

AGENDA ITEM: Adding Grade Level to Charter Amendment Request – Sonoran Science Academy – Davis Monthan

Issue

Sonoran Science Academy – Davis Monthan, a non-profit entity, submitted a complete amendment to add grade levels to the charter.

As stated in Board policy, prior to a charter school being placed on an agenda, staff conducts a compliance check as part of the amendment approval process. This included an assessment of whether Sonoran Science Academy – Davis Monthan and any related party schools met or demonstrated sufficient progress toward the Board's level of adequate academic performance based on 2010 academic data. 2011 data is not yet available. As a school that just completed the first year of operation, data was not available for Sonoran Science Academy – Phoenix Metro.

As shown in the graphs that follow, Sonoran Science Academy – Davis Monthan has not met the Board's level of adequate academic performance. The charter holder compliant in all other areas.

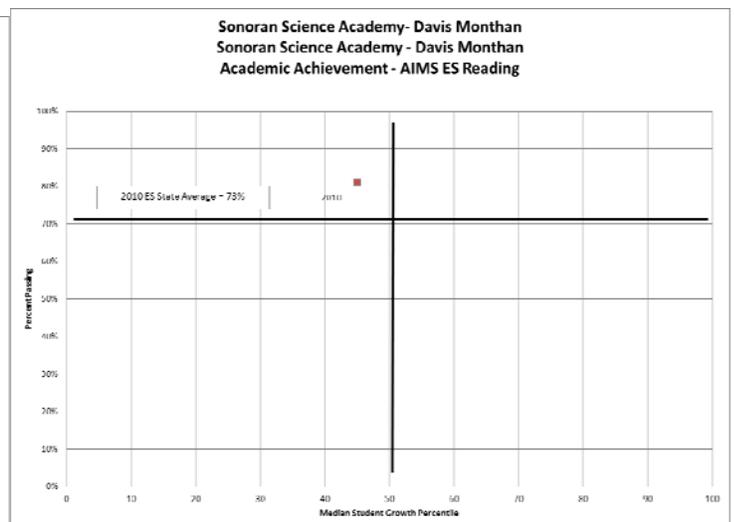
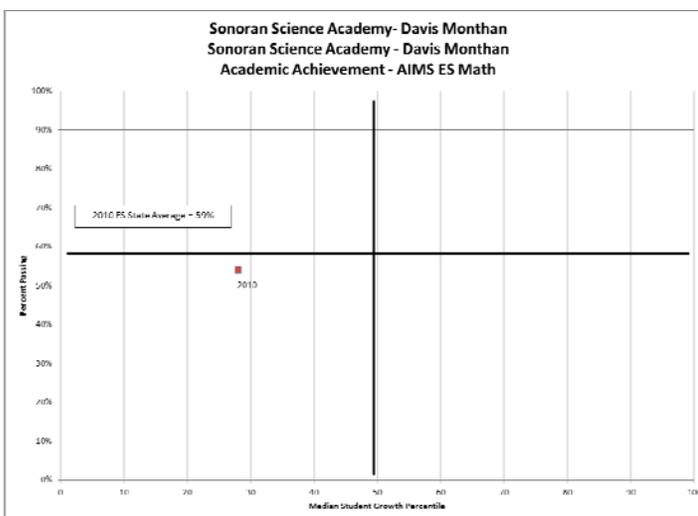
Background

Sonoran Science Academy – Davis Monthan was granted a charter in 2009. Through management and administration contracts, Daisy Education Corporation provides “management, accounting, administrative services and expertise” to the boards of:

- Daisy Education Corporation dba Sonoran Science Academy
- Daisy Education Corporation dba Sonoran Science Academy – Ahwatukee
- Daisy Education Corporation dba Sonoran Science Academy – Phoenix
- Paragon Education Corporation
- Sonoran Science Academy – Broadway
- Sonoran Science Academy – Phoenix Metro
- Sonoran Science Academy – Davis Monthan

As shown in the graphs in Appendix A, all of the other schools receiving services from Daisy Education Corporation have met the Board's level of adequate academic performance.

