

Name of Proposed School: Columbus Community School

Team Members:

Rochelle Cherrin (Team Lead)

Lisa Grover

Rhonda Lovato

CAPACITY INTERVIEW TEAM ANALYSIS SCORE SUMMARY

CAPACITY INTERVIEW SECTION	POINTS RECEIVED	APPLICANT SCHOOL'S POSSIBLE POINTS
12 STANDARD QUESTIONS	21	24
3 INDIVIDUALIZED QUESTIONS	5	6
OVERALL SCORE	26	30

Educational Plan	1. Describe a typical day for a student in your school. Please be as concise and specific as possible; consider the teachers, the materials, the class, the parents, ancillary staff, etc.
1	Comments: The response requires more detail to give a clearer picture of what a typical day would look like for students. Blocks were identified without activities and materials needed; how team teaching will occur and how PBL and dual language skills would be taught was also not specified. How students will adjust to one way dual language activities was not fully explained.
Educational Plan	2. What is your plan if the school’s actual enrollment population is different from the targeted population you originally intended to serve?
2	Comments: There is only one demographic in the city. The closest next “area” is 1 hour away. This question was not fully applicable to this charter as Columbus is a very small community without a high school.
Governance	3. Please explain the delineated roles and responsibilities of, and the relationships between, the founders, the governing body, and the school’s administration during the transitional period between the planning year and the first year of operations. Describe how those relationships evolve over the full term of the charter.
2	Comments: The founders have an overall good sense of the responsibilities of and relationships between the roles of the founders and more permanent GC. The answer demonstrated a general sense of GC best practices (mentioned they had attended the applicant trainings.)
Governance	4. How does the school’s governing body exercise its oversight and accountability? What does the governing body have oversight of?
1	Comments: The founders see oversight and accountability in the areas of budget and policies. The answer was adequate but failed to include that the GC has general oversight responsibilities for all aspects of the school’s operations.
Facility	5. Describe your plan for acquiring a facility and ensuring that the facility meets educational occupancy standards required by applicable New Mexico construction codes. Whose responsibility is it to carry out this major piece of opening a charter school?
2	Comments: The applicant has thought of several alternatives should a facility not be ready in time. However, the responses did not fully reflect a realistic plan for providing services (i.e.: nursing, PE) insurance issues, etc., should this alternative facility plan be necessary.
Facility	6. If you cannot find a building that meets PSFA approval, what is your next steps plan?
2	Comments: No plan B at this time. The applicants answered this question from the perspective that not securing a facility is NOT an option.

Finance	7. How are you going to open your school without federal start-up funds?
2	Comments: The founders are aware of the challenges in front of them with out having start up funds, and adequately answered this question.
Finance	8. If something in your budget is not working as planned, for instance, you do not get the desired enrollment numbers for the first year, what will be your plan of action?
2	Comments: The plan they presented seems realistic and conservative. They plan to proceed cautiously until enrollment numbers are solid.
Policies and Procedures	9. If your school requires a change to the original charter contract what is the process for your governing body to address that change?
2	Comments: The founders have a thorough understanding of the amendment process.
Policies and Procedures	10. What role do policies have in the operation of a school? What triggers the need for a policy?
1	Comments: The answer revealed an understanding of the policy process; however, the actual need for a policy, of what policy should dictate, was not clearly presented. The answer did not draw a link between good policies, effective school operations and appropriate oversight.
Policies and Procedures	11. What do you anticipate your process will be for developing policies? How will you ensure that your policies and procedures are not only compliant, but current and effective?
2	Comments: The founders understand the need to work with an attorney to assure that all policies are current and legally compliant. They also demonstrated the understanding and importance of involving their small community in policy development.
Planning Year	12. What major challenges to you anticipate during the planning year as you work to open a new school? How do you envision organizing yourselves to carry out the tasks required to open a school?
2	Comments: The founders answered the question by citing the major challenges that they expect to confront and also understand that many others will surface as the school opens. They further understand the need for the founding board to take on may tasks before an administrator is hired.

Review Team's Individualized Question	13. Regarding the mission statement, can you clarify for us the specific goals for the school and how their achievement will be measured throughout the term of the charter?
1	Comments: The response did not fully address the first part of the question in terms of specific goals and how they will be measured and reached; they did generally address the question's second part.
Review Team's Individualized Question	14. (pg. 31) The school's organizational structure is not clear to us, as it lacks a full description. Can you provide more explanations and detail as to what duties the Associate of Instruction and Associate of Administration will play in the school? And what is the relationship between these three administrators?
2	Comments: The response clarified the three staffing positions and the rationale for this administrative model.
Review Team's Individualized Question	15. The application mentions several curricular approaches (STEM, PBL, one way dual language). Can you describe in detail how all these approaches will be integrated into one coherent curriculum and eventually align with the CC Standards?
2	Comments: The response clarified how the curricular approaches would be integrated and demonstrated through projects.