

### **Issue**

South Valley Academy, Inc. (SVA), a non-profit entity, submitted a complete enrollment cap notification request raising the enrollment cap from 50 to 425 students.

### **Background**

South Valley Academy, Inc. was granted a charter in 2010, and opened South Valley Prep and Arts Academy (SVPAA) with grades 5-8 in 2011. The original charter specified the enrollment of SVPAA was to grow from 50 in 2010-11 to 100 in 2011-12, and to 150 in 2012-13. SVPAA actually opened in August 2011 in a temporary facility at 4039 E. Raymond St., #3, in Phoenix, near the intersection of 40<sup>th</sup> St. and I-10. According to ADE, the 100<sup>th</sup> day enrollment at SVPAA was 48.

The charter holder submitted a blueprint for a new building under construction at 40<sup>th</sup> St. and Baseline Rd. in South Phoenix. The building will be occupied by SVPAA for grades 5-8, and also by South Phoenix Prep and Arts Academy, for grades K-4, for which South Phoenix Academy, Inc. is submitting a concurrent Enrollment Cap Notification Request. The two schools, under separate charters, currently share the temporary facility described above.

The blueprints show a total occupancy of 451. The board minutes state that “Our proforma for this school is based on a cap of 30-32 students per class. The facility has the capacity to hold in excess of this (approx. 575), but our board has capped enrollment at 425.”

The substantive review determined that the advertising/promotion plan and staffing plan provided did not demonstrate capacity to accommodate the timeline and size of the proposed increase, and also notified SVA that SVPAA, in its first year of operation, did not have data demonstrating eligibility to increase the enrollment cap.

On May 11, SVA submitted additional materials for the Board’s consideration, that addressed the concerns regarding the advertising/promotion plan and staffing plan, and provided school-generated academic data to provide evidence of making progress towards the Board’s level of adequate academic performance (LAAP). All of the submitted information is included in the [Notification Narrative](#):

- A summary of the Marketing – Approach plan
- A summary of the Marketing – Results
- Projected three-year enrollment for SVPAA
- A summary of the Staffing – Approach plan
- A summary of the Staffing – Results
- A report titled, “Report based upon benchmark testing and Galileo Data”
- Galileo benchmark data

Regarding staffing, the results provided state that “We currently have hired the Principal and all support staff, 5 Teachers and several aids for South Valley Prep & Arts Academy based on current enrollment of 120 students and have 50 teachers in the queue that have interviewed and are awaiting offers as enrollment increases.”

Regarding recruiting, the results provided state “120 Students have enrolled to South Valley Prep & Arts Academy” and describe a \$200,000 marketing campaign that includes print and broadcast media, social networks, direct mail, on-site activities, and canvassing in several zip codes in the target area. The projected enrollment number for FY13 is 300, based on the materials submitted by SVA.