As a charter that has just completed the second year of operation, data was not available to establish a trend of academic performance for Sonoran Science Academy – Davis Monthan. The Charter Holder has provided documentation regarding the academic performance during the 2010-2011 year which is contained in Appendix B.



Board Options

1. Accept the amendment to add grade levels to the Sonoran Science Academy – Davis Monthan charter.
2. Deny the amendment to the Sonoran Science Academy – Davis Monthan charter.

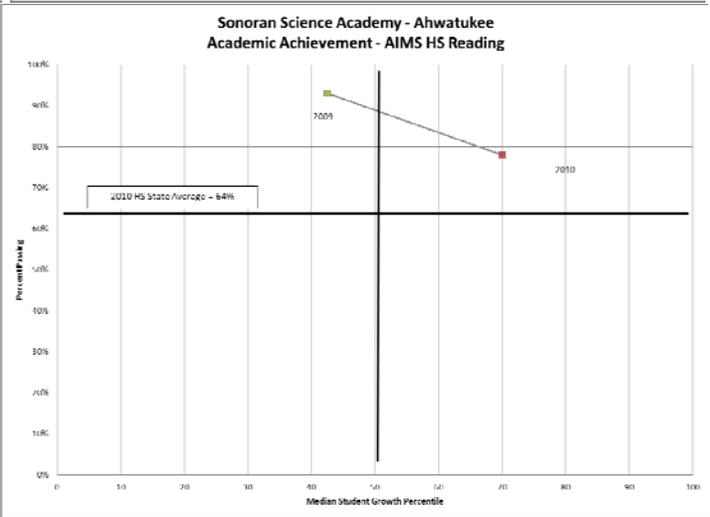
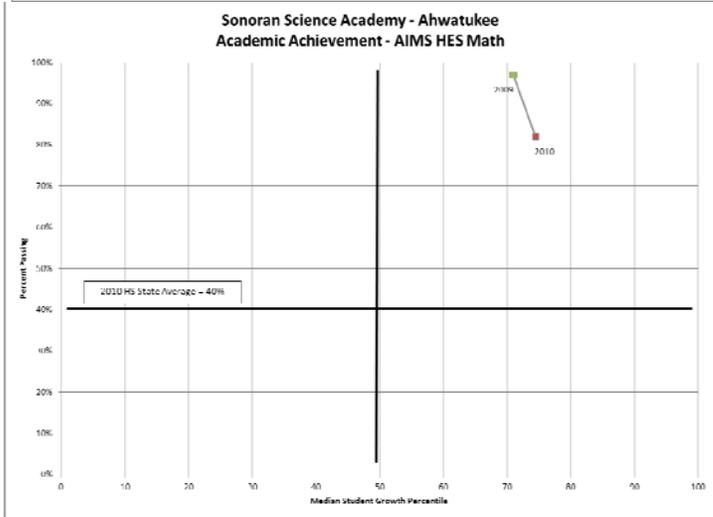
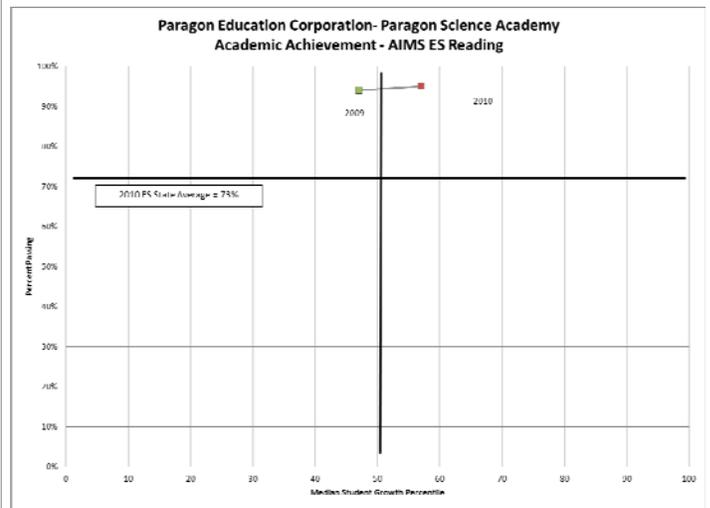
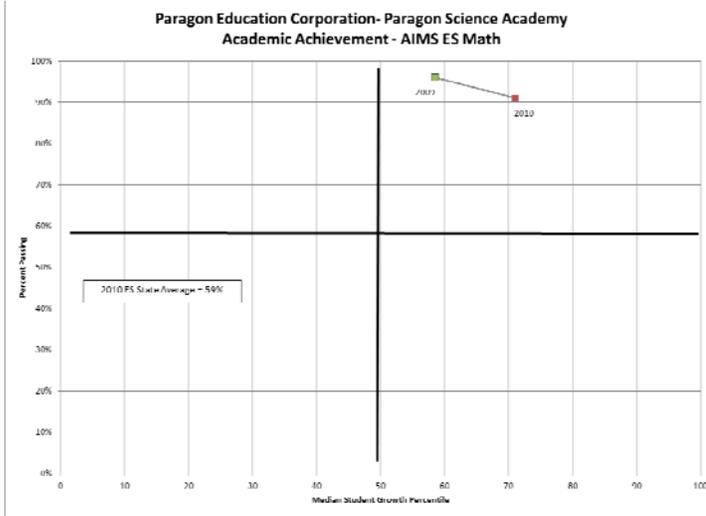
Staff Recommendation

