

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
Arizona State Board of Education
1700 W. Washington St., Room 164, Phoenix, AZ 85007
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www.asbcs.az.gov

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CHARTER GRADE LEVEL AMENDMENT REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) Paragon Education Corporation (CTDS) 078544000

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 2975 W. Linda Ln.

(City, State) Chandler AZ (Zip) 85224

(Charter Representative's Name) Ali K. Unver

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

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AE

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 Paragon Education Corporation (Charter Holder), herein agree to amend the terms of the charter contract as follows:

FROM: All students in grades 6-8 may attend the school

TO: All students in grades K-9 may attend the school

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 17th day of February, 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

PARAGON SCIENCE ACADEMY BOARD MEETING

Place of Meeting: 2975 W. Linda Ln.

Chandler, AZ 85224

Date of Meeting: November 6, 2008

Time of Meeting: 7:00 PM

Dr. Adem Aktas is present in the meeting

Mr. Omer Guvener is present in the meeting

Mr. Ali Unver is present in the meeting

Mr. Metin Yildirim is absent from the meeting

Dr. Cevriye Ergul is present in the meeting

Agenda:

- Approval of the Agenda

- Director's Report

- Secretary's Report

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- School Budget Update

- Start up Grant Update
- Charter Contract Grade Levels Served Amendment Request
- Other Items for Discussion and Possible Action

Approval of Child Find Policy and Procedure

Grant Applications

1. Mr. Unver called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. Roll was taken, one member Metin Yildirim is absent, a quorum is present. Mr. Unver called for public comment. No comments made.

2. Mr. Unver moved to accept the agenda as written. Mr. Guvener seconded the motion and all members present voted yes to the motion.

RESOLVED that the agenda was accepted as written.

3. Dr. Argin presented the Director's Report. A slide presentation was given highlighting school activities and events since the beginning of school, including, the first day of school, after-school clubs, (SimCity Club, Dissection Club, Lego Club, Fashion Club, Turkish Club, Yearbook Club, Spelling Club) the Home Visit Program (through which 2/3 of parents have been visited), the AMSP Program/Competitions, School Picnics, Car Wash/Fundraisers, the Empty Bowl Art/Charity Event, a Halloween Costume Contest, Student Council, Awards Assemblies, and Parent Advisory Council.

An after-school club list was passed to board members.

4. Mrs. Janet Clark read the previous Board Meeting Minutes and Mr. Unver moved to accept the minutes. Dr. Aktas seconded the motion and all members present voted yes to the motion. All board members present signed the copy of previous minutes.

RESOLVED that the previous Board Meeting Minutes were accepted.

5. Dr. Argin presented the School Budget Update. The main difference in the projected and current budgets is that the number of Special Education and English Language Learner Students was less than projected. We planned for 10 students based on pre-application forms, only 2 decided to attend our school. To compensate, we have added the tax credit program, which Intel will match donations and time, and have also been receiving donations for school purposes, such as \$2000 for playground equipment. We also do have an emergency credit line of \$100,000.00 with Wells Fargo. Our Parent Council is also organizing fundraisers including a garage sale, and a silent auction.

6. Start up Grant update was presented by Dr. Argin. The Federal Grant is \$150,000 per year for 3 years. September 31 was the last day of the first time period allocated when we first applied for the grant. Some funds were used for teacher training, including sending Math and Science teachers to National Conferences to help create a better Math/Science Curriculum. We also used funds for Marketing, Textbooks, and Science Kits.

7. Charter Contract Grade Levels Served Amendment Request was presented by Dr. Argin. Our charter was originally designated for 6-8th grades. We'd like to expand to include grades K-12. To do this, we must submit sample curriculum and lesson plans in Reading, Writing and Math to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools. If approved, the school will be able enroll students in K through 12th grades. We are requesting the board's approval to submit this amendment request. Daisy Education Corporation is currently sharing the building with us, but they will move to a different location for the next school year so that Paragon Education Corporation can add the projected grades.

Dr. Ergul asked if Daisy Education Corporation was aware of this intention and it was explained that they are aware and have been discussing it.

Dr. Unver moved to accept the motion to expand our Charter to include grades K-12 and submit plans to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools for approval.

Dr. Aktas seconded the motion and all members present voted yes to the motion.

RESOLVED to expand our charter to include grades K-12 and submit grade levels served amendment request to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools.

8. Approval of Child Find Policy and Procedures presented by Dr. Argin. The government mandates schools to identify Special Education students and we have started this process through 45 day screenings. Stat teams are formed as needed, composed of teachers, parents, and the special education director, to develop plans to

help meet student needs. These teams meet every 2 months to evaluate progress. If there is no change, the student may then be referred to special education services, school psychologist, or other specialists for further evaluation. After testing, the team would discuss findings and decide upon eligibility for Special Education programs. Parents would be involved in this meeting. We are also doing placement testing, (MAP Testing) on the computer, to determine an initial assessment upon enrollment. Therefore the referral process actually begins when the student enters school and continues to follow the regular required process as outlined by the state.

