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## OPTION FOR PARENTS CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION

### NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUBMIT CHARTER APPLICATION, 2014

#### INSTRUCTIONS

According to NMSA § 22-8B-6(B) the Notice of Intent to Submit a Charter Application ("NOI") must be filed by the organizers of a proposed charter school to the Public Education Commission at the address below **AND** to the superintendent of the school district in which the charter school is proposed to be located. *Failure to notify may result in your application being rejected.*

This year the NOI must be submitted by 5:00 PM Mountain Time on **Monday, January 13, 2014**. Notices of Intent that are not received by the Public Education Commission and the superintendent of the local school district by the January 13, 2014 deadline may result in the application being rejected. When you send the NOI to the superintendent of the school district in which your charter is to be located, you are strongly encouraged to send it by certified mail return receipt requested, or request a signed receipt when you deliver the NOI. Contact the local district regarding electronic filing.

Notice to the Public Education Commission should be delivered by one of the following methods:

- Electronically to: [Linda.Olivas@state.nm.us](mailto:Linda.Olivas@state.nm.us)
- By mail or personal delivery:  
PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION  
c/o New Mexico Public Education Department  
Attn: Ms. Linda Olivas, Administrative Assistant  
Options for Parents/Charter Schools Division  
300 Don Gaspar, Room 301  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

The NOI is intended to provide the Public Education Commission with the primary point of contact among the charter developers, and preliminary information about the charter proposal, such as the school's mission statement, the school's focus, target student population to be served, enrollment projections, key innovations, etc. (not to exceed 5 pages).

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1. General Information

- Name of Proposed School

Sh'eh Wheef Shu-neen

- Grade levels to be offered and enrollment projections

Grade Levels to be Offered	Projected Total Enrollment
7-8	40

- Primary Point of Contact

Name	Charlene Lucero				
Mailing Address	1742 State Road 314				
City	Albuquerque	State	NM	Zip	87105
Phone	505-301-5357				
Email	char4ag@gmail.com				

2. Names, roles, and current employment of all persons on the applicant team, and qualifications of the team members to establish a high-quality charter school

Name	Role on Team	Qualifications: Education, Employment, Experience
Charlene Lucero	Coordinator	MA Education, Native American Community Academy, 5 years, Science Educator, Highly Qualified Math & Science; Board Member of the Pueblo of Isleta Department of Education; Chairperson, Student Parent Staff Pride (SPSP) Isleta Elementary
Joseph Lucero	Board Member	BS Electronic Engineering Technology, Indian Health Service, Director of Information Management Service, 22 years; Board Member of Isleta Elementary School
Denise Zuni	Board Member	JD, Owner, ShehWheef Law Offices, P.C., Attorney, Indian Housing & Community Development; Experience in Policy Development of Indigeneous Languages; Advisory Member of Native Studies American Philosophical Society
Helen Padilla	Board Member	BBA, MBA, JD, American Indian Law Center, Inc., Specializes in American Indian law and policy, legal education and development of training curriculum.
Michael Jojola	Member	BA., MA., Industrial Education, Retired Educator 26 years Bureau of Indian Affairs; Former Lieutenant Governor, Pueblo of Isleta, 4 years; Board Member Education Department Pueblo of Isleta and Santa Fe Indian School

3. Model or focus of the proposed school (e.g., performing arts, dual language, college prep, STEM, Montessori, IB):

The proposed school will concentrate on dual language and promote full immersion of the Tiwa language, culture and history within an academic setting. Additionally, the proposed school will offer a college preparatory curriculum aligned with Common Core Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards. The school will place an emphasis on teaching and reinforcing Pueblo and Native culture, history and language which in turn will intentfully produce students who value and foster the protection and preservation of Isleta's unique culture, lifestyle, traditions and practices. Isleta culture, language and history will be integrated into a rigorous, comprehensive education based common core curriculum in order to prepare students for a changing and competitive world.



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4. Does the school expect to contract with another entity for either management, or substantial oversight or direction in the school's operation? Yes: ☐ No: ☒

If YES, describe the entity and the role it will have in the school's operational plan.

5. Does the applicant team or any members of the team currently operate any other schools? Yes: ☐ No: ☒.

6. If the charter proposal is a replication, identify the school(s) you are replicating and the data that you have that support why this model should be replicated.

7. Vision/Mission statement. (2-3 sentences)

The vision incorporates the unique culture and language of the Isleta people within an academic setting using a high set of academic standards. The culture, language and history of the Isleta People will be integrated into a rigorous comprehensive education model based on a common core curriculum. The mission is to educate Isleta students on the history and culture of the Pueblo and to teach the Tiwa language in order to increase the number of Tiwa speakers and foster the protection, preservation, enrichment and sustainability of the culture of the Isleta community.

8. Student population and geographical setting of the school

- Define the targeted geographical area of the proposed school from which you expect to draw a significant number of your students.

Isleta Pueblo is one of the nineteen Pueblos which is located south of Albuquerque, New Mexico in a farming and agriculture community along the Rio Grande Valley. According to the 2010 US Census the population of Isleta is 3400. However, according to the Pueblo of Isleta Census department, the population of Isleta is over 5000. Based on 2013 data collected by the Isleta Census Department there are 1086 members between the ages of 0-18 and 339 members between the ages of 10-14. Students who reside on Isleta lands are considered members and descendants will attend the school.

