

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Application for New Charter

Request

C.O.R.E. Academy of Excellence, Inc. (“Applicant”) submitted a new charter application package on June 18, 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 denied.

Applicant Summary

Proposed School Name	Target Start Date	School Location	Grade Levels	School Calendar
C.O.R.E. Academy of Excellence	August 5, 2020	Marana	9-12	180 days

Mission Statement

C.O.R.E. Academy of Excellence is established to provide successful outcomes throughout life by providing a solid foundation. The mission statement reads: The CORE mission is to challenge and develop each scholar to reach his or her full intellectual, creative and physical potential through an integrated Classical curriculum. The CORE mission is to teach and challenge the whole student through a rigorous education, rooted in the time-tested teachings passed down through history. The CORE mission is to model and instruct scholars to build strong character-based values needed to contribute wisdom, courage, and leadership to society

Target Population

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

C.O.R.E. Academy of Excellence will be located in Pima County within the greater metro area of Tucson, AZ in the northern suburb of Marana. The Applicant notes that Marana’s projected growth rate outpaces all other Pima County municipalities, with a projected annual growth rate of 3.1%. Further, it is noted that the northwest portion of Tucson/Pima County is severely underserved by high school charter options. According to the Applicant, the four public high schools, Canyon Del Oro, Ironwood Ridge, Marana and Mountain View High Schools are the only public school options for families in this area. The closest charter high school is 12.8 miles and 26 minutes away from the proposed location. There is one private, Classical-based high school, Pusch Ridge Christian which is 12.4 miles away from the proposed C.O.R.E. Academy location. The Applicant states that Pusch Ridge is a full K-12 campus and the \$10,394 tuition is not an option for many families.

Three Year Plan

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Grade Levels	9-12	9-12	9-12
Enrollment	400	600	775

If approved, the Applicant’s overall enrollment cap for year four and beyond would be 1250.

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

C.O.R.E. Academy of Excellence will be located near North Silverbell Road and North Continental Reserve Loop, in Marana, Pima County, Arizona. The property is adequately zoned and all utilities are available.

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 proposes to implement a Classical education model utilizing research backed and standards aligned curriculum - ELA (classical novels, Great Books Foundation), Math (Saxon), Science (Next Gen Science), and History (National Social Studies Standards and AZ Civic Standards). The Applicant proposes a program of instruction that

integrates academics, athletics, community service and social emotional learning programs. The Applicant plans to utilize a teaching model that encourages students to recognize and value scholarship and character and helps to prepare students to become active and responsible leaders in the community.

Governance

Corporate Board Members
Christopher Collins
Paul DeWeerd
Joseph Higgins
Mark Morris
Daniel Ranieri
Ray Schneider
David Towne

School Governing Body Members	Type
Christopher Collins	Community Member
Mark Morris	Community Member
Daniel Ranieri	Community Member
Ray Schneider	Community Member

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

	Percent Meets		Percent Meets	
Educational Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	No	49.61%	No	64.33%
Operational Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	No	60.71%	No	92.86%
Business Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	No	59.09%	No	94.55%

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 **deny** 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: Christopher Collins

Current Affiliation(s):

- Six years as Associate Pastor at Oro Valley Church of the Nazarene
- Seven years as Tucson Area Director for Fellowship of Christian Athletes



Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- Two years as Head Baseball Coach at Trevecca Nazarene University
- Eight years as Assistant Baseball Coach (Lipscomb University, Trevecca Nazarene University)

Principal Name: Paul DeWeerd

Current Affiliation: Two years leadership experience with Tucson Young Life

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- Four years as Principal (Canyon del Oro High School, Mansfield Middle School)
- Six years as Assistant Principal, Curriculum & Instruction (Pueblo Magnet High School)
- Two years Assistant Principal, Student Activities (Pueblo Magnet High School)

Principal Name: Joseph Higgins

Current Affiliation: None

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- Six years as CEO, Leman Academy of Excellence
- Board member (Pima Prevention Partnership, Salpointe Catholic High School, Southwest University of Visual Arts)

Principal Name: Mark Morris

Current Affiliation: Twenty-three years as owner of Boss Construction Inc.

Past Affiliation of Note:

- Three years as Computer Network Technician (Tucson Magnet High School)

Principal Name: Daniel Ranieri

Current Affiliation: Twenty-six years in comprehensive behavioral health services

Principal Name: Ray Schneider

Current Affiliation: Forty-four years in Commercial real estate

Principal Name: David Towne

Current Affiliation(s): Three years as Director of Professional Development (Leman Academy of Excellence)

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- Fifteen years as Principal/Teacher/Staff Development Coordinator/Head Coach (Pusch Ridge Christian Academy)
- Ten years as Teacher/Instructional Coach/Head Tennis Coach (Flowing Wells School District)

