

# AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Application for New Charter

## Request

Scholars Academy Sunnyslope (“Applicant”) submitted a new charter application package on June 10, 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
Scholars Academy Sunnyslope	August 3, 2020	Phoenix	K - 8	180 days

## Mission Statement

Empower all scholars to succeed in college and 21st century careers by providing strategic academics, supporting student needs, engaging family members, building community partnerships, and developing exceptional educators.

## Target Population

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

The Applicant states that “Scholars Academy Sunnyslope will serve students in kindergarten through eighth grades in the Sunnyslope community which includes zip code 85020 (1a) and 85029 (1b), and covers over 10 sq. miles.” The Applicant proposes to operate in a neighborhood which is primarily serviced by the Washington Elementary School District. The Applicant selected and compiled data from five comparable area schools in close proximity and with similar demographics to the target location. These schools are all rated a “C” or “D” by the State Board of Education and serve high poverty students, with 99% qualifying for Free and Reduced Price Lunch. The Applicant states that “In addition to the community and academic challenges outlined above, this learning community is confronted with high rates of special education and English Language Learner populations.”

## Three Year Plan

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
<b>Grade Levels</b>	K-6	K-7	K-8
<b>Enrollment</b>	250	300	350

If approved, the Applicant’s overall enrollment cap for year four and beyond would be 450.

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

The Applicant does not yet have a confirmed facility, but does intend to operate in either the 85020 or 85029 zip codes. The Applicant has identified three possible locations:

1. 1010 East Alice Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85020
2. 906 West Peoria Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85029
3. 2259 West Shangri La, Phoenix, Arizona 85029

## 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 plans to operate a *Core Knowledge* school and will “integrate this curriculum sequence into its instructional framework.” The application package indicates that Core Knowledge Language Arts and My Math will likely be the

programs utilized to meet *Core Knowledge* objectives and Arizona State Standards. The methods used will include “direct instruction, guided practice (cooperative learning), independent practice and experiential learning,” with each approach serving a different purpose. To meet the needs of the Target Population, the Applicant’s Educational Philosophy is one which emphasizes mitigating risk factors such as “emotional & social challenges, acute & chronic stressors, cognitive lags and health & safety issues” that often affect students living in poverty. The school will do this by partnering with state and community organizations to help provide resources that the student population might not have access to at home so they can come to school ready to learn, work to improve parental involvement, and provide a nurturing school culture which approaches “teaching and learning with the lens of a growth mindset as opposed to a fixed mindset.”

Governance

Corporate and School Governing Body Members	Type
Elaine Baldrige	Community Member
Tim Boykin	Community Member
Jason Romero	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	79.83%	Yes	98.00%
Operational Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	No	80.36%	No	92.86%
Business Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	No	59.09%	Yes	100.00%

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 **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: Elaine Baldrige**

Current Affiliation(s): Six years on the Board for the Arizona State School for the Deaf and Blind (Phoenix)

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:



- Forty-two years with the Foundation for Blind Children in several roles including Director of Program Legacy, Director of Program Services, and Family Counselor (Phoenix)

**Principal Name: Tim Boykin**

Current Affiliation(s): None

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- Five years as a Founding Director of Ethos Academy (Glendale)
- Two years as a fellow with Team CFA (Phoenix)

**Principal Name: Jason Romero**

Current Affiliation(s): St. John & Romero, PLLL

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- Six years practicing law at St. John & Romero, PLLL (Phoenix)
- Seven years practicing law as an associate and then a partner at Osborn Maledon (Phoenix)