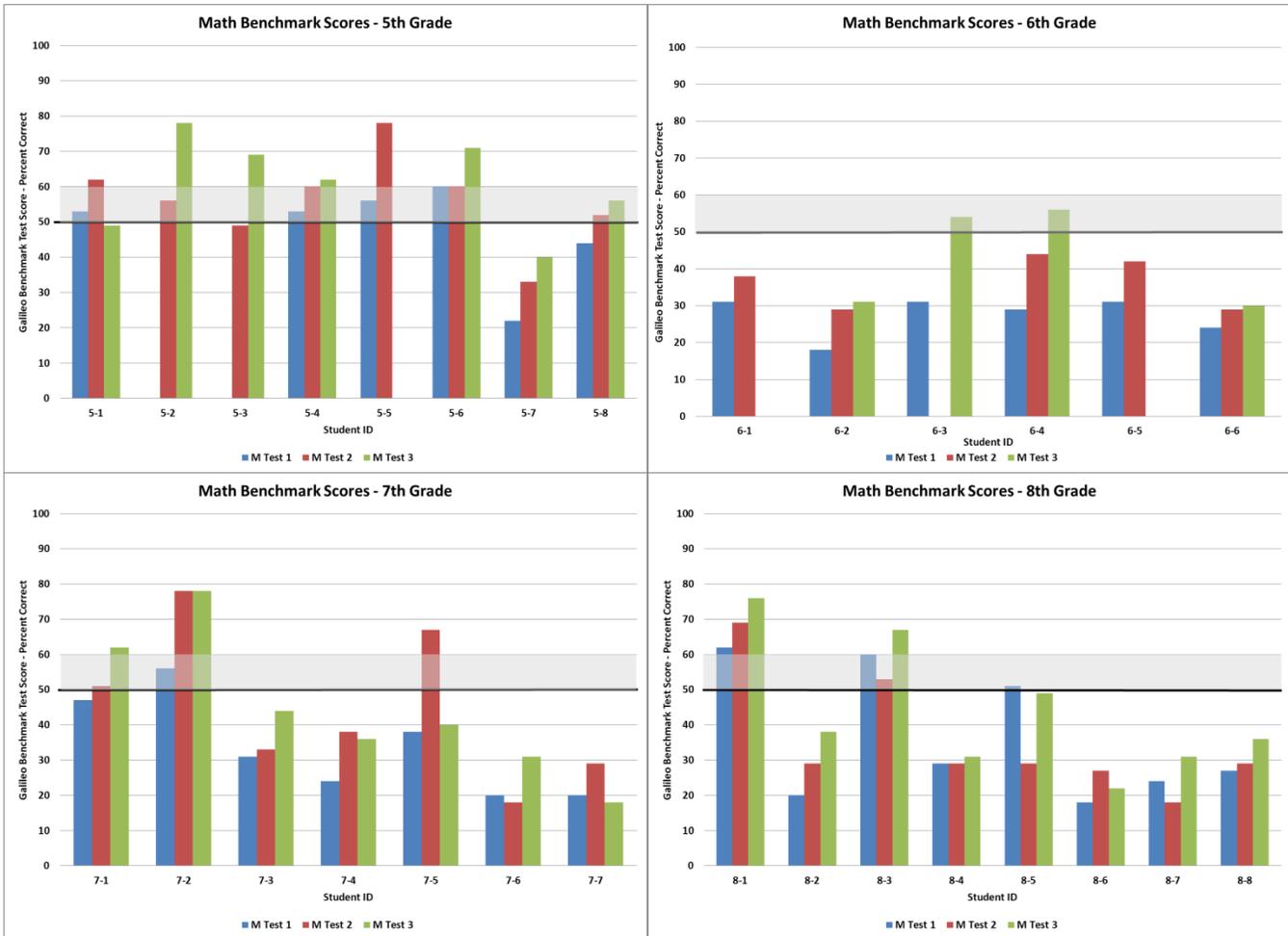
### **Eligibility**

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 compliance check included a review of whether SVA met or demonstrated sufficient progress toward the LAAP.

As a school that was in its first year of operation, prior academic performance data was not available for SVPAA. To provide evidence of making progress towards LAAP, SVA submitted test results of Galileo benchmark assessments



The graphs below, created by staff from data submitted by SVA, chart the scores of SVPA students in Math over the three tests. In the report, SVA states, "All students whose scores were below 50% in a specific content area have been put on academic intervention plan." The black line at 50% indicates the score identified by the charter holder as the threshold for academic intervention.



These graphs shows that based on the benchmark assessment data:

- **1 of 24 students (4%) increased by 25 percentage points or more.**
- 13 of 24 students (54%) increased between 10 and 25 percentage points.
- 7 of 24 students (29%) increased between 1 and 10 percentage points.
- 3 of 24 students (13%) had no change or a decline in scores.
- 5 students were not included due to incomplete data.

19 students (5<sup>th</sup>: 3; 6<sup>th</sup>: 4; 7<sup>th</sup>: 6; 8<sup>th</sup>: 6) scored below the threshold for academic intervention on at least one test. Of those students:

- **1 of 19 students (5%) increased by 25 percentage points or more.**
- 9 of 19 students (47%) increased between 10 and 25 percentage points.
- 6 of 19 students (32%) increased between 1 and 10 percentage points.
- 3 of 19 students (16%) had no change or a decline in scores.

