

Instructional Days Amendment Request

Charterholder Info

Charter Holder

Name:
Vista College Preparatory, Inc.

CTDS:
07-82-24-000

Mailing Address:
812 S. 6th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85003
> [View detailed info](#)

Representative

Name:
Julia Meyerson

Phone Number:

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Contractual Days

188

To
182

Fiscal Year Effective Date
FY 2014 and 2015

Type of Change
Permanent Change

Attachment

Board Minutes –  [Download File](#)

School Calendar –  [Download File](#)

Daily Instructional Schedule –  [Download File](#)

Narrative –  [Download File](#)

Additional Information*
No documents were uploaded.

Signature

Charter Representative Signature
Julia Meyerson 05/29/2014

Vista College Prep Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 5/27/14

Location: VCP, 812 S. 6th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85003

Time: 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Board members present: Charles Mitchell, Cassie Breecher, Kelly McManus, Katherine Cecala, Dawn Kennedy, Irene Carroll, Chris Dang

Board members absent: none

Staff present: Julia Meyerson

Cassie Breecher called the meeting to order at 2:42 p.m.

Agenda Item – Minutes/Upcoming Events

Ms. McManus reviewed the previous meeting's minutes. Ms. Cecala moved to approve the minutes as presented, and Ms. Kennedy seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. McManus reviewed the agenda for the day's meeting. Ms. Cecala moved to approve the minutes as presented, and Ms. Kennedy seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Meyerson announced the board will not be meeting in June, but we will need to meet in July before July 15th.

Agenda Item – Call to the Public

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item – Executive Session

Ms. Cecala moved to recess into executive session for the purpose of discuss the Executive Director evaluation and salary, and Ms. Kennedy seconded. The motion carried. The board recessed into executive session at 2:50 p.m. The board reconvened in the general session at 3:12 p.m.

Agenda Item – Board Officer Election

Ms. Cecala moved that the following persons shall be, and hereby are, elected to serve as the officers of the Board until the next annual meeting of the Board or until their successors are duly elected or appointed and qualified:

Chair – Charles Mitchell

Vice Chair – Cassie Hilpman Breecher

Secretary – Kelly McManus

Treasurer – Katherine Cecala

Ms. Kennedy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Agenda Item – Executive Director Report

a. Prop 301 plan

Ms. Meyerson presented the Prop 301 plan to the board. The board discussed the proposed approach to performance funding. Ms. Cecala moved to approve the Prop 301 plan as presented. Ms. Kennedy seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Ms. Meyerson presented a plan for FY14 and FY15 calendar explaining how many instructional days the school would have. Ms. Cecala moved to approve and recognize that the FY13 and FY14 school calendars have fewer days (185 and 182 respectively) than what is listed in the Vista College Prep charter application (188 days). Ms. Breecher seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Cecala moved to ratify the academic calendar for FY15 as presented. Ms. Breecher seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Ms. Meyerson presented the Executive Director report. The board discussed academic results for the year as well as a facility update.

Agenda Item – Planning by Committee

The board decided that each committee will do planning on its own prior to the July meeting.

Agenda Item – Academic Committee

- a. Ms. McManus asked Ms. Meyerson to discuss highlights of the academic dashboard.
- b. Ms. McManus briefed the board on the special legislative session.

Agenda Item – Finance Committee

- a. Ms. Cecala asked Ms. Meyerson to discuss highlights of the finance and operations dashboard.

- b. Ms. Cecala presented the proposed budget for FY15 for the Department of Education. Mr. Dang moved to approve the proposed FY15 budget as presented. Ms. Cecala seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item – Development Committee

- a. Ms. Kennedy discussed the highlights of this year’s fundraising efforts and the fundraising goals for next year. The board also brainstormed development ideas.

Agenda Item – Other Business

There was no other business for the board to discuss.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded, and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

Dated and posted this 27th day of May, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly McManus, Secretary

Vista College Prep (Narrative re: Calendar Days)

Background: Vista College Prep's charter application states that we will have 188 calendar days. However, as a school and Governing Board, we decided that for FY 14 we will have 185 school days, and for FY 15 we will have 182 school days. Vista College Prep's Governing Board has approved both adjustments and both calendars. Additionally, all Vista College Prep school calendars from year one and moving forward, meet the state requirement of a 180-day minimum.

Rationale: While we will be shortening our calendar days (as compared to our application), our longer school day (7:40 am – 4:00 pm) remains intact and a primary driver for our academic success. The following are drivers that will impact the change in number of days:

- **STEP Literacy Assessment:** Each year Vista College Prep staff evaluates the effectiveness of our STEP assessment cycle. Following each cycle we have a data day. Each year we will evaluate the effectiveness of the cycle and adjust days accordingly.
- **Professional Development/No School Adjustments:** Additionally, as we continue evaluating best practices as to when and how many days our staff will need for data days, and which days we would like to give our staff professional development, or days off (since we do not take a full fall break, and already go above the required 180 school days), we anticipate that our calendar will often change from year to year.
- **Review of Best Practices:** And, finally, we also are leaving room for our evaluation of what worked and what did not work each year. We will continue to make these judgments on an annual basis as we consider alternate professional development dates, possible whole school college visits, whole staff professional development to visit other high performing schools. All of these will factor into our calendar decision each year. However, we will always be above the minimum number of days as required by the state of Arizona.

We evaluate our calendar on an annual basis so that we learn from the past year and are ready to make adjustments as needed.

Academic Data: Finally, we do not believe that this change in days has impacted our academic results for FY14. Instead, we believe that our adjustment and reflection on number of days will be beneficial. After our first year of operation, Vista College Prep scholars made approximately 1.6 years of growth in literacy (our primary benchmark in K-2). Therefore, we are very confident in our model and very excited about our results.

Note: I have included both calendars for FY 14 and FY 15. Additionally, I have included only the daily schedule for FY 14, however, the hours for days in school will not change for FY 15. Please let me know if you need anything else. Thank you.

