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JAN 28 2011

ADDING GRADE LEVELS TO CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) Primavera Technical Learning Center (CTDS) 07-89-26-000

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 2471 N Arizona Ave

(City, State) Chandler, AZ (Zip) 85225

(Charter Representative's Name) Damian Creamer

(Phone Number) 480-456-6678 (Fax Number) 480-355-2100

**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 Primavera Technical Learning Center (Charter Holder), herein agree to amend the terms of the charter contract as follows:

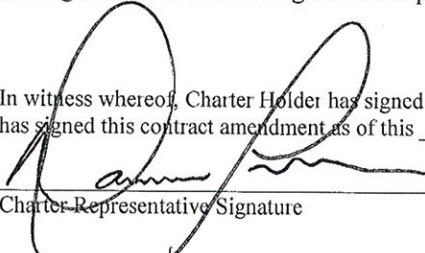
**FROM SERVING GRADES: 9-12**

Primavera's integrated course of study provides a safe online educational learning environment. Arizona Academic 9-12 Standards are incorporated into individual and collaborative online learning lessons and activities in order to offer a comprehensive secondary education leading to a high school diploma with preparation for a post-secondary education.

**TO SERVING GRADES: 6-12**

Primavera's integrated course of study provides a safe online learning environment. Arizona 6-12 Standards are incorporated into individual and collaborative online learning lessons and activities in order to offer a comprehensive middle and high school education, leading to attainment of a high school diploma with preparation for a post-secondary education.

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 11th day of January, 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

**Minutes of the Public Meeting of the  
Primavera Technical Learning Center  
January 11, 2011**

A public meeting of the Primavera Technical Learning Center was convened on October 12, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at 2471 North Arizona Avenue, Chandler, Arizona 85225. Present in person and via conference call were the following members:

Present:       Andre Aubut, President  
                  Joe Jobe, Member  
                  Brian Johnson, (teleconference)  
                  Dana Van Deinse, Member  
                  Damian Creamer, Member

Guest:           Joseph Hattrick, Asst. Principal, Primavera Online High School

**ALL ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA ARE OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION,  
INCLUDING REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS**

**1.     Roll Call**

President Aubut determined a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

**2.     Consideration and possible approval of the minutes of the public meeting held  
       October 12, 2010**

President asked if all members had reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. A motion was made by Member Jobe and seconded by President Aubut to approve the minutes from the October 12, 2011 Board Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**3.     Call to the Public**

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01.G, the Board may allow individuals from the public to address the Board. Comments shall be limited to issues within the jurisdiction of the Board. The Board shall not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during an open call to the public unless the matters appear on this agenda for discussion and legal action.

No members of the public were present to address the Board.

**4.     Discussion, Consideration and Approval of Amendment to the 2010 AVA Lease Agreement**

Members were presented with detailed resolutions detailing the restructuring of the lease agreement with American Virtual Academy. Upon review of the document, and a request by the President for any questions, a motion was made by President Aubut to approve the Amendment to the 2010 AVA Lease Agreement. With respect to consideration of the Lease Amendment by Damian Creamer (who is otherwise a Primavera Board Member, but who had a conflict of interest with respect to the transaction) recused himself from consideration and vote on the issue.

**5. Discussion, Consideration, and Approval of the Proposed Addition to Middle School Level Grades to the Primavera Technical Learning Center Charter.**

Guest Joseph Hattrick, Assistant Principal of Primavera Online High School, addressed the Board to discuss the Amendment's purpose and roll out plan. A copy of the Letter of Intent, actual Amendment request, and supportive narrative were provided to the board members. Upon review and discussion, Member Jobe made a motion to approve the proposed amendment to the current Charter. The motion was seconded by Member D. Creamer and passed unanimously.

**6. Discussion, Consideration, and Approval of the Amendment to Increase the Primavera Technical Learning Center 's Enrollment Cap.**

Guest Joseph Hattrick, Assistant Principal of Primavera Online High School, addressed the Board to explain the increase of the Enrollment Cap to 10,000. The Amendment is proposed to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools and the Arizona State Board of Education. A motion was made by President Aubut and seconded by Member Jobe to approve the Amendment to Increase PTLC's Enrollment Cap. Motion passed unanimously.

**7. Discussion and Consideration of Parent Proposal regarding Exemption from Course Work.**

Mr. Hattrick informed the Board that a parent is requesting that the student be allowed to test out of courses based on student's aptitude. Asst. Principal Hattrick provided documents to support the Proposal and stated student would receive no grades, only credit for the course. Tests would be proctored. The Proposal reads...

