AGENDA ITEM: Transfer Application – for Partnership with Parents, Inc.

Issue

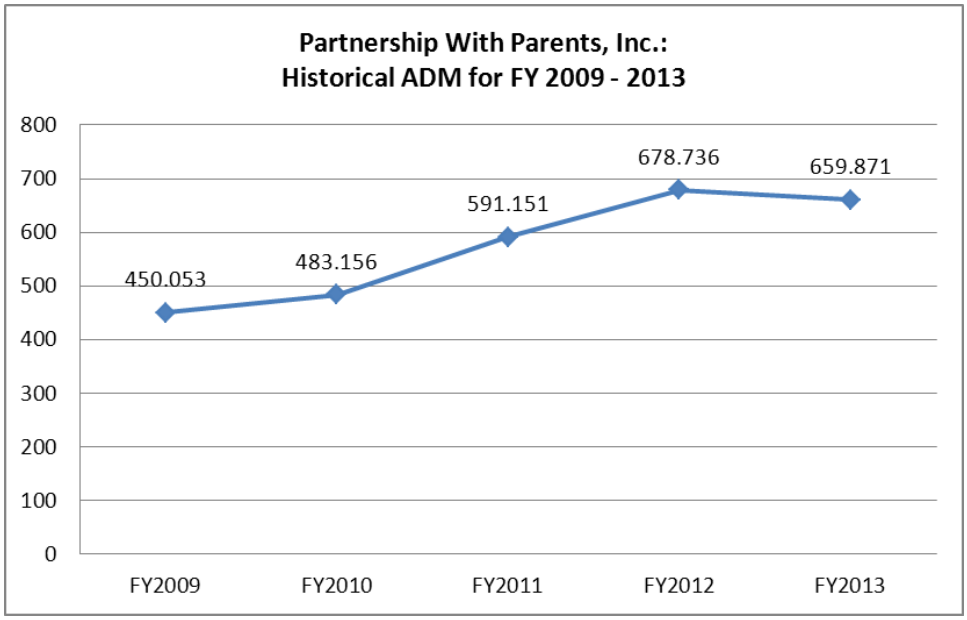
Partnership with Parents, Inc., a non-profit entity, submitted a complete Transfer Application for transfer of the sponsor from the Arizona State Board of Education (SBE) to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (Board).

Background

Partnership with Parents, Inc. was granted a charter in 2003 by the Arizona State Board of Education and opened Desert Heights Charter School in Glendale, AZ in the same year.

The narrative provided by the charter holder describes the current student population as 62% white, 22% Hispanic/Latino, 10% Black/African American, 5% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, with 44.1% of students receiving free or reduced lunch.

Desert Heights Charter School currently serves grades K-11, but was recently approved to add 12th grade for the FY 2014 school year. The school operates a 180 day calendar. The graph below shows the charter holder's actual 100th day average daily membership (ADM) for fiscal years 2009-2013.



As stated in Board policy, prior to a charter school being placed on an agenda, staff conducts a compliance check as part of the approval process. With the exception of not meeting the Board's expectation for academic performance, the charter holder is compliant in all other areas. A Demonstration of Sufficient Progress (DSP) was submitted by the charter representative. The DSP was evaluated using the criteria provided in Appendix D of the Board's

Academic Performance Framework and Guidance document. After a site visit was conducted to review additional documents and information, the DSP was scored as Acceptable.

Curricular Emphasis

According to the curricular emphasis narrative, Desert Heights Charter School provides a rigorous instructional program integrating research-based curriculum and project based learning methodology with a defined process of data driven decision-making in a culturally diverse, family oriented learning environment. For language arts instruction, the school uses Imagine It! for grades K-11. In addition, students in grades 5-11 use a variety of resources for Language Arts instruction and are expected to read and analyze literature independently, in small groups, and as a whole class. As stated in the transfer application, students are encouraged through Accelerated Reader to read novels at their proficiency level and take comprehension tests to demonstrate their understanding of the novel chosen. Students in grades 7-11 use the classical literature of both fiction and nonfiction from Novel Studies and Glencoe Literature. Additionally, the school assesses writing using Six Traits. Saxon Math is implemented in grades K-11. Science instruction is supported through the use of the Science Explore series. Social studies instruction is provided using a variety of print and technology-based materials.