Option 1.

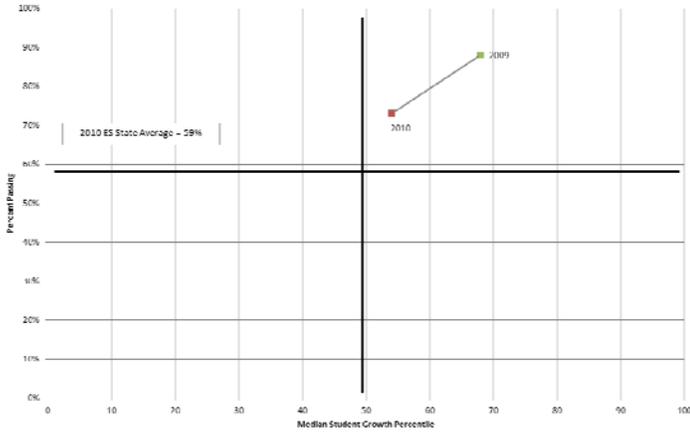
Suggested Motion

Based on the on the information provided by the charter holder, and taking into consideration the academic performance of the related party schools, I move to approve the amendment for Sonoran Science Academy – Davis Monthan to add grades 10, 11 and 12 to the charter.

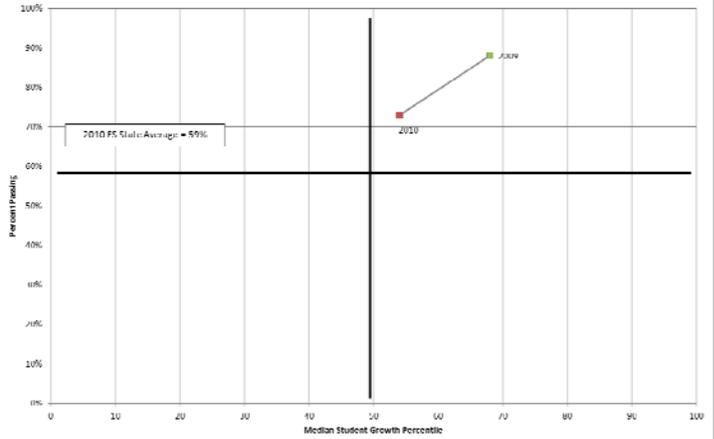
APPENDIX A



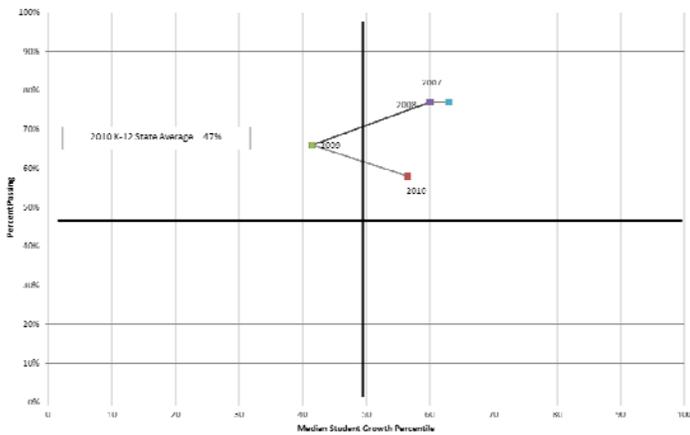
