classrooms is in storage ready to go |
| April 2, 2009 | Mathematics course work completed
Science course work will be 25% complete
Social Studies course work will be 25% complete
P.E. and art course work completed |
| May 22, 2009 | All science and social studies course work will be 100% complete |

Classrooms will be cleaned and ready for furniture; furniture will be brought out of storage and set up in classrooms

August 1, 2009

Highly qualified teachers will be hired for course work to be delivered to grades six, seven, and eight and will begin professional development and teacher training in preparation for the first day of school on August 17, 2009.

Classrooms will be cleaned and ready for occupancy; computers will be set up on network and ready for student/staff use

Changes in staffing: In expectation of a favorable outcome of this amendment, Nosotros is already reviewing potential highly qualified staff for the middle school grades, with hire date to be no later than August 1, 2009. Nosotros Academy will need new teachers as follows: one (1) mathematics teacher with middle school endorsement; one (1) science/history teacher 7-12 certification and middle school endorsement; one (1) physical education teacher with k-12 certification. Nosotros Academy currently employs teachers who will be utilized in the middle school: one (1) English teacher highly qualified in 7-12 with middle school endorsement; one (1) art teacher highly qualified with k-12 certification; one (1) elementary teacher highly qualified k-8 with k-12 special education certification. Nosotros Academy will also have two (2) teacher assistants dedicated to the middle school, currently on staff with the high school. They are highly qualified, having more than 60 hours of college credits and/or successfully completed WorkKeys Proficiency Certification.

Having a middle school enhanced the educational environment and promoted continual improvement on a greater scale. It provided a wider focus for educational success that benefited students in all grade levels served. Nosotros has expanded its community outreach, engaging more parents and community members in the educational process. Tucson's west side is a better place to live and educate students because of the educational commitment Nosotros Inc. has made to the community. The addition of a charter school in 2002 merely deepened a commitment to improve its community that began more than thirty years ago.

We ask that our application be approved.



CITY OF
TUCSON

WARD 1 COUNCIL OFFICE

REGINA ROMERO
COUNCIL MEMBER

March 4, 2009

DeAnna Rowe
Executive Director
Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
1700 West Washington Street, Room 164
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Nosotros Academy

Ms. Rowe:

It is my pleasure to lend my support for Paul Felix and Nosotros Inc. in their efforts to amend their charter to add middle school grades six through eight to the Nosotros Academy. Nosotros Academy is an asset to our community by providing youth a quality academic curriculum that prepares students for post secondary education and entering the workforce.

Please contact me if I may offer any further information.

Sincerely,

Regina Romero
Council Member
Ward I
City of Tucson



RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
7TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA
COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE
RESOURCES

810 EAST 22ND STREET, SUITE 102
TUCSON, AZ 85713
PHONE: (520) 622-6788

1455 S. 4TH AVENUE, SUITE 4
YUMA, AZ 85364
PHONE: (928) 343-7933

WWW.HOUSE.GOV/GRIJALVA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0307

March 5, 2009

AZ State Board for Charter Schools
1700 W. Washington Ste 164
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

This letter is to express my support for Nosotros Academy's application for expansion by adding a middle school.

Nosotros Academy successfully supports local students in their high school program in which traditional high school has not. Adding a middle school to their charter would enable them to continue to serve our community children. The Academy is an integral and viable part of the community and its continued growth and development is vital.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

JORGE LUIS GARCIA
DISTRICT 27

STATE SENATOR
DEMOCRATIC LEADER
FORTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

CAPITOL COMPLEX, SENATE BUILDING
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007-2890
PHONE (602) 926-4171
TOLL FREE 1-800-352-8404, X4171
FAX (602) 417-3262
E-MAIL jgmoia@azleg.gov



COMMITTEES:

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS
RULES

Arizona State Senate

March 4, 2009

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
1700 West Washington Street, Ste 164
Phoenix, AZ 858007

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools,

Nosotros Inc. is submitting this application to the Board to add middle school grades six, seven, and eight to their charter. Their high school program has been an asset to the community.

Nosotros Academy has a long history of serving students who often fall through the cracks in the traditional school system. When Nosotros Academy successfully supports these students, everyone is better off.

I strongly support their efforts to add these grades. A middle school at Nosotros Academy would greatly enhance the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JL Garcia".

Jorge Luis Garcia,
Senate Democratic Leader
Legislative District 27