- Describe the targeted student population including key demographic data (academic performance, home languages, ELL, and special education populations).

Students residing at the Pueblo of Isleta, including tribal members and descendants of the Pueblo will be served by the charter school. The traditional home language of Isleta Pueblo is Tiwa. However, recent surveys indicate the primary spoken language of the students to be served is English. Data from a 1980 census document, "Native Language Revitalization: A Manual for Native Language Communities", calculated the number of Tiwa speakers under the age of 18 at 67%. Since then, the number has decreased dramatically.

Based on the New Mexico Public Education Department data certified on May 31, 2013 for SY2012/2013 the number of American Indian HS Students Ever Enrolled for One or More Semesters is 3,204. Of this cohort, the percentage of American Indian students attending Los Lunas Public Schools who have graduated on time is 64.8%, while this percentage is 49.4% in the Albuquerque School District.

Based on New Mexico Public Education Data from SY2012-2013, American Indians students in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade tested at 33.4% in Reading Proficiency and 27.2% in Math Proficiency. American Indians in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students tested 31.1% proficiency in Reading and 27.8% proficient in Math. 8<sup>th</sup> grade American

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Indian students tested 43.9% proficiency in Reading and 29.1% proficiency in Math.

- Identify where these students are most likely being educated currently and why they are expected to choose the proposed charter school for their future educational needs.

Currently, members and descendants of Isleta Pueblo who reside within the Pueblo attend schools in the Los Lunas Public School (LLPS) District, the Albuquerque Public School (APS) District and private schools. Isleta students have a desire to learn their history, language and culture as evidenced by the waiting list of students for the Isleta language retention program and students who attend Tiwa language classes offered through APS. Community members have also expressed a desire for the expansion of Tiwa language classes at a language summit held in April of 2010. The only options for middle and high school are in the LLPS and APS Districts. However, the proposed charter school is different in that history, culture and language will be a combined offering, using a comprehensive language immersion approach. The school will also be located within the Isleta community.

9. Provide evidence that the applicant team has assessed community need for a school of the nature that will be proposed in the application (e.g., objective surveys or other measures of local demand for the proposed educational program).

According to the Pueblo of Isleta Census, there are over 5000 residents in the Pueblo. Currently, there are only two schools at the Pueblo, the Pueblo of Isleta Head Start which serves early childhood through pre-school and the Isleta Elementary School which is operated by the Bureau of Indian Education and serves kindergarten through sixth grade. Both of these schools offer education in the Isleta Tiwa language. Thereafter, students must choose to attend schools in either the Albuquerque Public School or the Los Lunas Public School Districts.

Each year the Pueblo of Isleta Language Program hosts a summer language program for students between the ages of 5-18. The maximum capacity of the program is 40 students. Each year, the summer program has a long waiting list of students who are unable to benefit from the program because of program constraints. The desire for students to learn their history, language and culture is also evident in the Tiwa language classes offered through APS.

A Native Language Summit was held on April 29, 2010 in Isleta Pueblo. Attendees included Tribal Leaders, community and non-community members of all ages who expressed a desire for a continuum of language and community-based education. During the language summit, a panel of high school students expressed the need for the integration of culture and language into a classroom setting fearing that without this immediate integration, language and culture would be lost. Most panel members admitted they did not have fluent speakers within their home setting and felt it was necessary for the Tiwa language to be offered in an educational setting.

The Head Start and Elementary school in Isleta bring families together through community based activities. Once students move on from the elementary school to higher grades they become dispersed into schools where the culture and language of Isleta is no longer present within the school setting. The sense of community is lost to those children when they move onto higher grades off tribal lands. These students no longer have the option of attending a community-based school located within the Pueblo of Isleta. Parents, Grandparents, tribal elders, Tribal Leaders and students have expressed a desire for a continuum of language education through adulthood.

10. Identify significant innovative features that the school will implement in order to help it realize its vision / mission (e.g., non-traditional school year, longer school day, partner organizations, etc.).

The school will integrate a dual language program (Tiwa and English) and rigorous academic curriculum. Evening and weekend classes will be held to reinforce language, culture and Isleta history underscoring a curriculum that will be developed using the latest techniques in the preservation and retention of Indigenous languages. Students will be provided extended learning opportunities within the community lasting throughout the school year. Additional classes for students to explore Native arts as once practiced by the Isleta people will be offered as an extended learning opportunity.



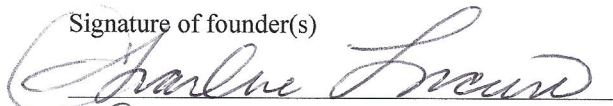
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11. Describe how the school will be more effective than the schools currently serving the targeted student population, and/or plans to improve student achievement and exceed the academic performance of existing public schools in the targeted service area and any data you have to support this assumption.

The school will have a low student to teacher ratio, a daily dual-language program, culturally based and community-based projects, experiential education and service-learning projects taught by highly qualified teachers, experts and professionals. The school will emphasize community and parent involvement offering evening and weekend language classes for family members to reinforce the concepts and curriculum of the school. The school calendar will reflect the cultural and traditional activities that take place throughout the year.

*Please Note: Should your charter be awarded, the founding governing body could undergo a background check to determine if it qualifies to be a board of public finance in the state of New Mexico.*

Signature of founder(s)

  
Charlene Lucero  
[PRINT NAME]

Date:

1/13/14