Sonoran Science Academy- Broadway
 Sonoran Science Academy - Broadway
 Academic Achievement - AIMS ES Math



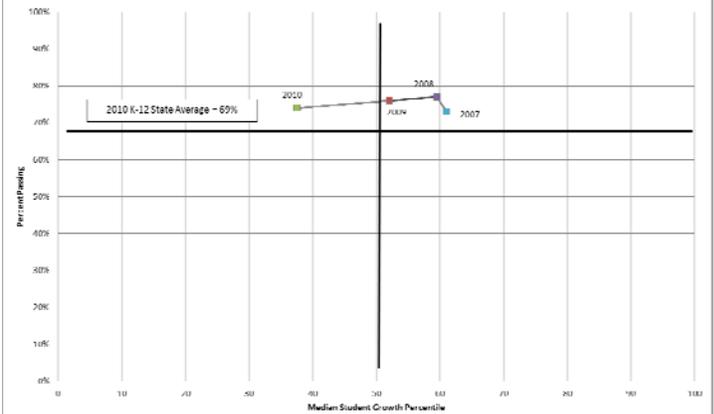
Sonoran Science Academy- Broadway
 Sonoran Science Academy - Broadway
 Academic Achievement - AIMS ES Math



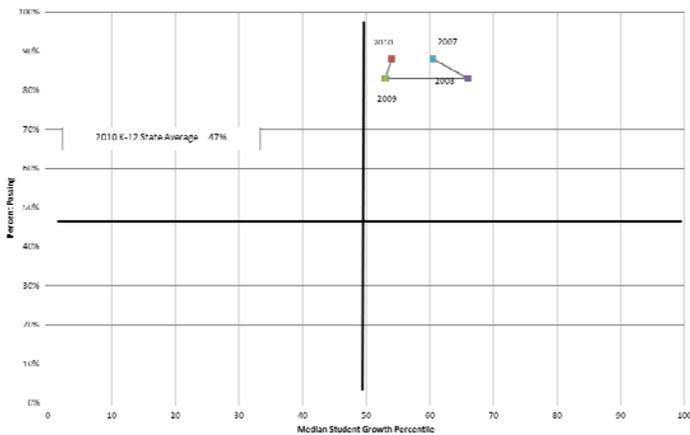
Daisy Education Corp dba Sonoran Science Academy-
 Sonoran Science Academy - Phoenix
 Academic Achievement - AIMS K-12 Math



