

MAY 09 2011

ADDING GRADE LEVELS TO CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST

(Charter Holder Name) The Odyssey Preparatory Academy (CTDS) 078561001

(Charter Holder Mailing Address) 6500 S Apache Rd

(City, State) Buckeye, AZ (Zip) 85326

(Charter Representative's Name) Frank Yanez

(Phone Number) 623-327-3111 (Fax Number) 623-327-0554

**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.**

x **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:

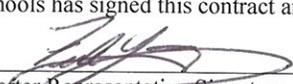
- Math – A completed curriculum sample template including all required attachments as outlined on the template attached.
- Language Arts - A completed curriculum sample template, for both reading and writing, including all required attachments as outlined on the template attached.

The Arizona State Board for Charter Schools and The Odyssey Preparatory Academy (Charter Holder), herein agree to amend the terms of the charter contract as follows:

**FROM SERVING GRADES: 1-7**

**TO SERVING GRADES: 1-8**

In witness whereof, Charter Holder has signed this contract amendment as of this 9 day of MAY, 2011, and the State Board for Charter Schools has signed this contract amendment as of this 9 day of MAY, 2011, 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

## Board Meeting Minutes

### The Odyssey Preparatory Academy

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of The Odyssey Preparatory Academy and to the general public that the Board will hold a meeting, open to the public as specified below. The Board reserves the right to change the order of items on the agenda, with the exception of public hearings set for a specific time. One or more members of the Board may participate in the meeting by telephonic communications.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02(H), the Board may discuss and take action concerning any matter listed on the agenda.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) the Board may vote to go into Executive Session, which will not be open to the public, for legal advice concerning item B.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Mary Yanke at (602) 680-0967. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Chairman: Frank Yanez

Other Board Members: Mary Yanke, Megan Olson, Holly Johnson

#### I. Call to order

\* Meeting called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Frank Yanez

#### II. Roll call

\* All board members present

#### III. Open issues

#### IV. New business

##### a) Call to the Public

- Frank Yanez makes call to public and explains the procedure in that the public may address the board within a limited time frame and the board cannot dialogue with the public during the call to public
- Maria Zermeno (public) proceeds to address the board in the request that her children may continue to attend The Odyssey Preparatory Academy despite the students high percentage in absences
- Zermeno states that this is the hardest year she has had and knows it has been a struggle for her children attending school. She states that she was working double shifts and explains that her family was homeless for some time. During this time, she and her husband had been looking for a home to buy and she was able to purchase one in Buckeye. She chose the Buckeye area due to the opportunities her children have at The Odyssey Preparatory

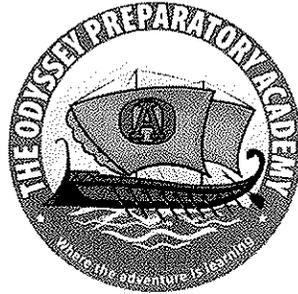
Academy (TOPA). She informs the board that one of her children is finally learning to read and that no other school, besides TOPA has had patience with her child. She asks that the board consider giving her children a second chance and to keep them at TOPA. She also stated that her husband has had heart problems due the stress the family has undergone.

- b) Discussion of expulsion of two Odyssey scholars
- Frank Yanez explains that the board will go into executive session and asks the public to leave the room.
  - Board goes into executive session @9:08 a.m.
  - Executive session ends @9:26 a.m. and public is asked to come back into meeting
  - Olson makes a motion to:
    - Place Zermeno Children on Academic Probation which entails the following:
      1. Zermeno children continue attending TOPA under the stipulation that if they are to have perfect attendance from April 25, 2011 until the end of the school year of June 9, 2011. If they have one absence, then this will cause an automatic removal from TOPA and will not require a board meeting for the removal
      2. In the next school year of 2011-2012, the Zermeno children are to have less than 10% of absences, and
      3. No absences from August 22<sup>nd</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. If either of these occurs for school year of 2011-2012 then this will cause an automatic removal from TOPA and will not require a board meeting for the removal.
  - Yanez summarizes the motion to make sure Zermeno understands and she agrees to the terms.
  - Yanke seconds the motion
  - Unanimously approved
  
  - Johnson makes motion to refuse enrollment for Shaver in the academic year of 2011-2012 due to absences. Shaver will complete current school year with The Odyssey
  - Yanke seconds the motion
  - Unanimously approved
- c) Approve amendment for addition of 8<sup>th</sup> grade for school year 2011-2012
- Olson makes motion to approve addition of 8<sup>th</sup> grade for school year of 2011-2012
  - Johnson seconds the motion
  - Unanimously approved

- d) Approve projected Goodyear budget to present to Hamlin Financial
  - Olson makes a motion to approve projected Goodyear budget to present to Hamlin Financial
  - Johnson seconds the motion
  - Unanimously approved
  
- e) Approve board meeting location from 111 E. Monroe Avenue #101, Buckeye, AZ 85326 to 6500 S. Apache Road, Buckeye, AZ 85326.
  - Olson makes motion to approve board meeting location from 111 E. Monroe Avenue #101, Buckeye, AZ 85326 to 6500 S. Apache Road, Buckeye, AZ 85326
  - Johnson seconds the motion
  - Unanimously approved
  
- f) Approve addition of new site for school year 2011-2012 in Goodyear, AZ 85338
  - Olson makes motion to approve addition of new site for school year 2011-2012 in Goodyear, AZ 85338
  - Johnson seconds the motion
  - Unanimously approved

#### V. Adjournment

- Yanke motions to adjourn meeting
- Johnson seconds the motion
- Unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:37



The Odyssey Preparatory Academy

Amendment to add 8<sup>th</sup> grade 2011-2012

Narratives

# Narrative describing how the additional grades support the philosophy, methods of instruction, special emphasis, and mission of the charter.

