AGENDA ITEM: New Charter Application – Scottsdale Country Day School

Scottsdale Country Day School submitted a complete charter application package for the Board's consideration. The revised application package does not meet the requirements set by the Board for the 2012-2013 application cycle. This report contains:

1. A staff overview of the application package, including a description of the proposed education plan, a description of the applicant's organization with a summary of information submitted regarding applicant education and experience, and a description of the applicant's business plan,
2. Additional background information regarding the qualifications of the applicant, based on affiliations with current or prior charter operations, and
3. Staff's recommendation regarding this application package.

Additional items in the portfolio include:

- A copy of the final scoring rubric which confirms the application package does not meet the requirements as demonstrated through the review of the preliminary application package submitted on July 1, including the technical assistance provided to the applicant and review of the revised application package submitted on December 20,
- Each section of the revised application, and
- A copy of the applicant's request that the revised application package not meeting the scoring criteria move forward for Board consideration.

SUMMARY OF THE TITLE PAGE

Scottsdale Country Day School is an Arizona nonprofit corporation formed in February 2011. The authorized representatives for the corporation are Katherine Prahcharov and Steve Prahcharov. The proposed school, Scottsdale Country Day School, will serve grades K-6 in Scottsdale.

Mission Statement

The stated mission is as follows: Scottsdale Country Day School
is dedicated to providing a program which exceeds the State of Arizona Public School Standards. With a partnership of parents, staff, students, and community members, SCDS is committed in providing a school with a strong math, science, and language arts program fused with educational technology. SCDS affords students a hands-on program to acquire a full range of skills, whilst surrounded by a culture of respect, curiosity, responsibility, and compassion. SCDS recognizes each student as an integral member of the school community and all students are empowered to achieve success.

A. EDUCATION PLAN – The following summary was created by pulling key phrases from the narrative of the applicant's Education Plan.

Educational Philosophy	**Philosophical approach** Scottsdale Country Day School (SCDS) intends to serve students in grades K-6 through presenting a broad and balanced curriculum integrating technology in small class sizes. SCDS will use various instructional methods to deliver lessons and the Arizona State Standards to its students. The variety of teaching methods used at SCDS will allow for differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all of its students. SCDS teachers will interject some form of technology into 90% of the lessons taught. Examples of this technology are: • Web-based lessons. Example www.khanacademy.com • Lessons taught using projector, displaying visuals on an overhead screen

	• Internet research • Writing papers and reports on the computer • Using PowerPoint presentations for demonstration of mastery • Using webcams for interfacing with partner schools • Recording electronic journals • Utilizing foreign and English language programs **Rationale** SCDS recognizes that no two children learn in the same way. For all students to be successful, the instructional methods used must account for the differences in children. The program of study integrating technology and the manner in which materials will be presented will engage students.
Target Population	The target area for SCDS will be a 7 mile radius from the proposed campus located at 56th St. and Shea Blvd. in Scottsdale. The location of the proposed building is on the border of Scottsdale and Paradise Valley. SCDS will target some of the zip codes where students have previously travelled from to attend the previous charter schools located at the same facility that SCDS is planning to lease. Surrounding public schools are very strong academically, but have large enrollments (400+) and class sizes of 25 students or more. Two charter schools in the area (Freedom Academy, Sage Academy) are described as having low test scores and growth percentiles. SCDS will limit enrollment to 200, and have classes capped at 20 students.
Program of Instruction – the applicant was required to describe a program of instruction that supports the educational philosophy and target population.	**Framework:** The narrative states that the key factors linked to the SCDS curricula framework are: • Infused technology across all subject areas, • Integrated thematic instruction, • Curriculum aligned to high, clear SCDS standards, • Lesson plans aligned to the Arizona State Standards. Curriculum will include: • Saxon Math • Houghton Mifflin English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science • Spanish and Mandarin • Technology, physical education, drama, and economics. **Methods of Instruction:** The narrative lists the following to be used as methods of instruction: • Cooperative Learning, • Discovery Learning, • Scaffolding, • Lecture-Discussions, • Direct Instruction, • Demonstration, • Problem-Based Learning and Inquiry

