

Portable Practical Education Preparation, Inc. – Charter Mission Amendment Request

On December 8, 2011, Portable Practical Education Preparation, Inc. (PPEP, Inc.), a non-profit entity, submitted a complete amendment request for the change of the charter's mission.

Change From

The mission of PPEP Tec High School is to provide quality educational services to students, ages fifteen through twenty-one in grades 9 through 12 who are at risk of becoming permanent dropouts of our public educational system. Fulfilling this mission will also provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to obtain employment or continue their education in post-secondary institutions.

Change To

The mission of PPEP Tec High School is to provide quality educational services to students, ages fourteen through twenty-one in grades 9 through 12 who are at risk of becoming permanent dropouts of our public educational system. Fulfilling this mission will also provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to obtain employment or continue their education in post-secondary institutions.

Background

PPEP, Inc. was granted a charter in 1995. The charter was renewed in 2011. PPEP, Inc. currently operates nine schools - PPEP TEC - Jose Yopez Learning Center (opened 1995 in Somerton), PPEP TEC - Victor Soltero Learning Center (opened 1995 in Tucson), PPEP TEC - Colin L. Powell Learning Center (opened 1995 in Sierra Vista), PPEP TEC - Celestino Fernandez Learning Center (opened 1995 in Tucson), PPEP TEC - Alice S. Paul Learning Center (opened 1995 in Casa Grande), PPEP TEC - 'Lito' Pena Learning Center (opened 1995 in Avondale), PPEP TEC - Cesar Chavez Learning Center (opened 1995 in San Luis), PPEP TEC - Raul H. Castro Learning Center (opened 1995 in Douglas), and PPEP TEC - Robles Junction Learning Center (opened 2005 in Robles Junction). In addition, the charter holder has closed six schools, and transferred one to a separate charter. All PPEP, Inc. schools are listed by the Arizona Department of Education as alternative schools.

The existing mission was the result of an amendment in 2005. The mission was also amended in 2002, 1997 and 1996. The originally approved mission described an age range of 16 to 21. The 1996 amendment increased that range to 14-21. The 1997 amendment changed the age range to 15-21, where it has remained since. The 2002 and 2005 amendments did not change the age range. The original charter was for grades 9-12, and the grade range has not been amended.

In support of the amendment request, PPEP, Inc. has supported minutes from the governing board meeting of December 7, 2011, at which the change in mission was discussed. Dr. John Arnold, CEO of PPEP, Inc., described how 14-year-olds were not successful with the original self-paced curriculum employed by PPEP TEC High School (PTHS), leading to the 1997 amendment. The minutes then state that since the 2010-2011 school year, PTHS has implemented a direct instruction model that would facilitate the success of 14 year olds transitioning from middle school. This would also allow PTHS to collaborate with potential 'feeder' middle schools. The minutes indicate that the motion to amend the mission was carried unanimously by the attending quorum.

While the original charter contract does not describe methods of instruction, the Performance Management Plans for Math and Reading, submitted as part of the 2011 renewal contract, describe the implementation of a direct instructional model in order to raise student performance. The rationale described in the minutes is consistent with the Performance Management Plan approved in 2011.

Recommendation – Given that the proposed mission aligns with the methods of instruction described in the Performance Management Plan adopted with the renewal contract, the recommendation is to approve the amendment to the mission.

Charter Mission Amendment Request

Charterholder Info

Charter Holder

Name:
Portable Practical Educational
Preparation, Inc. (PPEP, Inc.)

CTDS:
10-87-44-000

Mailing Address:
1840 East Benson Hwy
Tucson, AZ 85714
> [View detailed info](#)

Representative

Name:
Randy Kempton

Phone Number:
520-741-4387

Fax Number:
520-294-7738

Downloads

 [Download all files](#)

Mission

Change From

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Attachments

Board Minutes –  [Download File](#)

Additional Information*

No documents were uploaded.

