

## I. Recommendation

APPROVE

Overall the application is complete and adequate; and during their Capacity Interview, the applicant(s) demonstrated a clear capacity to implement the academic, organizational and financial management plans as described in the application. Nothing was identified that would indicate the applicant(s) do not have the experience, knowledge, and competence to successfully open and operate a charter school.

APPROVE WITH CONDITIONS

Overall the application is complete and adequate; and during their Capacity Interview, the applicant(s) demonstrated a general capacity to implement the academic, organizational and financial management plans as described in the application. However, the PED has identified some specific concerns that would need to be addressed during the planning year. The PED has listed the noted concerns and conditions to address the concerns below. If the PEC determines that there are any additional conditions that need to be addressed, those should be noted during the public hearing and all approved conditions negotiated in the final contract.

DENY


Overall the application is either incomplete or inadequate; or during their Capacity Interview, the applicant(s) did not sufficiently demonstrate the experience, knowledge, and competence to successfully open and operate a charter school.

The Charter Schools Act, in paragraph 1 of Subsection L of Section 22-8B-6 NMSA 1978, states that a chartering authority may approve, approve with conditions or deny an application. A chartering authority may deny an application if:

- (1) the application is incomplete or inadequate;
- (2) the application does not propose to offer an educational program consistent with the requirements and purposes of the Charter Schools Act;
- (3) the proposed head administrator or other administrative or fiscal staff was involved with another charter school whose charter was denied or revoked for fiscal management or the proposed head administrator or other administrative or fiscal staff was discharged from a public school for fiscal mismanagement;

- (4) for a proposed state-chartered charter school, it does not request to have the governing body of the charter school designated as a board of finance or the governing body does not qualify as a board of finance; or
- (5) the application is otherwise contrary to the best interests of the charter school's projected students, the local community or the school district in whose geographic boundaries the charter school applies to operate.

**NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
OPTIONS FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES DIVISION**

By:   
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Katie Poulos, Director

## I. Overall Score Sheet

Section	Points Received	Applicant School's Possible Points
<b>Application Overall Score</b>	285	287
• Education Plan/Academic Framework	84	84
• Organizational Plan and Governance/Organizational Framework	133	135
• Business Plan/ Financial Framework	44	44
• Evidence of Support	24	24
<b>Capacity Interview Overall Score</b>	68	68
<b>Overall Score – Application and Capacity Interview</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>355</b>

## II. Explanation Regarding Use of the Score Sheet

In the Recommendation and Final Analysis, the PED has considered the overall score in the written application, information obtained during the Capacity Interview and Community Input Hearing, and information obtained from the letters of support or opposition received after the Community Input Hearing.

Also please note two additional considerations:

- First, the PED does not score the community input hearing, but may reference these in the Recommendation and Final Analysis if pertinent information was offered that contradicts or affirms what was found in the application.
- Second, if the applicant school did not answer any prompt because that prompt did not apply to the applicant school (e.g., the applicant school will be an elementary school and so did not provide responses to graduation-related prompts), then the PED adjusted the total possible points in the application section where the non-applicable item(s) is found as well as in the final score. For this reason, you may see varying possible total points from application to application.

### III. Final Analysis

Application Section	Points Received	Applicant School's Possible Points
EDUCATION PLAN/ACADEMIC FRAMEWORK	84	84
<p><b>Evidence/Statements Supporting Score in this Section:</b></p> <p>The PED found this section to be complete and adequate. The applicant scored “<i>Meets the Criteria</i>” in all areas (except graduation which was not applicable) in this section.</p> <p><u>Overall, this section of the application is adequate as 100% of the responses were rated “<i>Meets the Criteria</i>” in which 100% of possible points were earned.</u></p>		

Application Section	Points Received	Applicant School's Possible Points
ORGANIZATIONAL PLAN AND GOVERNANCE / ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK	133	135

**Evidence/Statements Supporting Score in this Section:**

The application review team found this section to be complete and adequate. The applicant scored "Meets the Criteria" in all but one area in this section. The following area of the applicant's response was scored "Approaches the Criteria" for the following reason.

According to evaluators, with respect to the application:

Monitoring of academics, organization, and finances of the school will be presented to the board on a regular basis. It was unclear from the school's response whether or not the bylaws may allow for the "whole board to take action without a meeting through informal consensus," which could create conflict with the Open Meetings Act.

Overall, this section of the application is adequate as nearly 100% of the responses were rated "Meets the Criteria," no more than 3 areas were rated "Approaches the Criteria," and no area was rated "Falls Far Below the Criteria."  
The application earned 98.5% of possible points.

During the Capacity Interview, the evaluators asked a series of questions about leadership and governance and specifically asked Question 8 to seek clarification on the school's by-laws and Question 9 regarding ensuring policies and procedures are compliant, well-implemented, current and effective.

According to the evaluators: "The founders expressed that the by-laws are the "religious document for the organization" and understand the importance of researching effective by-laws to ensure the board's by-laws are fair, transparent, and accountable. The founders explained how data will be used to ensure effectiveness of its policies and when a change is needed, it will be conducted at the board level.

The review team determined that the response provided by the school adequately addressed the concern. The school received the full points (4) on each of the leadership and governance questions.

Application Section	Points Received	Applicant School's Possible Points
<b>BUSINESS PLAN/ FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK</b>	44	44
<p><b>Evidence/Statements Supporting Score in this Section:</b></p> <p>The application review team found this section to be complete and adequate. The applicant scored “<i>Meets the Criteria</i>” in all areas in this section.</p> <p><u>Overall, this section of the application is adequate as 100% of the responses were rated “<i>Meets the Criteria</i>” in which 100% of possible points were earned.</u></p>		

Application Section	Points Received	Applicant School's Possible Points
<b>EVIDENCE OF SUPPORT</b>	24	24

**Evidence/Statements Supporting Score in this Section:**

The application review team found this section to be complete and adequate. The applicant scored “*Meets the Criteria*” in all areas in this section.

Overall, this section of the application is adequate as 100% of the responses were rated “*Meets the Criteria*” in which 100% of possible points were earned.

**Other Pertinent Information**

During the July, 20<sup>th</sup> community input hearing public 100% of public input was in support of the school. No opposition was raised by community members, including representatives from the local school district.

Overall the application is complete and adequate; and during the capacity Interview and public input hearing, the applicant(s) demonstrated the capacity to implement the education and governance/management plans as described in the application.