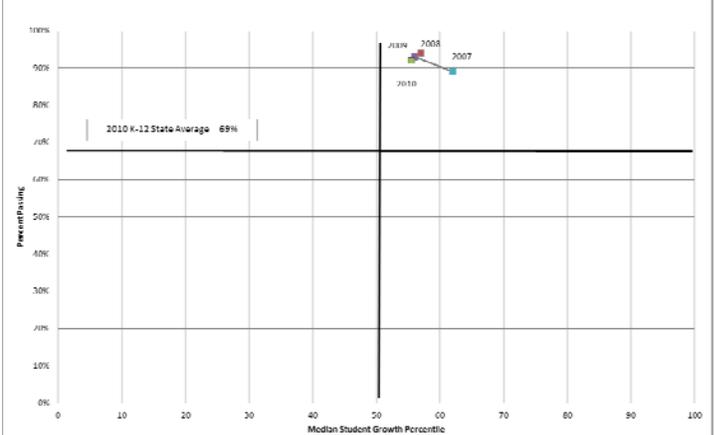
Daisy Education Corp dba Sonoran Science Academy-
 Sonoran Science Academy - Phoenix
 Academic Achievement - AIMS K-12 Reading



Daisy Education Corp dba Sonoran Science Academy-
 Sonoran Science Academy - Tucson
 Academic Achievement - AIMS K-12 Math



Daisy Education Corp dba Sonoran Science Academy-
 Sonoran Science Academy - Tucson
 Academic Achievement - AIMS K-12 Reading



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ADDING GRADE LEVELS TO CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-DAVIS MONTHAN (CTDS) 10-85-04-000

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 5741 E. Ironwood St.

(City, State) Tucson, AZ (Zip) 85708

(Charter Representative's Name) Mehmet Argin

(Phone Number) 520-3005699 (Fax Number) 520-2077698

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:

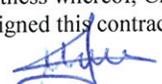
- Math – A completed curriculum sample template including all required attachments as outlined on the template attached.
- Language Arts - A completed curriculum sample template, for both reading and writing, including all required attachments as outlined on the template attached.

The Arizona State Board for Charter Schools and SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-DAVIS MONTHAN (Charter Holder), herein agree to amend the terms of the charter contract as follows:

FROM SERVING GRADES: 6-9

TO SERVING GRADES: 6-12

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

SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY – Davis Monthan BOARD MEETING

Place of Meeting: 6880 E. Broadway

Date of Meeting: December 19, 2009

Time of Meeting: 5:22 PM

Abdullah Yilmaz is present for the meeting
Ismail Emre Araci is present for the meeting
Metin Yildirim is present for the meeting
Akif Baysal is absent for the meeting

Agenda:

Roll Call
Call to the public
Approval of agenda
School Operations Update
Secretary's Report
Financial Updates

New Business

- * Contract/Proposal Approvals
 - * Enrollment Cap Increase
 - * Grade Level Expansion
 - * Uniform Policy
 - * Professional Development support for School Administrators
 - * Foreign Language Program
 - * Policies
 - * Charter Representative Change
 - * 2010-11 School Year Calendar
- 1- Abdullah Yilmaz called the meeting to order at 5:22 pm. Alissa Tanner took the roll. One member was absent. Abdullah Yilmaz asked for public comments. No comments were made.
 - 2- Abdullah Yilmaz moved to accept the agenda as presented. Mr. Yildirim seconded the motion. All members present voted yes to the proposal.
 - 3- Mehmet Argin presented the Principal's Report. There are 118 students and 11 clubs at Davis Monthan. Dr. Argin reviewed the curriculum, discipline policy, and clubs. Robotics Club will compete in February in Las Vegas. There is a basketball team. Home visits, volleyball games, field trips and picnics are some of the social activities that DM has participated in. Advanced Math and Science Program (AMSP) include 15% of student body. These students do sleep-overs and summer camps. Language Arts program offers a curriculum that is one grade level above. Dr. Argin reviewed the staff structure of the campus. There is a Special Education director, a receptionist, part-time

nurse and a counselor in addition to 7 full time instructional staff. Dr. Argin showed photos of Orientation, first day of school, Back to School night, State Representative visitors, Halloween, Advanced Math and Science Program camp, and more. Dr. Argin reviewed the Academic goals for this year and next. Dr. Argin reviewed the enrollment data and Re-enrollment and Open Enrollment policy. Mr. Yildirim asked about the surveys done and how happy the students are. Dr. Argin said that some parents have concerns with academics because the students are coming with significantly low academic readiness, thus struggling in making a successful transition.

