

# Instructional Days Amendment Request

## Charterholder Info

### Charter Holder

**Name:**  
Westwind Children's Services

**CTDS:**  
07-87-73-000

**Mailing Address:**  
2045 West Northern Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85021  
> [View detailed info](#)

### Representative

**Name:**  
Debra Slagle

**Phone Number:**  
602-864-7731

**Fax Number:**  
602-864-7720

## Downloads

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## Contractual Days

144

To  
180

**Fiscal Year Effective Date**  
2013

**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**  
Debra Slagle 03/15/2012



**Westwind Children' Services**  
An Independent Public School  
Westwind Community Schools  
2045 West Northern Avenue Phoenix AZ 85021

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**WCS Corporate Board**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
Wednesday, February 29, 2012  
2045 W. Northern Avenue  
Time: 5:30 PM

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Attending: Debra Slagle, Jim Cable, Todd Coleman

Attending via teleconference: Chuck Slagle, Sheila Bale, Ronni Zeigler

Absent: Kris Ward

Discussion Items:

**1. Approval of the Calendar for 2012 – 2013:** Debra Slagle explained to the board members that at the site administrators meeting on 02/17/12, the principals and assistant principals indicated that they felt it was best to unify the school calendars throughout Westwind Community Schools. Ronni Zeigler motioned to adopt the 2012-2013 school calendar for Westwind Children's Services as presented. Jim Cable seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

**2. Change in the Number of Instructional Days:** Debra Slagle explained to the members that as a result ongoing evaluation of all the factors that were impacting student achievement and growth, the number of instructional days and use of time during the school day were closely scrutinized. In discussion at the 2/17/12 meeting mentioned above, the site administrators concurred that it would further support improving student achievement, as well as incorporating the Common Core curriculum, to change from a 4-day per week schedule to a 5-day per week schedule; and move from a block schedule to a six class per day schedule. The academic year would go from 144 to 180 instructional days per year. Jim Cable motioned to adopt the change from a 144 day to a 180 day calendar. Sheila Bale seconded the motion; the motioned passed unanimously.

**3. Dress Code Review:** Debra Slagle explained to the members the enhancements to the Dress Code for Students.

**4. Tax Update:** Debra Slagle reported to the members that a representative from the Internal Revenue Service stopped by unannounced to meet with her about the issues associated with the payroll taxes. Debra also explained that because Westwind pays twice monthly, payroll taxes for that period must be paid within three days of checks being issued to employees. In order to meet this requirement, Debra was given the directive to split payment of the February 20, 2012, payroll into 80% and 20%; with 80% paid on 2/20/12 and 20% paid on 03/01/12. Additionally, a payment schedule to the IRS for payroll taxes was worked out with Paychex to start with auto-pays on 03/01/12. Two payments toward the 2011 payroll taxes due have been made to date, with an additional \$5000 payment scheduled for 3/1/12. The \$186,000 in back payroll taxes are scheduled to be paid off within 3 years.

Board Comments

Call to Public for Comments: None were submitted

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

### **Narrative: Change in Instructional Days**

Westwind Children's Services' schools, Westwind Prep and Westwind at Anthem, are high schools. Since opening in 1998, Westwind Prep has had a four day instructional week and 144 instructional days per year. Friday mornings were used for enrichment and remediation. Friday afternoons have been used for professional development, planning and staff meetings. The Title 1 Targeted Assistance Program, offering extended learning time, also occurred on Friday mornings.

Over the past three years, WPA has seen a decline in student performance and growth. As a result, the leadership team has been reviewing all policies and procedures that may require modification to support student achievement. The principals at both Westwind Prep and Westwind at Anthem believe that Fridays are not being used effectively to support student learning. This is also the opinion of the Superintendent/Charter Representative, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction and the board for the charter, Westwind Children's Services. Therefore, the board voted to change the number of instructional days in the year to 180, resulting in a five day instructional week instead of a four day instructional week. Increased time on task is a research-based strategy that supports increased student achievement when the instructional time is structured to implement effective instructional strategies. As a result, not only is the instructional time increasing; but support is now in place for teachers to encourage the use of effective instructional strategies, including training and heightened accountability.

The amendment to change the number of instructional days is the result of the aforementioned actions.