

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Application for New Charter

Request

Copper State Academy (“Applicant”) submitted a new charter application package on June 17, 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
Copper State Academy	August 2, 2021	Phoenix	9-12	180 days

Mission Statement

We provide a rigorous college-prep core curriculum along with specialized business and design electives that are engaging and relevant for the 21st century workplace. Students will build a knowledge base that prepares them for life choices as post-secondary students, consumers, employees, or business owners.

Target Population

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

“Copper State Academy will geographically serve students residing between Northern Avenue and Van Buren and from Central Avenue to 40th Street.” The Applicant proposes to operate in the area of the Creighton, Wilson, and Balsz School Districts in East/Central Phoenix, and hopes to attract students who are interested in entrepreneurship and/or design. A demographic analysis of the nearby schools performed by the Applicant indicates that the target population of the proposed school has a low-socioeconomic status and has a high English learner population. The Applicant stated that: “Copper State will create a strong support system for all Copper State students and, especially, its English Learners to manage their academic responsibilities and maintain active parent involvement; thereby, ensuring a 100% graduation rate.”

Three Year Plan

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Grade Levels	9-10	9-11	9-12
Enrollment	150	200	250

If approved, the Applicant’s overall enrollment cap for year four and beyond would be 500.

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

The Applicant does not yet have a confirmed facility, but it plans to operate in East/Central Phoenix in the 85008, 85014, 85016, or 85018 zip codes. The Applicant has identified three possible locations:

1. 1710 East Indian School Road, Phoenix, AZ 85016
2. 1616 East Indian School Road, Phoenix, AZ 85016
3. 425 North 36th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85008

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.

“Copper State will provide a rigorous college-prep core curriculum along with specialized business and design electives that are engaging and relevant for the 21st century workplace.” Students will work toward meeting Copper State’s Success Expectations for the areas of Knowledge, Collaboration, and the Workplace. The Applicant states that “with the Copper State Educational Model, students have a purpose for learning--purposeful learning has a significant and positive impact on student achievement.” Teachers will be responsible for planning curriculum that aligns with Arizona State Standards and to Copper State’s Mission, Vision and Success Expectations; using Explicit Instruction to ensure rigor, scaffolding, differentiation and interventions which align with the core curriculum; delivering daily lessons; and planning for students to

use their Interactive Notebook. The program also plans to include community outreach and experiences with local businesses to allow students the opportunity to obtain work experience while participating in the high school programs.

Governance

Corporate Board Members	School Governing Body Members	Type
Anne Ferraioli	Mark Houlden	Charter Organization
Mark Houlden	Unnamed	Community Member
Pamela Houlden	Unnamed	Community Member
	Unnamed	Community Member
	Unnamed	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?	No	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	84%	Yes	96%
Operational Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	No	89%	Yes	100%
Business Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	No	75%	No	87%

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 23, 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: Anne Ferraioli

Current Affiliation(s): None

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- Four years as a teacher at Pan American Charter School

Principal Name: Pamela Houlden

Current Affiliation(s): One year as a teacher at Creighton School District

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- Seven years teaching at Pan American Charter School



- One year as a teacher at Phoenix Elementary School District

Principal Name: Mark Houlden

Current Affiliation(s): One year as a teacher at Creighton School District

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- Ten years as a teacher at Pan American Charter School

