

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](http://www.asbcs.az.gov)

ADDING GRADE LEVELS TO CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST

RECEIVED  
MAR 14 2011

(Charter Holder Name) PARAGON EDUCATION CORPORATION (CTDS) 07-85-44

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 2975 W. LINDA LN.

(City, State) CHANDLER, AZ (Zip) 85224

(Charter Representative's Name) ALI KEMAL UNVER

(Phone Number) 480-814-1600 (Fax Number) 480-814-1661

**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.**

**Adding grade levels served for charter**

Included are the following:

- Board minutes approving the change (If the body is subject to Open Meeting Law, minutes must comply with ARS §38-431.01)
- Narrative that 1) provides background and support for expansion; 2) how the additional grades support the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis, and mission of the charter
- Timeline for implementation
- Proficiency level required for credit and/or promotion and credit transfer policies

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.

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

**FROM SERVING GRADES: K-9**

**TO SERVING GRADES: K-12**

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 11th day of March, 2011, and the State Board for Charter Schools has signed this contract amendment as of this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, 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



## PARAGON SCIENCE ACADEMY BOARD MEETING

**Place of Meeting:** Paragon Science Academy Elementary School  
2975 Linda Lane  
Chandler, AZ 85224

**Date of Meeting:** December 2, 2010

**Time of Meeting:** 6:41 pm

Metin Yildirim was present in the meeting  
Ali Kemal Unver was present in the meeting  
Pinar Erduran was absent in the meeting  
Omer Guvener was absent in the meeting  
Adem Aktas was present in the meeting

**Agenda:**

- Roll Call
- Call to the Public
- Approval of Agenda
- Secretary's Report
- School Operation Update
- Financial Updates/Approval
- Other Items for Discussion and Possible Action
  - Approval of SPED policy for revocation of consent
  - Adding Mehmet Argin as charter representative
  - Adding Katrina Thandi as authorized signer for National School Lunch Program
  - Grade level amendment request for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades
- Adjournment

- 1) Roll Call: Metin Yildirim called the meeting to order at 6:41 pm. Cynthia O'Brien took roll. Ali Kemal Unver was present. Omer Guvener was absent. Adem Aktas was present. Pinar Erduran was absent. A quorum was established.

- 2) Call to the Public: There were no members of the public present.
- 3) Approval of the Agenda: Metin Yildirim motioned to approve agenda as presented. Adem Aktas seconded the motion. All members present voted yes to the motion.

RESOLVED that the Agenda be approved as presented.

- 4) Secretary's Report: Metin Yildirim asked Dr. Argin, superintendent of Paragon, whether audit results have been received yet. Dr. Argin said that they have been received and are completed. He added that they are better than last year's results, but no major findings were discovered. Dr. Argin said that the reports were mailed to the authorizer and AZ Department of Education.

Metin Yildirim motioned to approve the Secretary's report. Ali Kemal Unver seconded the motion. All members present voted yes to the motion.

RESOLVED that the Secretary's report be approved as presented.

- 5) School Operation Update: Tolga Ozel, school principal of Paragon Science Academy, presented this update, as follows. AMSP: There are daily classes; a winter camp is scheduled with 8 students. Science Olympiad Regional Competition: The team attended the regional competition on Saturday, 11/20/10, in Tucson and received many awards, from 2<sup>nd</sup> place to 10<sup>th</sup> place. About 30 teams competed in 21 different categories and PSA team ranked top 10 places for 16 of these events. Since this is the team's first year, it is expected that it will compete for the top 3 in all categories in the future. MAP test and tutoring: The MAP test measures academic growth. Administration met with parents, who do not seem to know enough about this test. Tutoring programs have begun for those in need. Surveillance system in elementary school: This system is functional now. Elementary field trips: 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Phoenix Theatre; 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Audubon Center, to expose urban young people to nature and distribute nature-awareness materials for teachers to use in the classroom. Science lab orders: These orders have been placed for middle school science labs for use in chemistry, biology, and physical science classes.
- 6) Financial Updates/Approval: Mr. Tuncay, business office manager, presented the financial updates for the first 3 months of this school year. Mr. Yildirim noted that the numbers are positive and that Paragon received more income than anticipated and spent less on expenses than was budgeted. Mr. Tuncay pointed out that rent figures were not included yet. Mr. Yildirim asked what the net income figures are as of today's date. Mr. Tuncay replied that he cannot answer that until consolidation has been performed. Mr. Yildirim noted that the Board always sees the numbers late. Dr. Argin answered that it is not reasonable to see figures up to 11/30/10 because of bank statement delays. Dr. Argin added that there will be extra budget cuts next year. He said Paragon may also charge for kindergarten

like other charter schools do. He also said Paragon is looking into a different health insurance carrier, and hopes to add more reductions through insurance.

7) Other Items for Discussion and Possible Action:

- a. Approval of SPED policy for revocation of consent: Dr. Argin explained that this policy has been established by the Department of Education. It gives parents and adult students age 18 or older the right to revoke Special Education & Related Services by providing consent in writing.

Metin Yildirim motioned to approve the SPED policy. Adem Aktas seconded the motion. All members present voted yes to the motion.

RESOLVED that the SPED policy be approved as presented.

- b. Adding Mehmet Argin as charter representative: Metin Yildirim pointed out that only Ali Kemal Unver is the charter representative, and that someone else should be added.

Metin Yildirim motioned to approve adding Mehmet Argin as charter representative. Ali Kemal Unver seconded the motion. All members present voted yes to the motion.

