

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Application for New Charter

Request

Glen Canyon Outdoor Academy (“Applicant”) submitted a new charter application package on June 15, 2019. The Technical Review Panel (“TRP”) evaluated the application package and determined that the revised application package meets the minimum scoring requirements set by the Board for the 2020-2021 application cycle.

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
Glen Canyon Outdoor Academy	August 3, 2020	Page	K-8	144 days

Mission Statement

Glen Canyon Outdoor Academy is committed to providing an active student-centered environment through outdoor expeditionary learning, collaborative teachers, and family and community engagement that will develop inquisitive explorers, cultivate creative thinkers and empower resilient learners.

Target Population

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

Glen Canyon Outdoor Academy intends to serve students from Page, Greenhaven, and the surrounding Navajo Nation communities such as LeChee, Coppermine, and Kaibeto. Page Unified School District currently serves over 99% of the students in the area. Of them, 75% identify as Native American and of those, 43% live below the poverty line.

Three Year Plan

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Grade Levels	1-6	K-7	K-8
Enrollment	132	170	192

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

The Applicant does not have a confirmed facility, but has identified two possible locations:

1. 583 Lake Powell Blvd.
2. 551 San Francisco Road

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 “place-based experiential education curriculum” that will integrate all core subjects, the arts and the outdoors into cross-curricular units that address Arizona College and Career Ready Standards. The teachers will use backwards planning to work through the 3 steps of the Understanding by Design process to create assessments, lessons, and learning activities of each integrated unit. The Applicant also plans to implement field hours in the form of Outdoor Education, Service Learning and Career Education utilizing the standards and practices taken from Wilderness Education Association and Arizona Association for Environmental Education and aligned with content standards in AZCCRS.



Corporate Board Members
Amy Beenfield
Justine Carryer
Vanessa Glynn-Linaris
Katelynn Hunt
Gwendolyn Lasslo
Eric Nikkel
Amee Payne
Susan Pilkington
Whitney Wertz
Susan Wright

School Governing Body Members	Type
Unnamed	Parent
Unnamed	Community Member
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	No

	Percent Meets		Percent Meets	
Educational Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	No	82.33%	Yes	100%
Operational Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	No	93.33%	Yes	100%
Business Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	No	94.55%	Yes	100%

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: Justine Carryer

Current Affiliation(s): Two years as Executive Director, Curriculum Developer and Primary Educator with Surya Zoba Studies

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- Three years as a Middle and High School math teacher and curriculum developer with Page Unified School District



Principal Name: Susan Wright

Current Affiliation(s): Two years as Court Appointed Special Advocate

Past Affiliation(s) of Note: None

Principal Name: Susan Pilkington

Current Affiliation(s): One year as Trainer and Coach with KOI Education

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- Six years as District PBIS Coordinator with Page Unified School District (Independently contracted)
- One year as Director for Safe Schools/Healthy Students with Page Unified School District
- One year as Behavior Consultant and teacher with Page Unified School District
- Over 10 years of grade 6-12 teaching positions with general education and special education students

Principal Name: Amy Beenfield

Current Affiliation(s): Seven years as Database Manager and Program Lead at United Way of Utah County

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- Six years as Program Manager at The HEAL Foundation

Principal Name: Ameer Payne

Current Affiliation(s): Two years as Art and Art History teacher with Page Christian School

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- Two years as leader with Girl Scouts of America
- One year as Advising member of Page Public Library Advisory Board

Principal Name: Katelynn Hunt

Current Affiliation(s):

- Two years as Staff Nurse at Zion's Way Home Health and Hospice
- Two years as Business Owner of Navajo Village Heritage Center
- Two years as Vice President of Navajolands Academy LLC.

Past Affiliation(s) of Note: None

Principal Name: Whitney Wertz

Current Affiliation(s): Three years as seminary substitute teacher for the LDS Church

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- One year as Youth Spanish camp instructor

Principal Name: Vanessa Glynn-Linaris

Current Affiliation(s): Five years as GIS Specialist and AIS Biologist with National Park Service

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- One year as Fire GIS Specialist with Bureau of Land Management

Principal Name: Gwendolyn Lasslo

Current Affiliation(s): One year as Human Resources Director with Encompass Health Services

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- Four years as Human Resources Director with Page Unified School District
- One year as 21st Century Grant Coordinator and Cycle 4 Audit Coordinator with Page Unified School District

Principal Name: Eric Nikkel

Current Affiliation(s): Four years as Chief of Commercial Services with National Park Service

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- Four years as Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Director with United States Navy