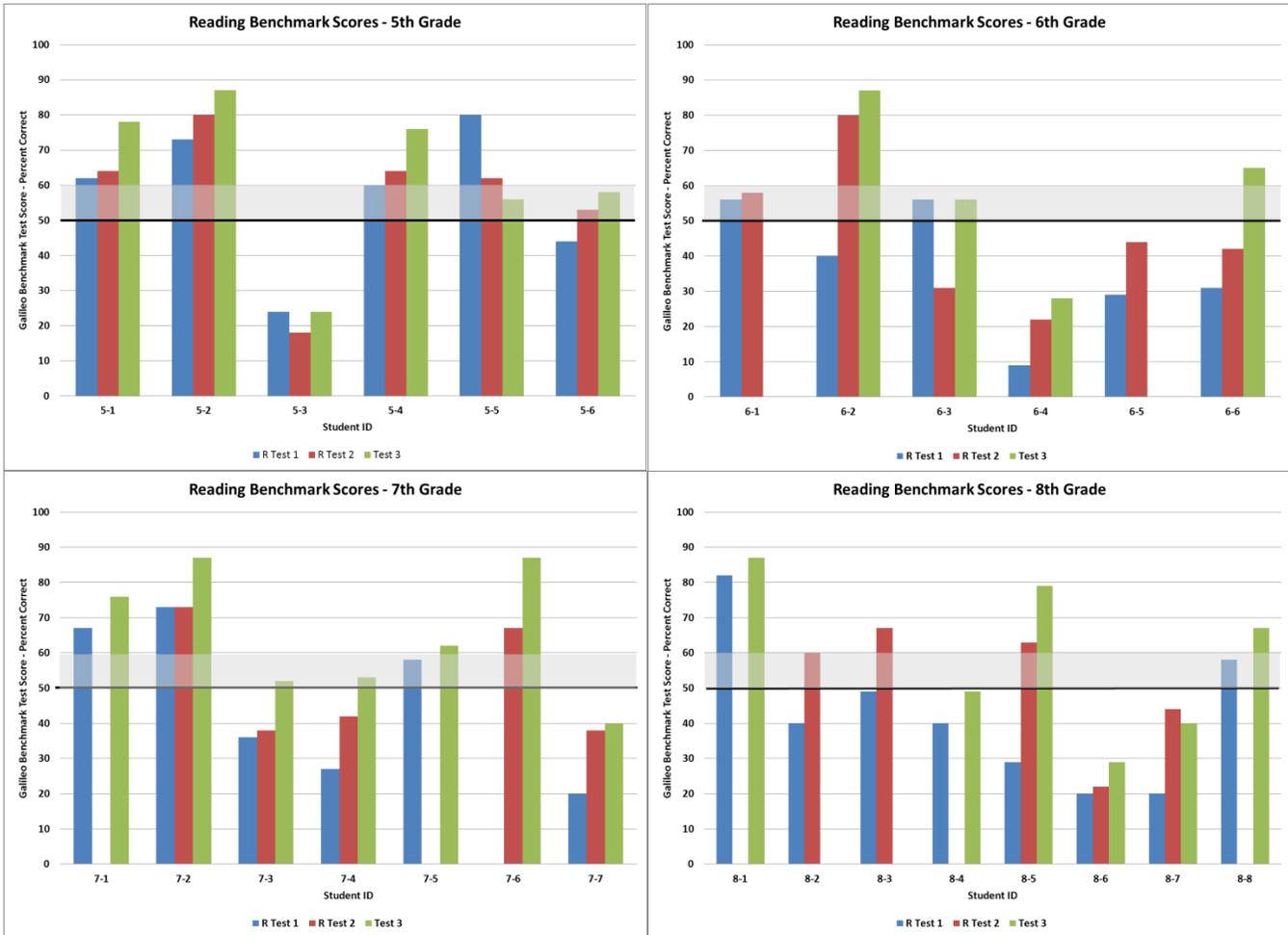
5 students (5<sup>th</sup>: 2; 6<sup>th</sup>: 0; 7<sup>th</sup>: 1; 8<sup>th</sup>: 2) scored above the threshold for academic intervention on all tests. Of those students:

- **0 of 5 students (0%) increased by 25 percentage points or more.**
- 3 of 5 students (60%) increased between 10 and 25 percentage points.