- 4- Alissa Tanner presented a copy of the minutes from the last meeting. Dr. Yilmaz moved to accept the minutes as presented. Yildirim seconded the motion and all members present voted yes to the move.

RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as presented.

- 5- Mr. Rakhimov presented the Financial Report and explained that SSA-DM is in the process of applying for grants.
- 6- Dr. Yildiz presented a proposal to add another option for attorney services. Currently DeConcini Law Firm is an option, but Jill Osborne was presented as an alternative with a specialty in education and specifically charter school issues.

Abdullah Yilmaz moved to accept Jill Osborne for attorney services as presented. Ismail Araci seconded the motion. All members present voted yes to the proposal.

RESOLVED that Jill Osborne be approved for attorney services as needed.

- 7 - Dr. Yildiz presented information regarding the extension of Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) coverage.

Abdullah Yilmaz moved to accept the extension of BCBS coverage with Dr. Yildiz as a negotiator. Ismail Araci seconded the motion. All members present voted yes to the proposal.

RESOLVED that the BCBS coverage be extended as presented.

- 8 - Dr. Yildiz presented information that the liability insurance be provided by Philadelphia Liability Insurance.

Abdullah Yilmaz moved to accept Philadelphia Liability Insurance as the liability provider. Ismail Araci seconded the motion. All members present voted yes to the proposal.

RESOLVED that Philadelphia Liability Insurance be used as the liability provider as presented.

- 9 - Dr. Yildiz presented a Finance Agreement. Davis Monthan site is in need of a gym.

Abdullah Yilmaz moved to accept the Finance Agreement as presented. Ismail Araci seconded the motion. All members present voted yes to the proposal.

RESOLVED that the Finance Agreement be accepted as presented.

10 Dr. Argin presented a proposal to increase the enrollment cap. The current enrollment cap is 250, and he would like to increase the enrollment cap to 400.

Abdullah Yilmaz moved to accept the enrollment cap increase as presented. Ismail Araci seconded the motion. All members present voted yes to the proposal.

RESOLVED that that enrollment cap be increased as presented.

11 – Dr. Argin presented grade level expansion from 6-8 to 6-12. Dr. Yilmaz asked about the limit regarding the ability to expand the grade levels. Vail District high school students will be a feeder for our high school. New housing is being built nearby which will attract more students to high school as well. SSA-DM will add 9th grade for 2010-2011, but The Arizona State Board for Charter School is recommending adding 9-12 in initial grade level expansion. SSA-DM High school will grow a grade level each year through 12th grade.

Abdullah Yilmaz moved to accept the grade level expansion from 6-8 to 6-12. Metin Yildirim seconded the motion. All members present voted yes to the proposal.

RESOLVED that the grade level expansion be accepted as presented.

12 – Dr. Argin presented the Davis Monthan Uniform Policy. Dr. Yilmaz asked what the parents thought of the policy. Dr. Argin responded that since there was a large population of military parents a uniform is very much a part of the culture. Dr. Argin believes it will be easily adopted.

Abdullah Yilmaz moved to accept the Uniform Policy as presented. Ismail Araci seconded the motion. All members present voted yes to the proposal.

RESOLVED that the Uniform Policy be accepted as presented.

13 – Dr. Argin presented professional development support for school Administration. Dr. Yilmaz and Mr. Araci would like to have the same policy as Daisy Education Corporation requiring a passing grade as well as subjects that are related to education for reimbursement.

Abdullah Yilmaz moved to accept the professional development support for school Administration as presented. Ismail Araci seconded the motion. All members voted yes to the proposal.

RESOLVED that the professional development support for Administration be accepted as presented.

