

Adding Grade Levels to Charter Amendment Request

Charterholder Info

Charter Holder

Name:

Phoenix Collegiate Academy,
Inc.

CTDS:

07-85-59-000

Mailing Address:

5610 S. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85040

> [View detailed info](#)

Representative

Name:

Rachel Bennett- Yanof

Phone Number:

480-213-1301

Fax Number:

602-268-9911

Downloads

 [Download all files](#)

Current Grade Levels

Current Grade Levels Served

- 5th Grade
- 6th Grade
- 7th Grade
- 8th Grade
- 9th Grade
- 10th Grade
- 11th Grade
- 12th Grade

New Grade Levels

For each grade level being added, provide the following as a representation of a program of instruction aligned to the State's approved academic standards and to methods of instruction described in the charter. Please note that a separate upload must be prepared for each grade level and content area and be named as such. Additionally, applicants must restate the name of the file in the Brief Description box (e.g., First Grade Reading, HS Algebra II).

For K-8

Language Arts & Math: A completed curriculum sample for reading, writing, and math for each grade level being added including all attachments as outlined on the [required template and instructions](#).

For 9-12

Language Arts & Math: A completed curriculum sample for reading, writing, and math coursework for each grade level being added including all attachments as outlined on the [required template and instructions](#). Each course must align with the State's graduation requirements.

Add Grade Levels

4th

Curriculum Samples

 [Download File](#) — 4th grade Reading

 [Download File](#) — 4th grade Writing

 [Download File](#) — 4th grade Math

Effective Date

08/05/2013

Attachments

Board Minutes —  [Download File](#)

Narrative —  [Download File](#)

Timeline for implementation —  [Download File](#)

Additional Information*

No documents were uploaded.

Signature

Charter Representative Signature

Rachel Bennett - Yanof 07/11/2013

Phoenix Collegiate Academy
January 5, 2013
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Phoenix Collegiate Academy
5610 S Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ

Minutes
Phoenix Collegiate Academy

A COPY OF THE AGENDA BACKGROUND MATERIAL PROVIDED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MATERIAL RELATING TO POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSIONS) IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION.

A. Call to Order

1. Michael Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 8:53 a.m.

B. Roll Call

1. Michael Zimmerman, Jan Miller, Tomas Reveles, Abran Villegas, Sentari Minor, Rick Finkbeiner and Debbie Dillon present.

C. Approval of minutes from Nov. 14, 2012 meeting

1. Motion by Jan Miller, seconded by Rick Finkbeiner, unanimous approval.

D. Consent Agenda

- a. 990
- b. Anti Fraternization Policy

1. These two items were pulled and tabled for the next full board meeting in March.

c. Approval to expand grade levels served to 4th grade in 2013-14

1. This item was pulled by Michael Zimmerman with a motion to discuss.
Seconded by Jan Miller. Discussion ensued about ensuring that we are not competing with our future other charter operators and that we are comfortable with the expansion from a staffing and curricular perspective. Board agreed to discuss the progress of this group annually to ensure the program is working for fourth grade.

2. Abran Villegas moved to vote on Item C, Michael Zimmerman seconded, unanimous approval.
- E. Election of New Board Members
- F. Election of New Officers
 1. Leslie Saenz and Sarah Porter introduced. Motion to accept both by Debbie Dillon, second by Michael Zimmerman, unanimous approval.
 1. Jan Miller is nominated by Michael Zimmerman as Chair. Seconded by Debbie Dillon, unanimous. Tomas Reveles is nominated for Vice-Chair by Jan Miller, seconded by Debbie Dillon, unanimous. Rick Finkbeiner is nominated for Treasurer by Michael Zimmerman, seconded by Debbie Dillon, unanimous. Leslie Saenz is nominated by Michael Zimmerman for secretary, Debbie Dillon seconds, unanimous.
- G. Executive Session
 1. Motion to move to Executive Session by Abran Villegas, Michael Zimmerman seconds, unanimous at 9:30 a.m.
 2. Motion to move back to regular session at 2:30 p.m. by Jan Miller, seconded by Leslie Saenz, unanimous.
- H. Executive Director Annual Review
 1. Tabled by the board until February.
- I. Adjournment
 1. Motion by Abran Villegas, Jan Miller seconds, unanimous at 3:15 p.m.

Narrative for Adding Fourth Grade to PCA

Phoenix Collegiate Academy is expanding to fourth grade in order to better prepare students for the rigor of Advanced Placement classes in the high school grades. Students at PCA are currently required to complete Algebra and Biology in the eighth grade. Many students struggle with these courses and then continue to struggle in High School because of not enough academic foundation. If students enter in fourth grade we will have another year to fill in gaps in education, and build those foundational skills. Further, it means students will have one less year in an underperforming school to get further behind in their education.

Adding fourth grade supports the mission of PCA perfectly. Our mission states that we will prepare all students to succeed in college and be leaders in our community. In order to succeed in this we need more time to academically prepare students for the rigor of college. The addition of fourth grade will support our educational philosophy as well. We believe all students can learn at the highest levels, and this is just one more year of education to push kids to those higher levels. Our middle school methods of instruction have proven to be effective for the population we serve (we have been an A school for two years in a row and our students outperform their area peers in every grade and subject) and fourth grade is the beginning of the middle school switch where students use the skill of reading to learn (versus K-3 where students are still learning to read). We will implement our same methods and see even better results due to the fact that we are getting students at a younger age and before as many years of poor instruction.

Students in fourth grade will complete an English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies course. In order to be promoted, they will have to pass the course with a 70% or higher. We grade on a mastery basis, so this means students will have to show they have learned 70% of the material in order to move to the next grade level. All courses are aligned to the Common Core standards (and Arizona State Standards in areas where there are not common core standards.)

We will continue to hire highly qualified teachers and will look for content experts in their fields.