Additional aspects of the school, according to the application, include the following:

- Galileo K-12 for subject area assessments
- 25:1 student/teacher ratio in Kindergarten, 28:1 student/teacher ratio in grades 1-4 and 30:1 in grades 5-11
- Incentives to promote consistent attendance

Academic Performance

The academic performance of Desert Heights Charter School for the FY2012 school year, as based upon the Board's academic framework is presented in the dashboard below:

Academic Performance Rating FY 2012

Charter Holder: Partnership with Parents, Inc.
Entity ID 81099

Charter School: Desert Heights Charter School
Entity ID 78950, Grades K-10

1. Growth

Traditional K-12		1a. SGP		1b. SGP Bottom 25%	
School	**School Year**	**Math**	**Read**	**Math**	**Read**
Desert Heights Charter School	2011-2012	41	45	42.5	37
Points Assigned		50	50	50	50
Weight		10	10	10	10

2. Proficiency

Traditional K-12		2a. Status		2b. Composite School Comparison		2c. Subgroup ELL		2c. Subgroup FRL		2c. Subgroup SPED	
School	**School Year**	**Math**	**Read**	**Math**	**Read**	**Math**	**Read**	**Math**	**Read**	**Math**	**Read**
Desert Heights Charter School	2011-2012	61/64	84/78	-4.3	4.6	NR	NR	58/54	79/70	14/24	37/37.2
Points Assigned		50	75	50	75	0	0	75	75	50	50
Weight		7.5	7.5	5	5	0	0	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75

3. State Accountability & Overall Rating

Traditional K-12		3a. State Accountability	4a. Graduation Rate	Overall Rating
School	**School Year**	**Grade**	**GradRate**	
Desert Heights Charter School	2011-2012	75	NR	57.35
Points Assigned		75	0	
Weight		5	0	85

Overall Rating	Point Range
Exceeds Standard	> or = to 89
Meets Standard	< 89, but > or = to 63
Does Not Meet Standard	< 63, but > or = to 39
Falls Far Below Standard	< 39

Additional information regarding the Academic Framework can be found at http://www.asbcs.az.gov/ 6/5/2013

The overall rating for Desert Heights Charter School is 57.35 including points received for the FY 2012 letter grade of B as reported by the Arizona Department of Education.

The Demonstration of Sufficient Progress (DSP) submitted by the charter holder was evaluated using the DSP evaluation criteria to determine if the school operated by the charter holder is making progress toward meeting the Board's academic performance expectations.

The initial evaluation of the DSP for Partnership with Parents, Inc. described systems and processes in the areas of curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional development, but limited data was provided. The DSP was scored as Not Acceptable.

Following the initial evaluation of the DSP, staff conducted a site visit on May 30 to meet with Mark Giles, Charter Representative, Chelsey Peitz, Principal, and Beth Gue, Federal Grants Coordinator to confirm the documentation presented in the DSP and review additional information to be considered in the final evaluation of the charter holder's Demonstration of Sufficient Progress submission (presented in the transfer portfolio: c. DSP Evaluation Instrument). Evidence described in the DSP confirmed during the site visit included unit curriculum maps, curriculum review rubric, lesson plans, professional development calendar, teacher evaluation documentation, student growth tracking for Reading and Math, daily schedules, and classroom observation rubrics. The charter holder provided additional evidence and documentation regarding areas not sufficiently addressed in the submitted DSP, including

assessment data to demonstrate student growth and increased student proficiency (presented in the transfer portfolio: d. DSP Evidence).

Staff has determined, through an evaluation of the submission, including information and documentation collected at the site visits that Partnership with Parents, Inc., demonstrated sufficient progress toward meeting the Board's academic performance expectations.

Governance Structure:
The charter holder is a Limited Liability Partnership, registered with the Arizona Corporation Commission in February, 2003. Officers include Tony Elliott, Manuel Robles, and Judie Kupillas. Mark Jiles serves as the charter representative.

Board Options

1. Approve the Transfer Application for Partnership with Parents, Inc. Staff recommends the following language provided for consideration: I move to approve the request for transfer of the charter for Partnership with Parents, Inc. from the Arizona State Board of Education to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools.

2. Deny the Transfer Application for Partnership with Parents, Inc. The following language is provided for consideration: I move to deny the request for transfer of Partnership with Parents, Inc. from the Arizona State Board of Education to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools for the following reasons:
    - Failure to provide a learning environment that improves pupil achievement in accordance with A.R.S. §15-181; and
    - Other specific reasons the Board may have found during its consideration including…