Methods of Assessment: The narrative lists the following to be used as their methods of assessment:

- Formative:
  - Placement (entry) assessment;
  - Ongoing classroom assessment such as daily class-work, teacher observation, student dialogues, digital portfolios, presentations, self and peer assessments, student participation and discussions, rubrics and curriculum-based measures;
  - Interim and benchmark assessments through DIBELS-6;
  - Technology based assessments such as IXLmath, and easyCMB
  - Regular homework assignments,
  - Benchmark assessments.
- Summative:
  - Regular curriculum-based and standards-aligned teacher assessments,
  - Teacher insight and feedback,
  - Student portfolios,
  - State-mandated assessments.

School Calendar

Standard, 180 Days

Student Count

Year	Grades Served	# of Students	# of Sites
1	K-6	160	1
2	K-6	180	1
3	K-6	200	1

Curriculum Samples

Curriculum samples for SCDS were provided for grades K-6. The table below indicates which curriculum samples in the revised application package met all Board requirements (+), and which had deficiencies (-). Details can be found in the attached Scoring Rubric.

Grade	Math	Reading	Writing	Science
K	+	+	+	
1	+	-	+	
2	+	-	+	
3	+	-	+	
4	+	-	-	+
5	+	-	-	
6	+	-	-	

PMP

The Performance Management Plan (PMP) for new applicants is for the purpose of ensuring the school's curriculum, instruction, monitoring of student achievement, and professional development are in place and appropriate for providing a quality education for each student it serves. It is also intended to focus the school on meeting the Board's level of adequate academic performance.

The table below indicates the criteria in the revised PMP that met Board requirements (+), or had deficiencies (-). Details can be found in the attached Scoring Rubric.

Evaluation Criteria	Math	Reading
Predicted Baseline for percent passing in AIMS	70%	70%
Aligns with the applicant's Education Plan.	+	+
Presents a viable plan for managing student academic performance that	+	+

	includes a predicted baseline and annual benchmark targets for the first two years of operation which reflect incremental progress toward the end target.		
	Identifies action steps, timeline, responsible party, evidence of meeting action steps, and budget for accomplishing all four prescribed strategies.	+	+
	Reveals a progression of actions from start to finish for each strategy that are sequential, timely, and contribute to the school's ability to meet the identified end target.	+	+
	Creates action steps that complement and support the other strategies to the extent appropriate.	+	+
	Includes artifacts that provide evidence of the implementation of each action step.	+	+
	Provides adequate resources, i.e. time, money personnel, etc. to implement the action steps that support the strategies.	+	+
	Reflects costs from the Performance Management Plan in the Start-Up and Three-Year Operational Budget.	+	+
	For reference, FY 2011 AIMS State Average Passing Percentage is provided below. Parentheses indicate change from FY2010 State Average Passing Percentage. K-8 Math: 61% (+2%) K-8 Reading: 75% (+2%)		

Education Plan Findings

Preliminary application package: 33/60 scoring areas did not meet the criteria.

The revised application, for which consideration is being given, did not meet Board requirements in 13/60 scoring areas in the Education Plan section. Details of the scoring areas that did not meet, listed below, can be found in the attached Scoring Rubric.

A.5.1c	A.5.2c	A.5.3d	A.5.4d	A.5.5d	A.5.6b	A.5.6d
A.5.1d	A.5.2d	A.5.4c	A.5.5c	A.5.6a	A.5.6c	

B. ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

Scottsdale Country Day School is a nonprofit corporation, located in Phoenix, AZ, that was created on February 28, 2011 for the purpose of a private school for Pre-KG through 8th Grade, providing education for students/families, with two Directors: Katherine Prahcharov and Steve Prahcharov.

