

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Application for New Charter

Request

Breakthrough Virtual Learning Solutions (“Applicant”) submitted a new charter application package on June 19, 2019. The Technical Review Panel (“TRP”) evaluated the application package and determined that the revised application package does not meet the minimum scoring requirements set by the Board for the 2020-2021 application cycle. The Applicant has requested that the revised application package not meeting the scoring criteria move forward for Board consideration. The Applicant also attended a capacity interview conducted by the TRP. Upon consideration of the application package and results of the capacity interview, the TRP recommends that the revised application package for the Applicant be approved.

Applicant Summary

Proposed School Name	Target Start Date	School Location	Grade Levels	School Calendar
Breakthrough Virtual Learning Solutions	August 10, 2020	Online	9-12	185

Mission Statement

By providing an innovative, alternative option for at-risk students, we Inspire Hope! By reigniting our students’ hope for a brighter future and providing a positive learning environment with professionals who support each student’s educational goals, we meet each student’s individual learning needs to maximize opportunities for success.

Target Population

The following summary was excerpted from the Applicant’s Educational Plan A.2: Target Population narrative.

The Applicant is seeking to operate a statewide, blended school model that serves students who have not found success within the traditional public school system. The Applicant indicates that Arizona’s alternative online schools fall well below the four-year graduation rate of traditional schools, graduating an average of only 27.5% of students. The Applicant proposes that the target student population will include students with the following academic needs, life needs, and demographics: lower socioeconomic status, minority population, students at risk of dropping out and those who have already dropped out of school, and special education students. Additionally, the Applicant also anticipates serving students who are parents and need to care for their children; experience or have a past history of anxiety, emotional trauma, and other medical conditions; need to work in order to provide for their families; need to watch siblings in order for their parents to work; and/or homeschooled and in need of additional choices and dual enrollment.

Three Year Plan

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Grade Levels	9-12	9-12	9-12
Enrollment	200	500	800

Proposed Location (see Business Plan C.1: Facilities Acquisition):

The Applicant provided a sampling of the types of buildings that match its center model criteria. Specific locations were not identified. The Applicant indicated that it was considering downtown Phoenix not far from the airport, Buckeye south of I-10, and Peoria as possible locations for centers.

Program of Instruction

This summary is based on information submitted for the Applicant’s Educational Plan A.1: Educational Philosophy and A.3: Program of Instruction narratives.

The Applicant states that “the Arizona area has a demonstrated, urgent need for high-quality options for high school students, especially those steeped in education innovation and exploration.” The Applicant proposes to implement a non-traditional, blended education program that combines traditional classroom instruction with online learning. The intent is to utilize curriculum aligned with State standards using a model grounded in research for educating at-risk students. The proposal also includes providing engaging content with direct-instruction videos from experts, lessons with virtual teachers, and interactive tools to motivate students. Edgenuity is the content provider the applicant anticipates using.

The Applicant proposes to open a school with an online instruction component; therefore, it was required to submit an Arizona Online Instruction additional information package (“AOI package”) as a component of its written application



package. The AOI package was submitted by the deadline and forwarded to Rio Salado Community College for a substantive review and in-person demonstration. The AOI package submitted by the Applicant met the required criteria (See Appendix C: AOI).

Governance

Corporate Board Members	School Governing Body Members	Type
Maxim Shafik	Robert Giordano	Other
	Travis Gostinger	Other
	Timothy Wood	Other

See Charter Principal Resumes in Appendix B.

TRP Recommendation and Scoring

The TRP assessed the application package against the evaluation criteria published in the New Charter Application Instructions. Approval is based on either receiving 95% or higher for each plan (Educational, Operational, and Business) and/or through showing capacity throughout the interview process. The following is a summary of the evaluation information in support of the recommendation by the TRP based on the revised application package and the capacity interview. A full explanation of the TRP’s recommendation is provided in Appendix A. Recommendation Report.

Overall Scoring Results

	Preliminary TRP Scores		Revised TRP Scores	
Any Falls Below the Expectations ratings?	Yes		No	
Any section in which more than one evaluation area scored Approaches?	Yes		Yes	
		<u>Percent Meets</u>		<u>Percent Meets</u>
Educational Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	No	34.78%	Yes	100%
Operational Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	No	52.70%	No	88.46%
Business Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	No	76.36%	No	90.91%

The TRP provided the Applicant with written technical assistance based on its review of the preliminary written application package and the revised written application package prior to the in-person capacity interview.

The Applicant’s capacity interview was conducted on October 22, 2019. After the in-person interview, the TRP’s recommendation is to **approve** the application package.

Details related to the capacity interview are provided in Appendix A. Recommendation Report.

Applicant Background Summary

Additional data is provided in relation to the Applicant’s principals’ experience and qualifications, as an indicator of the Applicant’s ability to implement a charter or operate a charter school.

Principal Name: Maxim Shafik

Current Affiliation: Five years as CFO, Summit Management Consulting (Michigan)

Past Affiliations of Note:

- One year as VP of Finance and CFO of Visiting Nurse Association Health Service (Michigan)
- Four years as Accounting Supervisor of St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority (Michigan)