- 2 of 5 students (40%) increased between 0 and 10 percentage points.
- 0 of 5 students (0%) had no change or a decline in scores.

These results indicate that 96% of students show little improvement in Math ( $\leq 24$  percentage points) over five months of instruction, including those placed on academic intervention.

The graphs below, created by staff from data submitted by SVA, chart the scores of SVPAA students in Reading over the three tests.



These graphs show that based on the benchmark assessment data:

- **4 of 22 students (18%) increased by 25 percentage points or more.**
- 9 of 22 students (41%) increased between 10 and 25 percentage points.
- 6 of 22 students (27%) increased between 1 and 10 percentage points.
- 3 of 22 students (14%) had no change or a decline in scores.
- 7 students were not included due to incomplete data.

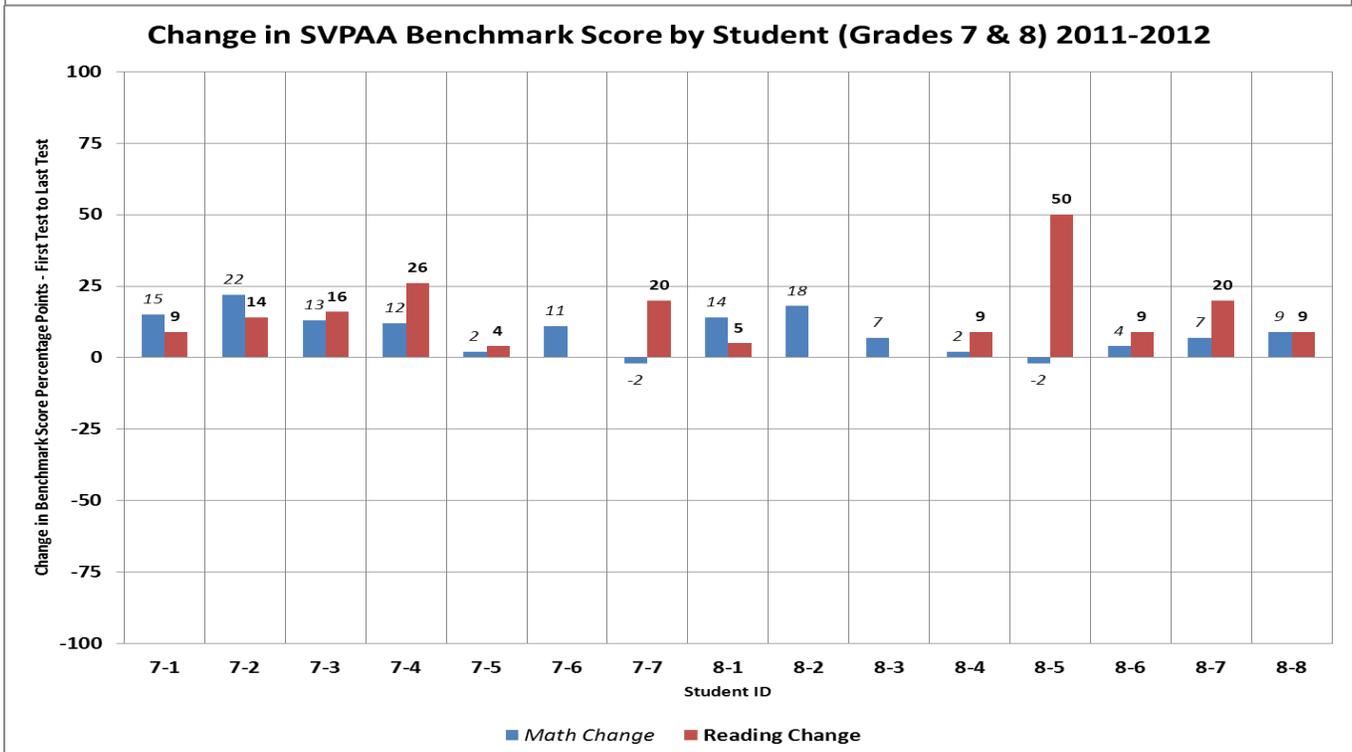
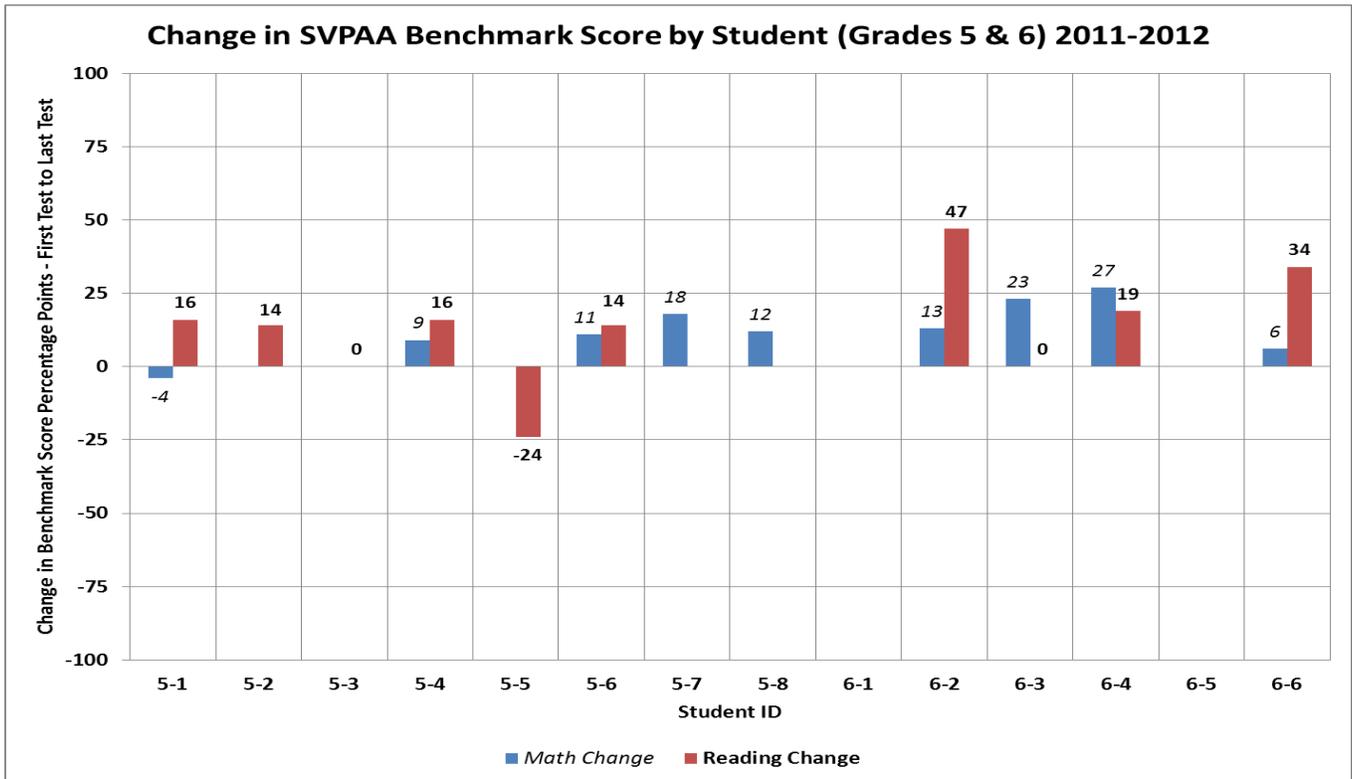
13 students (5<sup>th</sup>: 2; 6<sup>th</sup>: 4; 7<sup>th</sup>: 3; 8<sup>th</sup>: 4) scored below the threshold for academic intervention on at least one test. Of those students:

- **4 of 13 students (31%) increased by 25 percentage points or more.**
- 5 of 13 students (39%) increased between 10 and 25 percentage points.
- 2 of 13 students (15%) increased between 1 and 10 percentage points.
- 2 of 13 students (15%) had no change or a decline in scores.

