

AGENDA ITEM: PLC Arts Academy at Scottsdale, Inc. Application

PLC Arts Academy at Scottsdale, Inc. 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, 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.

PLC Arts Academy at Scottsdale, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation that was created on September 1, 2009 for the purpose of conducting public education with 2 directors: Veronica Wimberly became a member 09/01/2009; and Howard Bell became a member 09/01/2009.

Background Information

Corporate Principal	Education History	Employment History	FCC	Notes
Veronica Wimberly	Attendance only	CEO for P.L.C. Charter Schools 2000 – present	Valid	There were no concerns identified in the background and credit check.
Howard Bell	Bachelor’s degree in Communications	Executive Vice President for P.L.C. Charter Schools 2000 – present	Valid	There were no concerns identified in the background and credit check.

Current and Prior Charter Compliance

Corporate Principal	Compliance Information
Veronica Wimberly Howard Bell	<p>These applicants are also identified as corporate principals for 1 other charter sponsored by the Board:</p> <p>P.L.C. Charter Schools was granted a charter June 12, 2009 by the Board and currently operates three school sites: Arts Academy at South Mountain is Performing Plus and did not make AYP, Arts Academy at Estrella Mountain is Performing Plus and made AYP. Both schools serve grades K-8. Arts Academy at Scottsdale is in its first year of operations serving grades K-4 and does not have an AZLEARNS or AYP profile at this time.</p> <p>There were no compliance issues identified for the charters above.</p>

School Governing Body

Member Type	Number	Name
Organization Principal	2	Veronica Wimberly, Howard Bell
Parents	2	TBD
Community	1	TBD

Roles and Responsibilities

Applicant	Governing Body
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage and control the assets and affairs of the corporation • Fiscal oversight and ensures compliance and legal accountability • Oversight of Good Standing with the Corporation Commission • Fiscal health of the corporation-preparing and submitting annual fiscal reports to the Arizona Corporation Commission • Appoint the school Governing Board • Fill vacancies on the Corporate Board or any committee thereof, including the Governing Board • Adopt, amend, or repeal the bylaws • Oversight of the charter contract • Authorization, oversight and ratification of the acts carried out by the Governing Board • Appoint the Business Manager • Debt or bond financing Final approval of the annual budget and compensation plan • Sale, lease, purchase, or disposition of real property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting the school’s general policies • Setting the school’s overall curriculum policies • Developing student and staff policy handbooks • Approving personnel policies and monitoring their implementation by the school principal • Supporting the vision and mission of Arts Academy of Glendale • Appoint the School Principal • Ratification of the acts of the Administration/School Principals • Assuring that the charter school fulfills its charter contract • Developing the annual budget and financial procedures • Review and approve curriculum and textbooks, which will meet AZ State Standards

Program of Instruction

<p>Mission</p>	<p>To establish a Student-Family-Teacher-Civic relationship that develops and sustains a Professional Learning Community where arts and technology combine with academics and real life skills to educate and enrich the Whole Individual. PLC Charter Schools is committed to providing a learning environment rich in the arts, where students achieve academic and social excellence while solving real-life problems in a cooperative manner. We strive to teach all children the importance, value, and worth of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care for Self: Integrity – Honesty – Respect - Care for Others: Kindness – Dependability - Care for Community: Civic Responsibility
<p>Description of Community and Target Market</p>	<p>Arts Academy at Scottsdale will target all students K through 4 grades in the Scottsdale, Phoenix, Gilbert, Tempe area, as well as from other communities including the Navajo Nation and Pima Indian Reservation. Arts Academy at Scottsdale will be drawing from students from several school districts located in the 10 mile radius area of its planned location (7214 E. Jenan Dr. Scottsdale, AZ 85260). Scottsdale Unified, Paradise Valley Unified and Fountain Hills Unified. Over 63,000 students reside on the territory of these three districts.</p>

Comprehensive Program of Instruction Summary	<p>In the narrative, the applicant proposes to provide a standards-based curriculum which focuses on math, reading, writing, grammar, social studies and science. These subjects are then integrated with other subject matter and the performing arts to enhance the learning process and to engage and reach all learners.</p> <p>Arts Academy at Scottsdale will use various teaching strategies. Teachers will use lecture, field trips, experiments, demonstrations, inquiry-based projects, reading, writing, videos, research, technology, hands-on assignments and cooperative learning. Arts Academy at Scottsdale will provide teaching methods and learning environment in the classroom conducive to all learners in that students will be engaged in all activities.</p> <p>Arts Academy at Scottsdale will offer an integrated and comprehensive performance and visual arts education, aligned to the Arizona State Articulated Standards, as well as the National Standards for Arts Education.</p> <p>Benchmark testing will be done at the beginning of the school year as a pre-test. It will be done as a mid-test in December and again in May as a post-test. Pre-Test/Post-Test assessments will be used with a quarterly comprehensive reading and math assessments. Formative assessments will occur before or during instruction. Summative assessments will be administered at the completion of a unit of study in order to assess the academic progress of students. Standardized testing will include AIMS DPA and TerraNova.</p> <p>The following criteria will guide the decisions for remediation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who have scored in the Falling Far Below and Approaches areas of the previous year AIMS; • Students who have been identified as “at-risk” on DIBELS; • Students who have scored in the low group category of the A+ benchmark test; • Students scoring below 80% on assessments aligned with the Arizona State Standards; • Students who have been struggling with grade level work will be identified on the 45 day screening as being eligible for a child-study team. 				
School Calendar	Standard – 180 days				
Student Count		Year	Grades Served	# of Students	# of Sites
		1	1-4	175	1
		2	1-4	175	1
		3	1-4	175	1
Findings	<p>The application met the minimum requirements, although the following areas scored an approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubrics: 1 of 5 grade levels (1st grade) 				

Business Plan/Budget

Budget	<p>Funds contributed by founding principles for startup revenue for PLC Arts Academy at Scottsdale is \$15,000. P.L.C. Charter Schools currently operates Arts Academy at Scottsdale serving grades K-4 at the same location of the proposed school in this application. They plan to perform most of the start-up activities in coordination with its sister chart schools Arts Academy at South Mountain and Arts Academy at Estrella Mountain. The pre-opening activities will make the new school an effectively functioning education unit. The Articles of Incorporation has received a DUNS number, federal EIN and will be applying for federal 501(c) (3) tax-exempt status.</p> <p>Years one through three of the operating budget is based on 90% of the projected student enrollment. Projected annual budget balances are: Year One-\$28,633, Year Two-\$32,188, Year three-\$34,143. At the end of each month during the first year revenue exceeds expenditures.</p>
Secured Funds	The secured funds as stated by the applicant have been confirmed as available.
Findings	The application met the minimum requirements.

Site Information

Name of Proposed School	Arts Academy at Scottsdale
Location	Confirmed location: 7214 E. Jenan Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85260
Secured Facility	The school facility of Arts Academy at Scottsdale has four buildings designed for charter school use.

Scoring Rubric Summary

Preliminary application package scoring rubric results: 73% of the scoring areas did not meet the criteria.
Revised application package scoring rubric results: 1% of the scoring areas did not meet the criteria.

Staff Recommendations

Approve the application and grant a new charter to PLC Arts Academy at Scottsdale, Inc. to establish Arts Academy at Scottsdale charter school.