It was the original intent of the Odyssey Preparatory Academy to open Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and open one grade level every year until we were a full K-8 school. Due to community demand we amended our original charter from k-5 to k-6. Last school year, we amended to add 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Because it is the intent of the Odyssey Preparatory Academy to open the next grade level each year through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, it is necessary to amend the charter to add 8<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2011-2012 school year.

## Philosophy

The Odyssey Preparatory Academy will provide their students with the highest quality education. By infusing technology with a variety of proven educational philosophies, the academy will prepare students to compete and succeed in today's global economy.

- An Odyssey classroom will mirror the business world.
- Students will be well versed in technological applications.
- The Odyssey Academy will foster graduates who have an appreciation for hard work and accomplishment. A strong work ethic will be encouraged, valued and rewarded.
- Students will learn to work cooperatively to come up with creative problem solving solutions. They will see the benefit of working together as a team as opposed to attacking problems solely on an individual basis.  
Students will leave the Odyssey Academy armed with a myriad of critical thinking and creative problem solving strategies
- Students will also be immersed in the fine arts and physical fitness.
- Students will see how music and art is infused into everything that they do.
- An emphasis will be placed on physical fitness. We believe in educating the whole child; mind and body.
- Cultural literacy will be emphasized and infused throughout all lesson plans. "Literacy demands interaction with the culture and reflection of it. A knowledge of a canonical set of literature is not valuable when engaging with others in a society if the knowledge stops at the end of the text — as life is interwoven with art, expression, history and experience, cultural literacy requires the broad range of knowledge and the use of that knowledge in the creation of a communal language and a collective knowledge. Cultural literacy stresses the knowledge of those pieces of information which content creators will assume the audience already possesses." (Wikipedia, 2008)

The Core Knowledge Sequence continues through the grades 6,7,8, so we will be able to use the same curriculum throughout the entire school, the training for an 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher will be exactly the same as the training for the K-6 teachers; so no additional training or expense will be needed to add an 8th grade this year. The teaching philosophy will remain the same.

**Methods of Instruction:** It is expected that the same methods of instruction that are to be used by our teachers in the K-7 model will be implemented in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. The methods of instruction to be used are:

**Teacher Directed Instruction:** When a concept or skill is first being introduced, it is necessary to employ teacher directed instruction. It is also necessary to use this method with practice or review of specific concepts. The teacher would get the attention of the class, share the objective, model specific activity, whole group activity, check for understanding, individual practice.

**Integrated Technology:** Students must be well versed in technology. Odyssey Prep teachers will integrate technology into the majority of their lesson plans. Every classroom will be equipped with a flat screen projection monitor for the teacher. Each teacher will be issued a laptop and the students will have complete access to mobile laptop labs and a fully equipped computer lab.

**Differentiated Instruction:** Teachers will modify their lessons to meet the needs and strengths of all learners. Each modality will be addressed in the lessons.

**Cooperative Learning:** Employers today require their employees to be able to work cooperatively in projects. Students must learn these skills in the classroom. Teachers know the difference between group work and cooperative learning. They also must be trained in facilitating cooperative learning groups effectively.

**Cross-Curricular Thematic Unit:** Students need to see that themes carry over across different subject levels. This enables them to make higher level connections and synthesize knowledge.

**Cross-Curricular Project Based Learning:** Projects that integrate multiple subject levels allow students to demonstrate mastery of a certain concept or skill while allowing students to apply their knowledge to a real life example.

**The special emphasis** will be technology and college prep. The curriculum used continues through this grade level and beyond, adding an 8<sup>th</sup> grade will align with the special emphasis of the school.

**The Mission** at The Odyssey Academy is to make certain that all of our students develop the character, intellectual and creative problem solving skills as well as the technological wherewith-all needed for success in high school, college, and beyond.

There are 57 8<sup>th</sup> grade students currently enrolled for the 2011-2012 school year (with the understanding that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade amendment is approved.) It is the desire of the current 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents as well as the administration of The Odyssey Academy to continue this mission for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Parents have enrolled their 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students at Odyssey this year knowing that we would pursue all efforts to add a grade level each year through 12<sup>th</sup> grade so that our students do not have to seek an alternative educational setting after 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Expected Student Performance:** The goal at The Odyssey Preparatory Academy for our additional 8<sup>th</sup> grade is the same as our goal for the rest of our students. We believe that through all of the intense remediation and enrichment programs that 80% of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will achieve mastery on all state mandated tests.

**Timeline of Implementation:** The 8<sup>th</sup> grade will open August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. The same time as the rest of the school.

Staffing: It is the intention of The Odyssey Preparatory Academy to add two sections of 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We will hire 2 certified, Highly Qualified teachers, the classes will enrolled at 27 a piece, this will add 54 students to our expected enrollment.