9 students (5<sup>th</sup>: 4; 6<sup>th</sup>: 0; 7<sup>th</sup>: 3; 8<sup>th</sup>: 2) scored above the threshold for academic intervention on all tests. Of those students:

- 0 of 9 students (0%) increased by 25 percentage points or more.
- 4 of 9 students (44%) increased between 10 and 25 percentage points.
- 4 of 9 students (44%) increased between 0 and 10 percentage points.
- 1 of 9 students (11%) had no change or a decline in scores.

These results indicate that 82% of students show little improvement in Reading ( $\leq 24$  percentage points) over five months of instruction, including those placed on academic intervention.



The graphs above show the change in benchmark test scores in both Reading and Math by student. While 19 of the 29 students have data for the complete period of instruction in both subjects and show some increase in both Math and Reading scores over the five month period, the growth shown was almost exclusively between 0 and 24 percentage points. The student with the highest gains in Reading also had a decline in Math.

Overall, the results of the benchmark assessments in both subjects indicate that a large majority of students in either subject (96% in Math, 82% in Reading) improve less than 25 percentage points over five months of instruction.

### **Board Options**

Option 1: The Board may approve the Enrollment Cap Notification Request for the charter held by South Valley Academy, Inc. The following language is provided for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, that the Board approve the Enrollment Cap Notification Request for the charter held by South Valley Academy, Inc., increasing the enrollment cap from 50 to 425.

Option 2: The Board may deny the Enrollment Cap Notification Request for the charter held by South Valley Academy, Inc. Staff recommends the following language for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, that the Board deny the requests to increase the enrollment cap for the charter held by South Valley Academy, Inc., for the reasons that:

- The academic data and documentation provided by South Valley Academy, Inc. to support the increase in enrollment cap from 50 to 425 does not provide sufficient evidence that the Charter Holder has previously provided a learning environment that resulted in improved student achievement.
- (Specific reasons the Board may have found during its consideration.)

# Enrollment Cap Notification Request

## Charterholder Info

### Charter Holder

**Name:**  
South Valley Academy, Inc.

**CTDS:**  
07-85-78-000

**Mailing Address:**  
17667 North 91st Avenue  
Peoria, AZ 85328  
> [View detailed info](#)

### Representative

**Name:**  
Ronda Owens

**Phone Number:**  
4807792000

**Fax Number:**  
480-705-9045

## Downloads

 [Download all files](#)

## Enrollment Cap

**From:**  
50

**To:**  
425

## Attachments

Board Minutes –  [Download File](#)

### Additional Information\*

No documents were uploaded.

## Increase to Enrollment Cap Attachments

The following 2 attachments are only required if the enrollment cap is increasing.

Documentation that current facilities can accommodate requested capacity –  [Download File](#)

Narrative describing the staffing changes and recruiting efforts that will be made to reach capacity –  [Download File](#)

## Signature

Charter Representative Signature  
Ronda Owens 05/11/2012

**GENERAL SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**ALL ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA ARE OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**  
**INCLUDING REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS**

**South Valley Academy, Inc dba South Valley Prep & Arts Academy Board of Trustees may go into Executive Session for confidentiality reasons at any time during the meeting, to receive pertinent information and legal advice with their attorney.**