Signatures

Charter Representative Signature
Randy Kempton 12/08/2011

**PPEP TEC HIGH SCHOOL
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

December 7, 2011

2:00 PM

MINUTES

Notice

A notice of this meeting was posted at the PPEP TEC High School Administration Office, 1840 E. Benson Highway, Tucson, Arizona; the PPEP & Affiliates, Inc. Main Office, 802 E. 46th Street, Tucson, Arizona; the PPEP NFJP / DOL / Behavioral Health Office, 1021 E. Palmdale Ste. 110, Tucson, AZ; the following PPEP TEC High School sites (Lito Pena Learning Center-Avondale, Alice Paul Learning Center- Casa Grande, Raul Castro Learning Center-Douglas, Cesar Chavez Learning Center-San Luis, Colin Powell Learning Center-Sierra Vista, Jose Yopez Learning Center-Somerton, Celestino Fernandez Learning Center-South Tucson, Victor Soltero Learning Center-East Tucson, and the Robles Junction Learning Center-Rural Tucson); the PPEP Microbusiness & Housing Development Corp., 820 E. 47th Street Ste. B-14, Tucson, Arizona; the PPEP High School Equivalency Program, 201 N. Bingham Avenue Ste. 6-7, Somerton, Arizona; and all 7 PPEP DOL Offices (Avondale, Coolidge, Douglas, Queen Creek, Safford, San Luis, and Wilcox) on **December 6, 2011**.

In Attendance-Board

Gertha Brown-Hurd, President
Dr. Celestino Fernandez, Member
Maria Chavez, Member
Frank Vasquez, Member

In Attendance-Administration

Dr. John David Arnold, CEO
Randy Kempton, Superintendent
Leticia Luján, Director of Federal & State Programs

Excused-Board

Hector Sanchez, Secretary

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Gertha Brown-Hurd at 2:05 pm.

New Business

I. Discussion and Approval of Changing the PPEP TEC High School Mission to Allow 14-Year Olds to Enroll in PPEP TEC High School - *Action Item*

Dr. John Arnold explained to the Board that at PPEP TEC High School's (PTHS) inception in 1995, 14-year olds were admitted into PTHS. After a few years, data showed that 14-year old students were not very successful in PTHS's self-paced program and the PTHS Mission was changed to only accept 15-21 year olds.

In the 2010-11 school year, PTHS implemented the direct instruction model in the core subjects of English and Math. In the 2011-12 school year, direct instruction was further expanded and implemented in all core subjects – English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. For this reason, the PTHS Management Team feels strongly that 14-year olds can be successful as they transition from middle school to direct instruction at PTHS. Furthermore, many 8th grade students are 14 when they promote from middle school. Admitting 14-year olds would expand opportunities for PTHS to collaborate with potential 'feeder middle schools' and help increase our enrollment.

Dr. Celestino Fernandez, Professor Emeritus, made the motion to approve changing the PPEP TEC High School Mission to allow 14-year olds to enroll in PPEP TEC High School, seconded by Maria Chavez. All approved. Motion Carried.

II. Miscellaneous

University of Phoenix Scholarships:

Dr. Arnold notified the Board that he has been working diligently to secure additional \$50,000 scholarships for PTHS Teachers from the University of Phoenix.

Enrollments:

It has been a challenge for PTHS to meet enrollment goals this school year. And as such , we were forced to close the John David Arnold Learning Center in northwest Tucson. Our current enrollment is approximately 115 students less than we anticipated and budgeted for. We anticipate that the 2011-12 school year will be a tough year financially.

PPEP California:

Dr. Arnold explained to the Board that Dr. Lynn Murphy, Vice President of the PPEP California Charter School, has agreed to provide the PTHS Business Office with technical assistance in the areas of planning, budgeting, and forecasting. Dr. Murphy will visit PTHS after January 2012.

PTHS Avondale:

King Nana recently visited all PPEP TEC High Schools. He reported that the school culture at the school in Avondale is not positive, as the King was very poorly received by staff and students. Dr. Arnold explained that this school is on PPEP's 'watch list'.

Dr. Arnold Visiting Ghana, Ethiopia, and Nigeria:

Dr. Arnold reported that he will be visiting Ghana, Ethiopia, and Nigeria, leaving 12/8/11 and returning 01/17/12. The purpose of this visits are to tour rural humanitarian projects and monitor PPEP's projects for accountability.

III. Call to the Public

No reports or requests were made by the Public

IV. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:10pm.