

AGENDA ITEM: South Valley Academy, Inc. Application

South Valley Academy, Inc. submitted an application package for the Board’s consideration. This report contains:

- Background information regarding the qualifications of the applicant,
- A copy of the scoring rubric which confirms the application package meets the requirements as demonstrated through the review of the preliminary application package submitted on August 3, 2009, the technical assistance provided to the applicant, and a review of the revised application package submitted on December 18, 2009, and
- Staff’s overview and summary of the application package.

The following background information is provided for your consideration:

South Valley Academy, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation that was created on March 31, 2009 for the purpose of conducting public education with two directors: Ronda Owens became a member 03/31/2009; and Brian Shipman became a member 03/31/2009.

Background Information

Corporate Principal	Education History	Employment History	FCC	Notes
Ronda Owens	Master’s degree in Administrative Education	President, Skyline Schools, Inc., 2000 – present.	Valid	There were no concerns identified in the background and credit check.
Brian Shipman	Master’s degree in Education Administration and Supervision	Assistant Superintendent, Skyline Schools, Inc., 2001 – present.	Valid	There were no concerns identified in the background and credit check.

Current and Prior Charter Compliance

Corporate Principal	Compliance Information
Ronda Owens Brian Shipman	<p>These applicants are also identified as corporate principals for four (4) other charter sponsored by the Board:</p> <p>1. Skyline Gila River Schools, LLC is operated by both Ronda Owens and Brian Shipman. The charter for Skyline Gila River Schools, LLC was granted May 11, 2009. The charter operates one school site, Skyline D5, which serves grades 5-8 and received a Performing label in FY2009 and made AYP.</p> <p>Fiscal year 2010 is the first year of operation for Skyline Gila River Schools, LLC under its own charter contract. The organization’s first audit will be due by November 15, 2010.</p> <p>2. Skyline Schools, Inc. is operated by Ronda Owens. The charter was granted June 28, 2000. Currently, the charter operates three school sites serving grades K-12. Skyline Technical High School is a Performing school, Skyline West Prep School is Performing Plus, and Skyline Prep and Arts Academy is Performing. All three school sites made AYP.</p> <p>For fiscal year 2009, Skyline Schools, Inc. is subject to a Single Audit. Therefore, the fiscal year 2009 audit is not due until March 31, 2010. The organization’s fiscal year 2008 audit did not identify any areas requiring a corrective action plan.</p> <p>FY2008 Enhancing Education Through Technology Completion Report for Skyline</p>

	<p>Schools, Inc. was rejected by ADE and has to be resubmitted by the charter. The Completion Report is overdue.</p> <p>3. Vector School District, Inc. is operated by both Ronda Owens and Brian Shipman. The charter for Vector School District, Inc. was granted January 12, 2009. Currently the charter operates one school site, Vector Prep and Arts Academy, serving grades K-4. The school has not received an AZLEARNNS and AYP profile as of this date.</p> <p>Fiscal year 2010 is the first year of operation for Vector School District, Inc. The organization’s first audit will be due in November 2010.</p> <p>4. AZ Compass Schools, Inc. is operated by both Ronda Owens and Brian Shipman. The charter for AZ Compass Schools, Inc. was granted January 14, 2008. Currently the charter operates one school site, AZ Compass Prep School, serving grades 9-12 and is a Performing Plus school which made AYP.</p> <p>FY2010 ARRA IDEA – Cash Management Non-submission</p>
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School Governing Body

Member Type	Number	Name
Organization Principal	2	Ronda Owens, Brian Shipman

Roles and Responsibilities

Applicant	Governing Body
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage and control assets and affairs • Serve as Governing Body • Fill vacancies on the Board • Adopt, amend, or repeal bylaws • Select Principal • Approve annual budget • Fundraising campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support vision and mission • Oversee the overall performance of school • Set general policies and overall curriculum policies • Develop annual budget and financial procedures • Develop policy handbooks • Review and approve curriculum • Approve personnel polices and monitor • Assure school fulfills charter contract
Corporate Board and Governing Body have same membership.	

Program of Instruction

Mission	Our mission is to provide each student and family we serve with high quality college preparatory educational programs and services designed to stimulate life-long learning while developing character through academics, athletics, and the arts.
Description of Community and Target Market	The students which South Valley Academy, Inc. targets to serve need smaller classrooms, more one-on-one attention, a learner-centered environment, and a school approach to give them a solid foundation upon which to build their academic career. The Academy will be drawing students from four school districts (Roosevelt, Phoenix, Wilson and Balsz) located in the five mile radius from the school site, Baseline Road and 16 th Street, in Phoenix. There are 92 public schools in this five mile radius, serving over 27,000 PK-8 students. The student population residing in this area is predominantly Hispanic (82.8% average) and approximately 36.1% are English Language Learners (ELL). Over 90% of the student population in this same area is low-income.
Comprehensive Program of	In its narrative, the applicant proposes to provide 5 th – 8 th grade students college prep curriculum, integrated with Core Knowledge® and the Arts. Core Knowledge® is a

Instruction Summary	scientifically-based, sequential rich curriculum that helps all students interact with the world through theme-based classroom studies. In order to achieve academic excellence, the program focuses on character development through the academics, athletics, and the arts. Methods of instruction include block scheduling, differentiated instruction, project-based learning, strategies that support the multiple intelligences, and learning through the Arts. The school will have a departmentalized approach to learning and teaching for 5 th – 8 th grade. Assessment is viewed as a process, using formative and summative assessments. A variety of remediation opportunities, which are timely and support mastery, will be provided to students who score below 80%. Remediation programs include intervention programs, small group re-teaching, one-on-one work, and computer generated enrichment.				
School Calendar	Standard – 180 days				
Student Count	Year	Grades Served	# of Students	# of Sites	
	1	5-8	50	1	
	2	5-8	100	1	
	3	5-8	150	1	
Findings	The application meets the minimum requirements, although the following area(s) scored an approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments: 1 of 4 grade levels (7th) 				

Business Plan/Budget

Budget	The applicant has secured a \$100,000 line of credit, of which \$35,000 is intended to be used for start-up activities such as: software, marketing, legal work, supplies, technology, furniture, building and improvements, and outside consultants. Years one through three of the operating budget are based on 90% of the projected student enrollment. Projected annual budget balances are: Year One - \$5,119, Year Two - \$6,343, and Year Three - \$10,499. At the end of each month during the first year revenue exceeds expenditures.
Secured Funds	The secured funds as stated by the applicant have been confirmed as available.
Findings	The application meets the minimum requirements, although the following area(s) scored an approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personnel expenditures (Special Education)

Site Information

Name of Proposed School	South Valley Prep and Arts School
Location	Confirmed location: Southwest corner of the intersection of 16 th Street and Baseline Road, Phoenix, AZ. The school street address is projected to be on 15 th St, Phoenix, AZ.
Secured Facility	The school facility development is projected to be a multiphase project. When fully developed, the main school building (8,263 SF) of South Valley Prep and Arts School will have 5 classrooms, specialty rooms, and an administrative area. The school will share a cafeteria/multipurpose facility (9,553 SF) and a gym facility (7,972 SF) with its proposed sister school South Phoenix Prep and Arts Academy (new charter for K-4 grades).

Scoring Rubric Summary

Preliminary application package scoring rubric results: 42% of the scoring areas did not meet the criteria.
Revised application package scoring rubric results: 3% of the scoring areas did not meet the criteria.

Staff Recommendations

Approve the application and grant a charter to South Valley Academy, Inc. to establish South Valley Prep and Arts Academy.