- c. Adding Katrina Thandi as authorized signer for National School Lunch Program:

Metin Yildirim motioned to approve adding Katrina Thandi as authorized signer for National School Lunch Program. Adem Aktas seconded the motion. All members present voted yes to the motion.

- d. Grade level amendment request for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades: Dr. Argin explained that currently Paragon's charter lists grades K-9. Adding grades 10, 11, and 12 is necessary to continue the high school program. Mr. Aktas asked if this is like a charter amendment. Dr. Argin replied affirmatively.

Metin Yildirim motioned to approve the grade level amendment request. Ali Kemal Unver seconded the motion. All members present voted yes to the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm

We, the board members, have read these minutes and do hereby approve and confirm all business transacted as reported here.

Ali Kemal Unver

Pinar Erduran

Adem Aktas

Omer F. Guvener

Metin Yildirim

## PARAGON SCIENCE ACADEMY GRADE-LEVEL AMENDMENT

### Background and support for expansion:

Paragon Education Corporation is a non-profit corporation which operates Paragon Science Academy serving Kindergarten through 9<sup>th</sup> grades in Chandler, Arizona. Paragon Science Academy has served elementary, middle school grades and ninth grade from high school successfully. Paragon Science Academy's math, science and technology oriented curriculum has been inspiring students to take careers in science and engineering fields. Paragon Science Academy's school governing board would like to have continuation of the program in high school grades. High school will grow a grade level each year through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

We are requesting to add tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades as the continuation of our ninth grade.

### Mission and Philosophy

The mission of Paragon Science Academy (PSA) is to serve students by providing high quality education by preparing pupils to become responsible, educated citizens who have skills and understanding to participate and work productively in a diverse, multicultural, globally oriented environment through a sound educational plan with emphasis on math and science strongly supported by technology.

Addition of 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades will enable our 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to reach high quality, math and science emphasized education they are receiving right now during the rest of their high school education.

### *College-prep rigorous education:*

The addition of 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades will allow students to carry their knowledge from 9<sup>th</sup> grade; this will promote a college-prep culture in high school since college-prep requires continuation of skill building in critical thinking and problem solving. Students will be able to continue their Honors, Pre-AP and advanced math classes they took in their 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

### *Focus on math, science and technology:*

Our school is planning to offer Algebra II, Pre-Calculus and Calculus in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades respectively. These classes are above the state average high school classes. Also, at least three credits of science will be a requirement for graduation. State of the art science labs in our school will encourage students to take more challenging science classes. Technology is a crucial part of Paragon Science Academy's rigorous education program. Two credits of technology classes is a requirement for

graduation. All of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade students are taking a technology class this year. They will be able to choose from different technology classes that will be offered next year. Web Authoring or Computer Programming classes are among the options.

*Methods of instructions:*

One of the main goals of PSA is to prepare students for academic success in their secondary and post-secondary education by providing high quality education, and providing students with integrated curriculum with up-to-date technology and science. Students will be able to receive the same quality education in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades since they will be academically placed based on their skills which will allow for the student placement in advanced level classes as necessary. All classrooms at the high school campus are equipped with LCD projectors. Digital sensors are purchased for the biology lab. Chemistry lab's equipment is suitable to teach AP level chemistry classes. These equipments create an opportunity for students to excel in the subjects they study.

EXPECTED STUDENT PERFORMANCE ON STATE-MANDATED TESTS AT ALL GRADE LEVELS IMPACTED BY THE ADDITION

The addition of 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades will add AIMS-HS test to our curriculum. We predict that our 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will pass AIMS-HS test in 10<sup>th</sup> grade since they are taking advanced English and Math courses this year. Also, MAP (a third party standardized test aligned with Arizona standards) test results predict that our students will be able to pass AIMS-HS test in their sophomore year.

TIME FOR IMPLEMENTATION

2011-2012 school year: K-10<sup>th</sup> grades

2012-2013 school year: K-11<sup>th</sup> grades

2013-2014 school year: K-12<sup>th</sup> grades

CHANGES IN STAFFING AND CLASSROOMS TO SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF THE NEW STUDENTS

Our high school campus is remodeled according to the needs of the high school students. There is enough classroom space and labs for this expansion. Our math, science, English and social studies teachers are highly qualified in high school areas. This addition will not require hiring new teachers.

## HIGH SCHOOL PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARDING CREDIT

Proficiency requirement for awarding credit is 65% (D)

22 credits (see diploma tracks attached) is the minimum requirement to graduate from PSA high school.

## DESCRIPTION OF HOW ACCEPTANCE OF TRANSFER CREDIT WILL BE DETERMINED

If a student who was previously attending a charter or public district school enrolls in PSA, PSA will accept credits earned by the student in courses or instructional programs at the charter school or school district. However, PSA will accept all previously earned credits as an elective credit, and each semester is equal to 0.5 credits.

A list of core credits will be provided to the student who transfers. Within ten school days after receiving the list, the student may request to take an examination in each particular course in which the student wants to earn a core credit. PSA will accept the credit as a core credit for each particular course in which the student takes an examination and receives a passing score which should be C and above, on a test designed and evaluated by a teacher in PSA who teaches the subject matter on which the examination is based.

PSA will accept credits from institution of higher education

- Grades should be C and above
- Each 3 credits from institution of higher education is equal to 0.5 high school credit.

Transfer credits should be aligned with PSA high school curriculum. In this process, course descriptions, if necessary course outlines, will be evaluated for transferability.

22 credits (see diploma tracks attached) is the minimum requirement to graduate from PSA high school.