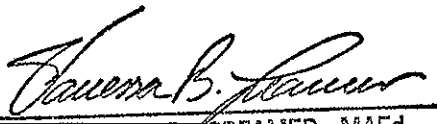
"In lieu of satisfactory completion of course work, high school credit shall be awarded to students who demonstrate knowledge, skills, and other elements of learning by satisfactory performance on school-approved examinations." ARS 15-701.01K

The Board will adopt a policy on Course Mastery. A motion was made by Member Jobe, and seconded by President Aubut to accept the parent proposal. The motion passed unanimously.

**8. Discussion, Consideration and Acceptance of Board Member Resignations**

Upon review of resolutions regarding the resignation of members Dana Van Deinse and Steve Shumway, a motion was made by President Andre and seconded by Member Jobe to accept said resignations based on reasons delineated in the resolutions. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.



Vanessa Creamer, Secretary, Governing Board of Directors

**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**

Primavera Online High School (a Primavera Technical Learning Center, L.E.A. alternative school) has been providing a premier online education to high school students in Arizona since 2001. Since its inception, Primavera has continually improved and expanded its educational services. Our rigorous curriculum, dedicated staff, and personalized education have helped to ensure success for high school students at Primavera. Our goal is to enhance the continuum of education available to Arizona students by adding middle school grades.

The addition of middle level grades is clearly supported by our current stakeholders. Both parents and students have requested the addition of middle grades to serve the needs of their children/younger siblings through surveys and discussions with teachers and advisors. This expansion is also strongly supported by our staff and other stakeholders.

Students in the middle grades will learn the importance of 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills in the world today and use them as the conduit for learning all core academic subjects. The middle school staff will actively engage students' learning and mastery of core academic areas introducing them to elective courses. This engagement will occur through various modes of instruction including videos, power points, interactive games, textbook reading, discussion board, project-based learning and frequent written, verbal and synchronous communication.

Teachers strive to actively engage their students in learning by providing ongoing communication through the message center or email, phone calls, ongoing discussion board dialog, project grading and detailed and comprehensive feedback. In addition, all quizzes, and exams are graded promptly and the results communicated to the students (parents, guardians) instantly. Teachers also find ways of enhancing the curriculum to help make the educational concepts more relevant and understandable for the students. Students who attend Primavera in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and/or 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be better prepared to complete their high school in a similar setting, ready to compete in the technologically savvy 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Primavera's 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade program will offer an alternative for students who are seeking a technology rich environment, free of social pressures including harassment, intimidation, and bullying that so many middle school students experience. These social emotional issues have historically been a roadblock to success for many students, which will be alleviated in this monitored, virtual environment.

Students enrolled in middle grades will embark on a journey that will assist them through the transition from primary to high school. This journey will provide the social emotional support necessary to 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students to transition from primary school to high school with the support of many caring adults while completing a rigorous and relevant curriculum.

Following the commencement of 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students would continue to receive a real-world, personalized education which uses a rigorous curriculum in order to prepare students for their high school career. At Primavera we will provide students with the supports necessary to

successfully transition from primary school while providing them with a relevant, premier online education. We will also prepare students for high school and successful life in a technological era.

The additional middle grades will operate under the same mission as that of its high school counterpart. In so doing, “Primavera Online High School, a Primavera Technical Learning Center, L.E.A. alternative school, serves all students with an emphasis on the following categories of students: those with behavioral issues, those identified as dropouts, those who are pregnant and/or teen parents, those adjudicated as youthful offenders, and those with poor academic standing as manifested by their failure to keep up with their cohort group.” Furthermore, the addition of middle grades will enhance our philosophy by enabling us to “provide students with an accredited, structured, personalized education” at an earlier age.

Upon request of the Arizona Department of Education, the current charter has been submitted for approval, an updated mission statement that will also be commensurate with the addition of middle grades. That mission will be, “Primavera provides a rigorous, relevant and personalized education in a highly interactive virtual environment. As an alternative school, we are committed to educating all students seeking a high school diploma while re-engaging students who are credit deficient” which the addition of 6, 7, and 8th grades clearly supports. Primavera is awaiting approval from ADE for formal adoption of its updated mission.

We, at Primavera are excited to continue to offer exceptional online education to Arizona students and are committed to positively influencing students in younger grades to enable them to be prepared for a technological-rich society.

**Mastery of Coursework (which includes):**

**Proficiency level required for credit and/or promotion and credit transfer policies**

Primavera's promotion policy is based on the expectation that students must reach competency in the subject material prior to being promoted. Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students will be promoted once the student receives a recommendation from the teachers instructing in the following academic areas: Reading, Writing (Language Arts), Mathematics, Social Studies, Science and 2-3 electives which includes Skills Academy (a combination of workplace skills, health education, organizational skills and success strategies) in which all students are registered.