Mr. Aktas moved to approve the Child Find Policy and Procedures as presented.

Dr. Ergul seconded the motion and all members present voted yes to the motion.

RESOLVED to approve Child Find Policy and Procedures as presented.

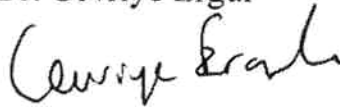
9. A Grant Applications update was given by Dr. Argin. Special Education/Title I Grants are allocated for low income students. It is required to have at least 10 free/reduced lunch students. There are hundreds of other grants we could consider, including many technology grants available. This was presented as an information item only.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

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

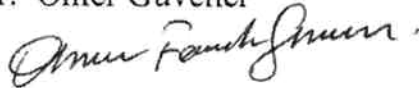
Mr. Metin Yildirm

Dr. Cevriye Ergul



Dr. Adem Aktas

Mr. Omer Guvener



Dr. Ali Unver



PARAGON EDUCATION CORPORATION GRADE-LEVEL AMENDMENT

NARRATIVE

Paragon Education Corporation (PEC) is a non-profit corporation which operates Paragon Science Academy (PSA) serving 6th through 8th grades in Chandler, Arizona. PSA has served middle school grades with its exceptional focus on math, science, and computer technology oriented curriculum. PEC's Board of Directors and School Administration would like to extend this program to elementary school, and would like to have continuation of the program for its graduating middle school students starting with a freshman class. High school will grow a grade level each year through 12th grade.

We are requesting to add K through 5th grades and 9th grade to our existing 6th through 8th grade charter. We are planning to have two classes for the grades second through fifth, three classes for kindergarten and first grade (14 elementary school classes in total) and only one class for ninth grade as the continuation of our eighth grade. The addition of these grades will enable us to implement our education philosophy that emphasizes math, science, and computer technology to students of all ages.

Mission and Philosophy

The mission of PSA is to serve Kindergarten through 9th grade students by providing high quality education and by preparing pupils to become responsible, educated citizens who have the skills and understanding to participate and work productively in a diverse, multicultural, globally oriented environment through a sound educational plan with emphasis on math, science, and technology. It is the ultimate goal of PSA to ensure that every child is ready to carry the torch of knowledge, freedom, and prosperity that has been passed from one generation to another in this great country.

PSA is predicated on our understanding that the need for highly trained people in science, math, and technology is great and will become greater in the years ahead.

The philosophy of PSA, aligned with its mission, is that educated citizens of the 21st century must have a solid ground in science, math, history, and literature. With such knowledge, they not only will be able to keep up with the rapid growth of science and technology, but also will be able to contextually comprehend its essence. Educated citizens of the 21st century must have a love of learning that will enable them to be lifetime learners so that they can adapt easily

and quickly to changes in our core knowledge. They must be able to work productively and cooperatively in a multicultural environment. In addition, they must be effective language users, adept at writing and speaking, and they must be committed to the intellectual virtues of objectivity, respect for the truth, critical thinking, and social and moral awareness.

PEC believes that an educated citizen in the 21st century must have the skills and understanding to participate and work productively in a technologically oriented, global environment.

PSA aims to increase the quality of the middle school by expanding its grades to K through 5. This addition will help to have an initial feeder elementary program with more prepared elementary students for our existing middle school program. Our middle school curriculum focuses on challenging math, science, and liberal arts programs; these programs require a higher level of critical thinking, problem solving, and reading/writing skills. PSA believes that adding elementary grades will allow students to improve these skills before they start middle school. Accordingly, the addition of 9th grade will allow students to carry their knowledge to high school; this will promote a college prep culture in high school since college prep requires continuation of skill building in critical thinking and problem solving.

With the addition of elementary grades, students will be able to grow with a strong math and science foundation that will make them ready for middle school.

Students at our school receive a quality and advanced level education. Students in elementary school will continue to take placement tests as our current 6th through 8th graders and will be placed in their academic level within their grade level. Due to the demographics of the location, a majority of the students are expected to be placed at a higher level, enabling us to teach advanced level classes. We will also have paraprofessionals to assist low achieving students in each class in order to fill their gaps and catch up with their peers. This rigorous curriculum will continue with freshmen as well.

Special emphasis

PSA has provided quality education for 6th to 8th grade students with particular emphasize on math, science, and technology. The main motivation for this emphasis was the report made by the U.S. Commission on National Security for the 21st Century. This entity suggested that the country is at the verge of a downward spiral due to a current scarcity in high-

quality professionals and competent teachers in science, mathematics, and technology. Coming from this venue, PSA is devoted to serve the society that will make sure the nation remains scientifically and technologically competitive. Also, we are confident that a science-literate society will provide necessary support, funding, and promotion to ensure future generations continue to improve upon modern advances that benefit everyone.

We will continue to use a research-based science program, which is a basis for middle school, for elementary grades and freshmen too. The science program requires hands-on activities as part of the science instruction at the school. Currently, all middle school students are required to conduct research and prepare science projects. This program will be implemented for the additional elementary grades and freshmen. The Saxon math program that was used at our current school will also be used in elementary grades. This math program allows us to provide skill-based math education to different level students, enabling them to be challenged and to advance.