**Meeting Minutes for 1/30/12 at 5pm:**

1. Call to Order by Ronda Owens
2. Attendance - KJ Weihing, Ronda Owens, Kellyn Wines, Swen Anderson, Ex Officio (Deb Coleman)  
Absent - Donald Kelly
3. Open Call to the Public: If the item is not an Agenda Item, the Board may or may not wish to address the issue at this time. Please register with the Secretary of the Board to Speak at the Open Call. Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes per person.
4. Agendas: Review and approve to previous Board Meeting minutes - Ronda motioned to approve minutes from previous meeting, Kellyn Wines Second and all were in favor.
5. Review and approval of all Board Members - For the purposes of AZ State Charter Board all board members were reviewed for approval: KJ Weihing, Swen Anderson, Donald Kelly, Ronda Owens, Kellyn Wines - KJ Weihing made the motion to approve all Board Members to be on the Board, Kellyn Wines Seconded the motion and all were in favor. Ronda Owens made a motion to add Deb Coleman as the ex officio, KJ seconded, all were in favor.
6. Discussion and Review of AZCIP Grant - Total Budget was \$410,000 for year one and two combined, which was used to get the school up and running with technology, furniture and curriculum. Amount remaining in the budget is \$85,000 for 2011-2012 for this year and \$240,000 remaining for next year. Set up of technology and anything that can be taken by the school can be paid for by the Grant. Board Members are to sign the yellow page in the binder to ensure they reviewed. Ronda Owens made a motion to accept the presentation of the AZCIP Grant financial information as presented in the binder passed around, Kellyn Wines seconds the motion, all were in favor.
7. Discussion and action regarding enrollment count  
  
In our charter when approved for enrollment cap was 150, there was a typo at the charter board and it is now registering as 50. Our proforma for this school is based on a cap of 30-32 students per class. The facility has the capacity to hold in excess of this (approx 575), but our board has capped the enrollment at 425. KJ makes a motion to cap the enrollment at 425, Kellyn seconds, all were in favor.

**8. Principals Report:**

- Staff recognition and reports

- Upcoming events and announcements: Feb 2nd and 3rd are parent teacher conferences, Feb 9th a school wide trip to Mesa Arts Center, Feb 13-17th is the Galileo testing for the second block grades 5-8, Feb 16th is Ultimate Frizbee game, March 6 the art teacher is taking the class to ASU art museum and parents are welcome to attend, March 7th is the 3rd quarter awards day, March 9th is the dance company performance 6-8pm, March 10th and 11th the Ostrich Festival takes place and the dance company is going out to perform, March 28th are spring pictures and also 8th grade promotion pics, March 30th is the talent show, April 16-20th are the AIMS test.

- Data: Discussion and review of Galileo, Dibels Reading and Math data and decisions on academic levels, discussion regarding disaggregated student achievement data identifying gaps among student subpopulations: Teachers are currently working on the Student Achievement Plans to discuss with parents at the parent teacher conferences to let parents know exactly where children are in math and reading. This breaks each area down into standards so parents understand where students are deficient or succeeding. Galileo mirrors AIMS key code so we can ensure they are successful. Board discussed

implementing bubble sheet testing in weekly quizzes to allow students to have increased exposure to AIMS style testing. Students are demonstrating improvement in all areas and some student are showing a year's growth already. For the students having difficulty the Principal has set up tutoring in mornings and after school along with differential instruction in the classroom.

The Board Discussed the following items. Mrs. Coleman presented information to the Board on items 9-14.

9. Discussion regarding education strategies used to close achievement gaps among student populations.
10. Discussion regarding support for increased academic achievement as measured by state assessment.
11. Discussion regarding South Valley strategic plan: Academic, Athletic and Art Philosophy and Facilities. - The strategic plan initially promotes increased learning for our students and to focus primarily on academics and secondly to promote a well rounded student through arts and athletics.
12. Discussion regarding achievement and relative program adjustments to achieve annual improvement.
13. Discussion regarding measuring progress.
14. Discussion regarding involvement of parents and community members in planning, program design and implementation of the charter school. Mrs. Coleman has started a Parent Advisory Board and has included monthly activities for parents and children to participate at the school.
15. Discussion regarding policies and procedures to contract services. Currently there are contract procedures in place with Skyline Education, inc. Skyline Education is currently reviewing lease to own contracts for phones, cameras, bell, intercom and security systems.
16. Discussion regarding access to Board Agendas and minutes on website. Board Minutes and information are loaded on the website ([www.southvalleyschools.com](http://www.southvalleyschools.com)) and available at all times.
17. Discussion regarding next Board Meeting date. - March 27th at 5pm.
18. Discussion and consideration regarding any of the above items.
19. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:06pm. Kellyn Wines made the motion to adjourn, KJ Weiing seconds the motion, all were in favor.