Determination for students' promotion or retention will take place at the end of each school year. Students will advance to the next grade level if he/she has mastered or is progressing rapidly toward mastery level of applicable Arizona State Standards. Traditional letter grades will be given to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students.

Students should demonstrate that they have mastered 80% of all content to be promoted to the next grade. If one or more subjects fall below 80% mastery a student may still be promoted if, 1) the grade below mastery falls between 70 and 79%, 2) the student has met other requirements established by the school (attendance, assignment completion, and has demonstrated an effort to improve), 3) Assessment data (Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards) indicating "meets" or "exceeds" standard as evidence of mastery, and 4) the classroom teacher recommends promotion (in accordance with ARS 15-521). Final student promotion decisions will be approved by the Governing Board upon recommendation of the principal (in compliance with ARS 15-342 paragraph 11).

Students who have not yet attained mastery in one or more academic areas and have not fulfilled the alternative requirements will be offered a remedial summer school program.

The summer school program will provide coursework, tutoring sessions and assessments to check for student learning. These assessments will be performed to measure growth and mastery in each deficient academic area followed by a determination meeting to discuss promotion or retention of the student.

## **Credit Transfer Policy**

If a pupil who was previously enrolled in a charter school or school district enrolls in a school district in this state, the school district shall accept credits earned by the pupil in courses or instructional programs at the charter school or school district.

The governing board of a school district may adopt a policy concerning the application of transfer credits for the purpose of determining whether a credit earned by a pupil who was previously enrolled in a school district or charter school will be assigned as an elective or core credit.

A pupil who transfers from a charter school or school district shall be provided with a list that indicates which credits have been accepted as an elective credit and which credits have been accepted as a core credit by the school district.

Within ten school days after receiving the list, a pupil may request to take an examination in each particular course in which core credit has been denied.

The school district shall accept the credit as a core credit for each particular course in which the pupil takes an examination and receives a passing score on a test designed and evaluated by a teacher in the school district who teaches the subject matter on which the examination is based.

## Expected Student Performance

Students in grades 6 through 8 will be administered the AIMS assessment as is required by state law and regulations. Primavera offers numerous testing locations throughout the state of Arizona to ensure all students have equal access to meet the assessment requirement.

As a direct result of our aligned curriculum, individual remediation programs, intensive tutoring options and student-centered staff support, we expect our student's performance on the AIMS to be at least, at or above the state average. As part of our ongoing assessment and evaluation system, students will receive benchmark assessments in the fall to accurately determine academic level with the goal of increasing proficiency in Reading, Writing, and Math. We expect students to perform on the AIMS assessment as follows:

	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>
<b>Math</b>	80% meet or exceed	80% meet or exceed	80% meet or exceed
<b>Reading</b>	80% meet or exceed	80% meet or exceed	80% meet or exceed
<b>Writing</b>	80% meet or exceed	80% meet or exceed	

Any students who do not meet or exceed the standard will be provided additional assessment to target deficiency areas and support to increase proficiency.



### **Timeline for implementation**

To ensure effective and purposeful implementation of the middle school program, we will use a multi-phase process for implementation. Enrollment for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will begin in June of 2011 with classes beginning fall of 2011. Enrollment for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will begin June 2012 with classes beginning fall of 2012. This will result in the full implementation of the grades added to make up the middle school in August of 2012.

Curriculum development, marketing and any additional recruiting, hiring and training of highly qualified teachers for given grades and subjects will take place prior to enrollment and on an ongoing basis.

### **Changes in staffing to support the requirements for Highly Qualified**

Staffing decisions at Primavera are made based on what the data and trends indicate. In times of peak enrollment and as enrollment increases, we have the ability to quickly increase or decrease our staffing plan accordingly. The flexibility that we offer to part-time teachers allows for varying course loads and student caseloads.

We continue to market to students and teachers to work at Primavera. The focus of the teacher marketing will shift with the addition of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades in 2011-2012 and 6<sup>th</sup> grade in 2012-2013 to indicate highly qualified requirements for those grades. Additionally, we continue to post for jobs in various publications and allow for applications through our website on an ongoing basis. In the same way we enroll students year round, we also recruit, hire, and train staff all year.

While we will add some teaching staff who are highly qualified to teach 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade to focus solely on the middle grades in 2011-2012, we may also utilize some teachers we currently employ who are highly qualified in those areas to also assist in the middle grades. In preparation for the 2012-2013 school year we will market, hire and train teachers who are highly qualified to teach the subject areas who will focus on middle grades so that full and appropriate support will be in place for middle school students. All teachers will continue to be required to be highly qualified for the courses and grades which they teach.