Roles and Responsibilities

Corporate Board	Governing Body
Mr. Steve Prahcharov and Mrs. Kathy Prahcharov form the Corporate Board. A School Governing Board was established on June 15, 2011. The Corporate Board is solely responsible for managing the private SCDS which will run for the 2011/2012 school year. The Corporate Board granted the School Governing Board authority to manage the day to day operations of the charter SCDS. The Corporate Board will only intervene in matters jeopardizing the name of the organization, status of the Corporation entity, and/or non-profit eligibility. The SCDS Corporate	SCDS's Governing Board is responsible for the policy decisions of the charter school per A.R.S. Section 15-183 E8. Notwithstanding section 1-216, if there is a vacancy or vacancies on the SCDS governing body, a majority of the remaining members of the governing body constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, unless that quorum is prohibited by the charter school's operating agreement. The SCDS Governing Board will govern the school per the Bylaws identified in Section B.1. of this application. The Governing Body will review and develop school

Board will not micromanage the school, or interfere with the procedures, goals, and duties set forth by the School Governing Board. The SCDS Corporate Board of Directors is comprised of two individuals as of June 15, 2011 and will increase to a minimum of 5 members by February 2012. The maximum Board of Directors membership is 13. The Corporate Board and Governing Board will become one and the same as of February 2012. Scottsdale Country Day School intends to have a Corporate Board of between 11 and 13 members in time for the charter school to start operations in the summer of 2012. By February of 2012, the Corporate Board and Governing Body will be one and the same. By May 2012 the private SCDS will cease to exist/operate as a private school, making the Corporate Board/Governing Board responsible for only the charter school.	policies that reflect the mission and vision of SCDS. The formation of policies and procedures will be derived from research, discussion, and a consensus of the governing members. The Governing Body will meet bi-monthly • Overall Governance of SCDS • Ensuring the mission and vision of the school are achieved • Reformulate the mission and vision of the school as necessary • Organizing/conducting SCDS Board meetings per Arizona's Open Meeting Law • Establishing and managing budgets and ensuring sound financial practices • Approve the school's annual budgets • Reviewing and monitoring academic achievement • Establish and approve all educational and operational policies • Approve all major contracts

Establishment of Governing Body

The SCDS Corporate Board approved a resolution to approve and form a School Governing Board for the charter application and charter school on June 27, 2011. The School Governing Board will have direct accountability for and oversight of the charter Scottsdale Country Day School. The School Governing Board includes two parents of SCDS students, one Corporate Principal, one SCDS teacher, and one SCDS staff member. Steve Prahcharov is a non-voting member of the SCDS Governing Board. All members have been elected based on expertise. If there is a vacancy or vacancies on the SCDS governing body, a majority of the remaining members of the governing body constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

School Governing Body

Member Type	Number	Name
Organization Principal(s)	2	Katherine Prahcharov, Steve Prahcharov (non-voting)
School Staff	2	Marla Molvin, Paget Merriman
Parent(s)	2	Robert Hill, Kristin Johnson

Charter Principal Background Information

Principal Name	Confirmed Education History	Confirmed Employment History	FCC	Notes
Steve Prahcharov	M. Ed. Educational Administration, 2008 Grand Canyon University	2005-2011: Principal, Kachina Country Day School	Valid	There were no concerns identified with the background and internet checks.
Katherine Prahcharov	B. A, Communication, 2000 Arizona State University	2001-2011: Event Planner, ADI Meetings and Incentives	Valid	There were no concerns

				identified with the background and internet checks.

Organization Description Findings

Preliminary application package: 2/23 scoring areas did not meet the criteria. The revised application met Board requirements in all scoring areas in the Organization Description section of the application. Details can be found in the attached Scoring Rubric.

C. BUSINESS PLAN

Site Information

Proposed School Name	Scottsdale Country Day School
Proposed Location	Confirmed location: Church campus, 10460 N. 56th St. Scottsdale, AZ, 85253. Applicant is currently operating SCDS as a private school on the site.
Proposed/Secured Facility	SCDS will finalize the lease documents for the facility no later than February 15, 2012 to secure the facility. The building in which SCDS is currently operating as a private elementary school for the 2011/2012 school year meets the needs of the charter school in 2012/2013 if approved. Due to the relationship between the Principal and the landlord, built during the past 5 years of working under a lease with them, the upfront costs to secure the facility would be a $6,000 security payment, upon lease signing in March, 2012. The 1st month's rent would be due in August, 2012. Each of the 12 working classrooms (11 classrooms and 1 resource room) is approximately 550 square feet and the overall square footage of the building is approximately 13,500 square feet. The square footage of the school and classrooms works for the maximum students per class of 20 and the projected number of students over the first 3 years. In addition to the 12 classrooms, there is a multi-purpose room (750 square feet) and lunchroom (550 square feet). The office area is approximately 550 square feet. A recess field of over 10,000 square feet is also available. The number of classrooms, additional space, and office areas are necessary for the targeted, initial enrollment of 160 students, with sufficient room to grow to the capped number of 200 students. This space will allow SCDS to implement the proposed and described program of study in a building that was built specifically for a school, and which has been occupied by 4 different schools over its lifespan of approximately 15 years.

Budget

Secured Funds	The applicant has secured a loan from the founders for start-up purposes. The secured funds, in the amount of $25,000, as stated by the applicant, are available as confirmed by Wells Fargo. The applicant has secured a line of credit from Wells Fargo for start-up purposes. The secured funds, in the amount of $8,000, as stated by the applicant, are available as confirmed by Wells Fargo. The applicant has secured in-kind donations of student furniture and technology, office furniture, technology and equipment from the current private school operated by the founders for start-up purposes.
Start-up Budget	The start-up budget, in the amount of $20,665, includes: office supplies, membership dues/registration/travel, marketing/advertising, building rent/lease/loan, fees/permits, utilities, other leases/loans, and Board member training and development. At the end of the start-up period, revenue exceeds expenditures.
Annual Operating Budgets	Year one operating budget is based on 100% of anticipated student enrollment of 160 students, with a projected per-student equalization funding of $5,757. Projected annual budget balances are: Year One – $54,822, Year Two – $103,092, and Year Three – $127,791. At the end of each year revenue exceeds expenditures.

Business Plan Findings

Preliminary application package: 2/ 22 scoring areas did not meet the criteria. The revised application met Board requirements in all scoring areas in the Business Plan section of the application. Details can be found in the attached Scoring Rubric.

Scoring Rubric Summary

Preliminary application package: 51% of the scoring areas did not meet the criteria.
Revised application package: 13% of the scoring areas did not meet the criteria.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Additional data is included below to provide information related to the applicant's principals' experience, qualifications, and current and prior charter compliance as an indicator of the applicant's ability to implement a charter or operate a charter school.

Charter Principal Affiliations

Principal Name	Current Affiliation(s)	Past Affiliation(s) of Note	Comments
Steve Prahcharov		School Principal and Corporate Board Member, Kachina Country Day School	

Current and Prior Charter Compliance

Corporate Principal	Compliance Information
Steve Prahcharov	Kachina Country Day School charter not renewed – July 12, 2010

Scoring Rubric Summary

Preliminary application package:	51% of the scoring areas did not meet the criteria.
Revised application package:	13% of the scoring areas did not meet the criteria.

Board Options:

Option 1: The Board may approve the application. The following language is provided for consideration: Based upon review of the contents of the portfolio provided for this applicant and the information provided by the representatives of the applicant during consideration, and given it is within the sole discretion of the Board to approve or deny a charter, I move to approve the application and grant a charter to Scottsdale Country Day School to establish Scottsdale Country Day School charter school to serve grades K-6.

Option 2: The Board may deny the application package. Staff recommends the following language for consideration: Based upon a review of the contents of the portfolio provided for this applicant and the information provided by the representatives of the applicant during consideration, and given it is within the sole discretion of the Board to approve or deny a charter, I move to reject the application and deny the request for a charter of Scottsdale Country Day School to establish a charter school for the reason(s) that its application package failed to meet the requirements of Title 15, Article 8 due to:

1. Lack of curriculum aligned to the state standards as stated in the scoring rubric.
2. Other specific reasons the Board may have found during its consideration including…