AGENDA ITEM: Program of Instruction Amendment – New World Educational Center – New World Educational Center

Issue

On April 12, New World Educational Center (NWEC), a non-profit entity, submitted a complete Program of Instruction Amendment Request to change 6th grade from content-specific teachers to a self-contained classroom, to have 7-12 core content instruction by classroom teachers, and to offer online courses as elective options.

Change From

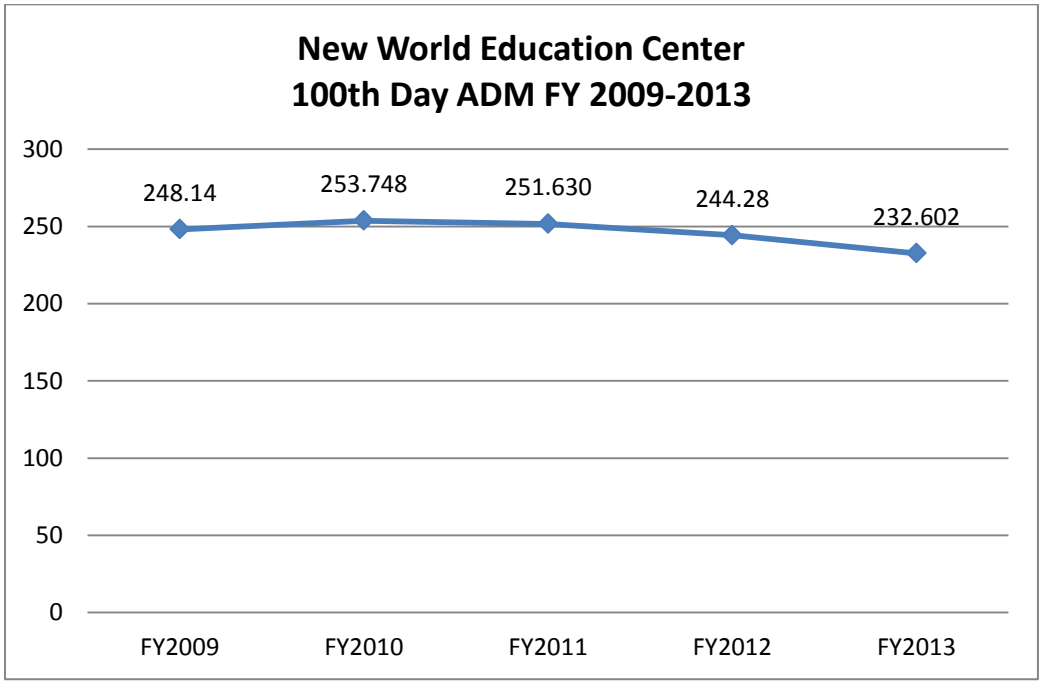
Currently grades K-5 attend self-contained classrooms, and grades 6-8 attend departmentalized classrooms. The high school program provides courses from an online curriculum provider, with assistance from an on-site teacher. One teacher is highly qualified in Mathematics and Science, and the other is highly qualified in Language Arts and Special Needs.

Change To

6th grade will become a self-contained classroom. Grades 7-12 will be taught in departmentalized classrooms. Middle school students will be required to take a computer skills class within their schedule. Grades 9-12 will take electives with onsite teachers, and have additional options for electives through an online curriculum.

Background

NWEC was granted a charter in 1999 by the Higley School District, and transferred to ASBCS in 2003. It operates 2 schools: New World Educational Center (serves K-12 in Phoenix since 2003) and New World Educational Center (AOI) (serves 9-12 online since 2011). The current enrollment cap is 600. According to ADE, current ADM is 233 (213 in person, 20 online) as of the 100th day. The program of instruction of NWEC was amended in 2011 to add online curriculum to the high school grades, and also to add an AOI component. A School Closure Notification Request closing NWEC AOI on June 23, 2013 was approved on April 15, 2013. The graph below shows 100th day average daily membership for NWEC.



The narrative indicates that review of student performance at NWEC indicated that performance of high school students has declined since the switch to online curriculum for FY 2012. A graph submitted by NWES indicates that the graduation dropped from 100% in 2011 to 29% in 2012, while the dropout rate increased from 6% to 20%. The narrative states that NWES wants to return to what worked before the previous program change.

The current narrative states that the rationale for the change is to “return to what worked before.” The table below provides data from the charter holder regarding graduation rate and dropout rate, with the columns in grey indicating years using online curriculum in high school.

	2009	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**
Graduation Rate	79%	100%	100%	29%
Dropout Rate	1%	0%	6%	20%

The figures provided by the charter holder support the decline in performance with the online curriculum.

The submitted minutes of the April 11, 2013 meeting of the governing school board show approval for accepting the Program of Instruction Amendment Request.

Board Options

Option 1: The Board may approve the Program of Instruction Amendment to the charter held by New World Educational Center. Staff recommends the following language for consideration: I move that, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, the Board approve the Program of Instruction Amendment Request to the charter held by New World Educational Center.

Option 2: The Board may deny the Program of Instruction Amendment to the charter held by New World Educational Center. The following language is provided for consideration: I move, based on the information contained in the Board materials and presented today, that the Board deny the Program of Instruction Amendment Request to the charter held by New World Educational Center, for the reasons that: (Specific reasons the Board may have found during its consideration.)