14 – Dr. Argin presented information on the Foreign Language Program. Dr. Argin presented to offer more than one foreign language program. He proposed to offer Spanish and Turkish at the middle school level so that students will build up foundations for high school since these two languages will be elective in the high school program. These are critical languages per US Department of Education. There are available staff members who can teach these languages. There will not be a full-time teacher for Spanish and Turkish. Currently, 6th graders are receiving 2 hours of Spanish and Turkish per semester and these limited numbers of foreign language classes do not build up strong foreign language foundation. Mr. Araci suggested more hours with one language rather than two languages. Dr. Yilmaz asked that this subject be revisited at the next board meeting.

15 - Dr. Argin presented the "Policies Change" Policy.

Abdullah Yilmaz moved to accept the "Policies Change" Policy as presented. Ismail Araci seconded the motion. All members present voted yes to the proposal.

RESOLVED that the Policies Change Policy be accepted as presented.

16 – Dr. Argin presented the Enrollment Tally Policy and Procedure.

Abdullah Yilmaz moved to accept the Enrollment Tally Policy and Procedure as presented. Ismail Araci seconded the motion. All members voted yes to the proposal.

RESOLVED that the Enrollment Tally Policy and Procedure be accepted as presented.

17 – Dr. Yildiz presented Charter Representative Change document and asked that both Dr. Yildiz, Dr. Argin and Dr. Yilmaz be added.

Abdullah Yilmaz moved to accept the Charter Representative Change as presented. Metin Yildirim seconded the motion. All members present voted yes to the proposal.

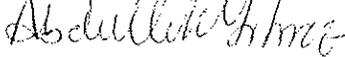
RESOLVED that the Charter Representative Change be accepted as presented.

18 – Approval of 2010-2011 School Year Calendar is postponed to next board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

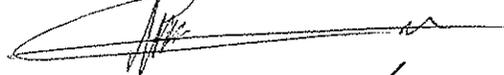
We, the board members, have read these minutes and do hereby approve and confirm all business transacted as reported here.

Abdullah Yilmaz



Akif Baysal

Ismail Emre Araci



Metin Yildirim



SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-DAVIS MONTHAN GRADE-LEVEL AMENDMENT

Background and support for expansion

Sonoran Science Academy-Davis Monthan (SSA-DM) is a non-profit corporation which operates Sonoran Science Academy-Davis Monthan serving 6th through 9th grades at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson, Arizona. SSA-DM has served middle school grades and freshman students with its exceptional focus on math, science, and computer technology oriented curriculum. SSA-DM's School Governing Body would like to have continuation of the program for its graduating freshman students starting with a sophomore class. High school will grow a grade level each year through 12th grade.

We are requesting to add one class at a time every year starting with a tenth grade as the continuation of our ninth grade. The addition of tenth grade and after will enable SSA-DM to implement its educational mission and instructional philosophy that emphasizes math, science, and computer technology to sophomore class.

Mission and Philosophy

The mission of Sonoran Science Academy-Davis Monthan (SSA-DM) is college preparation for students to achieve success in the high-tech community of the new millennium through a science and mathematics instructional program that includes high educational standards, a liberal arts foundation and well-rounded academic excellence. It is the ultimate goal of SSA-DM 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.

SSA-DM is predicated on our understanding that the need for highly trained individuals in science, math, and technology is rising exponentially. The philosophy of SSA-DM, 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, adapt 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. How does this expansion support our philosophy, instruction and our mission? SSA-DM's mission and educational philosophy rest on four pillars: 1) college-prep rigorous education, 2) focus on math, science and technology, 3) foundation on liberal arts, 4) competitiveness at a global technological society.

This current proposal to extend SSA-DM's 6th through 9th grade to 6th through 12th grades directly and substantively supports these four pillars in the following way, but not limited to:

College-prep rigorous education:

The addition of 10th through 12th 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. Our middle school and freshman 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. Strong foundation in the current grades will enable our students to take Honors and AP (Advanced Placement) classes in their high school years therefore with the addition of Tenth through Twelfth grade; students will be able to grow with a strong math, science and liberal arts foundation that will make them ready for college.

Focus on math, science and technology:

Multiple research studies have shown that higher level of rigorous math (pre-calculus and above) predict higher college graduation rates (according to a large study by NJ Chamber of Commerce). SSA-DM is based on a comprehensive K-12 model of Daisy Education Corporation. The HS model requires students to finish 12th grade with at least Pre-Calculus or AP Calculus AB level of mathematics. Tenth grades will be taught based on skill level as in freshman grades. The sophomore math program will be continuation of Holt Math program currently used in freshman grade. Students will be grouped based on their skill and will receive math at their academic level. This system will enable students to take advance level of math which will prepare them for higher level of math in the following years. In terms of science and technology, sophomores to seniors all levels will implement proven science-project driven educational programs. The science program requires hands-on activities as part of the science instruction at the school. Currently, all middle school and freshman students are required to conduct research and prepare science projects. This program will be implemented for 10th through 12th grade as well. SSA-DM Diploma tracks show the number of math, science and computer technology classes that is required for high school graduation. The main motivation for our focus comes from 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, SSA-DM 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.

Foundation on liberal arts:

Even the focus on mathematics, science and technology, SSA-DM clearly identifies liberal arts learning objectives as foundational. Rigorous social sciences, language arts programs, fine and performing arts and athletics programs will be implemented at high school level. Honors and AP level courses will be offered in part of comprehensive HS model of DEC. Competitiveness in of global technological society: The vision of SSA-DM is to ensure that every graduate will successfully compete in an increasingly global high-technological digital society upon graduation. Via strategic planning, SSA-DM aims to have a leading, academically challenging, learner-centered curriculum with college preparation in mind. College-readiness is the fundamental goal of SSA-DM. To this end, the school is vested in continuously improving its curriculum and instructional strategies (programs and techniques) via data-oriented decision making. All SSA-DM --high school students will be encouraged to participate in statewide as well as national academic Olympiads and competitions.

Methods Instruction:

One of the main goals of SSA-DM is to prepare students for academic success in their secondary and postsecondary 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 tenth through twelfth grade 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 LCD projectors and smart boards. It creates an opportunity for teachers to integrate technology into their curriculum. 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.

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

Students from 9th grade are already taking advanced classes compared to their peers in the public school system. The addition of tenth grade will not create significant changes in the test results, since students who are expected to come to our school are primarily from our own school. SSA-DM is also expecting students from the neighborhood schools and we believe that these students will also catch up with their peers with our remedial programs thus their test scores will be raised.

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The class space and curriculum are already in place. Tenth grade class will begin on the same day with current freshman and middle school students for 2011-2012 school year.

CHANGES IN STAFFING TO SUPPORT THE REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS

Per 2011-2012 school year, the expansion will require us to hire one more Language Arts, one more Mathematics and one more Social Studies teachers. The current freshman-middle school faculty is sufficient for other classes of the tenth grade.

SSA-DM has already started attending job fairs, posting job advertisements. We will start interviewing candidates and will begin to recruit highly qualified 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 proficiency requirements for awarding credit

Proficiency requirement for awarding credit is 65% (D)

22 credits (See SSA-DM Diploma tracks) is the minimum requirement to graduate from SSA-DM high school.

Description of how acceptance of transfer credit will be determined

If a student who was previously attending a charter or a public district school enrolls in SSA-DM, SSA-DM will accept credits earned by the student in courses or instructional programs at the charter school or school district. However, SSA-DM will accept all previously earned credits as an elective credit, and each semester is equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ 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. SSA-DM 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 SSA-DM who teaches the subject matter on which the examination is based.

SSA-DM will accept credits from institution of higher education.

- Credits should be C and above
- Each 3 credits from institution of higher education is equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ high school credit.

Transfer credits should be aligned with SSA-DM high school curriculum. In this process, course descriptions, if necessary course outlines, will be evaluated for transferability. 22 credits (See SSA-DM Diploma tracks) is the minimum requirement to graduate from SSA-DM high school.