

1. General Information:

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|--------------------------|--|------------|--|
| Name of Proposed School: | Silver City School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics | | |
| Primary Contact Person | Stephanie Sexton | | |
| Mailing Address: | 18 Starlight Way | | |
| City: Silver City | State: New Mexico | Zip: 88061 | |
| Phone: 575 534-0657 | Email: shonto11@hotmail.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 | Employment | Qualifications |
|------------------|---------|-------------------------|--|
| Madge Slavec | Founder | Teacher | BS degree in Ed. Master of Arts degree and 35 years teaching experience. |
| Stephanie Sexton | Founder | Parent | BS Elem. Ed, Master of Arts, Special Ed. Mild/moderate, severe affective needs, 12 years teaching experience |
| Susan Johnson | