

AGENDA ITEM: Transfer Application – Skyline Gila River Schools, LLC

2009-2010 Transfer Application Summary Report

Skyline Schools, Inc. opened a new school site, Skyline District Five, at the beginning of the 2008-2009 School Year. The corporate principals of Skyline Schools, Inc. filed a transfer application to transfer Skyline District Five (Skyline D5) to its own charter contract to be held by Skyline Gila River Schools, LLC. Skyline Gila River Schools, LLC is a corporation that was organized on March 29, 2009 and has one member, Skyline Education, Inc., an Arizona non-profit incorporated on March 31, 2009. The following is an excerpt from the application:

“The business and affairs of Skyline Gila River, LLC shall be managed by its Member. The Member shall direct, manage and control the business of Skyline Gila River, LLC to the best of its ability and shall have full and complete authority, power and discretion to make any and all decisions and to do any and all things as are deemed to be reasonably required to accomplish the business and objectives of Skyline Gila River, LLC.”

Skyline Schools, Inc. currently operates Skyline D5 (5-8) as well as three other school sites; Skyline Prep and Arts Academy (K-8), Skyline Technical High School (9-12) and Skyline West Prep School (7-12) and was originally chartered with the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools in June of 2000.

The directors of Skyline Education, Inc. are also the directors for AZ Compass Schools, Inc. (contract effective 5/29/08) operating AZ Compass Prep School (approved 7-12; currently operating 7-9) and received approval for a new charter at the January 2009 Board meeting to operate Vector School District (K-6).

The following table is a summary of the schools’ ADM (from ADE’s ADMS 45-1 Report) operated by Skyline Schools, Inc. and AZ Compass Schools, Inc.

School Year	Charter Sites Operating	Reported ADM
2009	Skyline Prep and Arts Academy (K-6)	63.84
	Skyline District 5 (5-8)	155.22
	Skyline Technical High School (9-12)	98.24
	Skyline West Prep School (8-12)	128.87
	AZ Compass Prep School (7-9)	40.08
	TOTAL	486.25
2008	Skyline Prep and Arts Academy (K-8) Skyline Technical High School (9-12) Skyline West Prep School (7-12)	435.84
2007	Skyline Junior High School (7-8) Skyline Prep and Arts Academy (K-8) Skyline Technical High School (9-12) Skyline West Prep School (9-12)	500.68

No academic data is available for Skyline D5 or AZ Compass Prep School, as these were new sites for the 2009-2009 school year. Skyline Schools, Inc. has experienced the following academic success:

Skyline Prep and Arts Academy

School Year	AZ LEARNS	Annual Yearly Progress
2007-2008	Performing	Met
2006-2007	Performing	Met
2005-2006	No Data (Effective 7/1/06)	No Data (Effective 7/1/06)

Skyline Technical High School

School Year	AZ LEARNS	Annual Yearly Progress
2007-2008	Performing	Met
2006-2007	Performing Plus	Not Met*
2005-2006	Performing	Met

*The school did not make AYP in 2006-2007 due to not meeting their graduation rate

Skyline West Prep School

School Year	AZ LEARNS	Annual Yearly Progress
2007-2008	Performing	Met
2006-2007	Performing Plus	Met
2005-2006	Performing Plus	Not Met*

*The school did not make AYP in 2005-2006 due to not meeting their graduation rate.

Curricular Emphasis:

Skyline D5 is a 5-8 school with a curriculum integrated with Core Knowledge® and the arts. Skyline D5 was founded on the premise that all students can achieve and be successful in college and in life. The directors believe for this to become a reality they must provide each child with a focused, college prep curriculum in the middle school grades. In order for the student to achieve academic success, the program focuses on character development, athletics and art. The applicant feels as though this will “level the playing field” for students from disadvantaged families.

Governance Structure:

The Board of Directors of Skyline Education, Inc., sole member of Skyline Gila River, LLC, shall serve as the corporate body. The membership of the corporate body serves on the governing body and appoints an additional five members. The corporate body will hire and evaluate the principal and business manager. The principal will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the school. The Business manager is responsible for the finances and reports directly to the President of the Board.

The mission of the additional charter is as follows:

The mission of Skyline D5 school is to provide each student and family we serve with high quality educational programs and services designed to stimulate life-long learning while developing character through academics, athletics and the arts.

Skyline Gila River Schools, LLC – Skyline District Five	
Grade Levels	5-8
Special Emphasis	Core Knowledge® and performance/visual arts
Methodology	Teacher directed instruction, hands-on activities, visual and auditory supplements, collaborative group learning, peer mentoring, experimentation and rubrics
Location	Casa Blanca and Preschool Rd. Bapchule, AZ 85221 Pinal County
Market Analysis-Student Population	Primarily Native-American students in grades 5-8 residing on the Gila River Indian Community.
Socio-Economic Status	Free/Reduced Lunch: 100%
Corporate Principals	Skyline Gila River Schools, LLC (the applicant) has one member to its corporation, Skyline Education, Inc. The directors for Skyline Education, Inc. are: Ronda Owens and Brian Shipman
Governing Body	<u>2 Charter Organization Members:</u> Ronda Owens and Brian Shipman <u>2 School Staff Members:</u> Molly Ryan and Ted Chiarello <u>3 Community Members:</u> Swen Anderson, TJ Johnson and Zyzick Owens

Facility:

As a requirement of the transfer application, a valid certificate of occupancy and current fire inspection report are required to be submitted. The submitted fire inspection report, dated July 26, 2007, identified 49 deficiencies. Upon request by staff for a current fire inspection report, the school faxed over a report dated July 23, 2008 which identified 26 deficiencies and also required the school to schedule a re-inspection in 30 days. On April 13, 2009, staff spoke with Molly Ryan from Skyline Schools, Inc. who state that the re-inspection was not scheduled.

On April 14, 2009, staff spoke with Kathy Garcia, inspector for the Gila River Fire Department. Ms. Garcia stated that the re-inspection was scheduled for April 20, 2009. On April 21, 2009, staff received a faxed copy of the inspection report conducted on April 20th. The new inspection report lists 62 deficiencies. If the transfer application is approved, staff would not process the contract signing until such time as a clean fire inspection report is received.

Board Options

1. The Board may approve the Transfer Application for Skyline Gila River Schools, LLC
2. The Board may deny the Transfer Application for Skyline Gila River Schools, LLC.

Staff Recommendation

Staff's recommendation is option 1 above.