Freshmen math will also be based on skill level. Students will be grouped based on their skill and will receive math at their academic level. Therefore, the Saxon math and high school math program will not create any differentiation in the application of the math program and will support PSA to pursue its special emphasis.

Our current grades are receiving 3 hours/week computer classes. This program allows students to learn the fundamentals of computer technology and learn all office applications. With the current system, students are able to learn web design at 8th grade. However, PSA would like to teach the fundamentals at elementary grade level and start to teach web design and programming at the middle school level, which enables them to take programming language, AP (Advanced Placement), and other computer technology classes in their freshman year, as described in our four-year high school plan.

Methods of Instruction

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 elementary 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 current site are equipped with overhead projectors and LCD projectors. It creates an opportunity for teachers to integrate technology into their curriculum. In addition, 3rd through 5th grades will employ two teachers for each grade level. One of the teachers will teach math and science, and the other teacher will teach language arts and social studies. Teachers will also be able to integrate these two subjects easily while conveying the instruction to students.

PSA promotes cross-curricular activities to integrate math, science, technology, language arts, and social studies classes. PSA's recent practices with 6th through 8th grade students showed that students should be exposed to integrated curriculum at elementary school and continue in middle and high school. It will help them carry all these practices through college. Today's successful college education requires not only subject matter knowledge, but also a well-rounded curriculum, including the relationships between subjects learned.

The continuation in methods of instruction will enable students to keep open a broad spectrum of options for their future and prepare them as responsible, creative, and productive citizens.

MASTERY OF COURSEWORK FOR ADDITIONAL GRADES

Goals	Measurable Objectives/ Benchmarks
<p>1. PSA will prepare students to be able to not only perform, but also exceed basic skill levels at assigned grade level.</p>	<p>1a. 90% of students will exceed assigned grade level at AIMS testing.</p> <p>1b. All students will demonstrate grade-level proficiency in all subject areas of the curriculum, including math, science, social studies, language arts, and computer, according to the Arizona State Standards and the No Child Left Behind Law (NCLB).</p>
<p>2. PSA will prepare students to be proficient in Information Technologies knowledge (<i>with particular focus on Math, Science, and Technology</i>).</p>	<p>2a. 100% of students will be able to use computer technologies in their curriculum effectively.</p> <p>2b. PSA will test students' abilities throughout the year in computer labs.</p>
<p>3. In compliance with NCLB, at least 95% of PSA students will participate in state testing, demonstrate achievement, and exceed assigned grade level.</p>	<p>3a. 95% of PSA students will meet or exceed the math standards on the AIMS tests.</p> <p>3b. 95% of PSA students will meet or exceed the reading standards on the AIMS tests.</p> <p>3c. 95% of PSA students will meet or exceed the writing standards on the AIMS tests.</p> <p>3d. 95% of 4th and 8th grade PSA students will meet or exceed the science standards on the AIMS test.</p>

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

Our current students have not taken the AIMS tests yet for this school year, but students are outperforming in the subject matter that they are learning. In addition, students are taking advanced classes too.

The addition of new grades will not create significant changes in the test results, since students who are expected to come to our school are from the neighborhood school, Paragon Science Academy Elementary school, and a majority of these students are in advanced classes and an accelerated program.

Freshmen will be our current 7th graders; therefore, PSA expects to meet the goals in the charter with high scholars too. Our current 7th graders will take the test after spending two years in our school system.

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The class space and curriculum are already in place. Kindergarten through 5th grade classes will begin on the same day with current middle school students for the 2009-2010 school year. Ninth graders will be added in the 2010-2011 school year.

CHANGES IN STAFFING TO SUPPORT THE REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS

The expansion will require us to hire 14 teachers in total for K through fifth grades as well as a science, a math and an English teacher for the ninth grade. The current middle school faculty is sufficient for other classes of the ninth grade.

PEC has already started attending job fairs in the first quarter of 2009 and will begin to recruit highly qualified elementary school teachers as soon as the grade-level amendment is approved. We highly expect to hire all the required teachers, since the quality of our program attracts most teachers to our current school.

HIGH SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

English	4.0 credits
Mathematics	4.0 credits
Science	3.0 credits
Social Studies	3.0 credits
Foreign Language (same language)	2.0 credits
Physical education	1.0 credit
Fine Arts	1.0 credit
Computer Science	2.0 credits
Electives	2.0 – 5.0 credits

Minimum of **22 credits** are required for graduation from Paragon Science Academy.

The requirements listed above exceed the entrance requirements for Arizona Universities. Students who plan to attend more selective colleges should take the most academically challenging electives that PSA will offer each year.

Weighted Classes

Honors and AP (Advanced Placement) classes have a weighted grade point allocation, used in calculating a student's GPA (Grade Point Average).

Weighted classes

A = 5.0
B = 4.0
C = 3.0
D = 1.0
F = 0.0

Non weighted classes:

A = 4.0
B = 3.0
C = 2.0
D = 1.0
F = 0.0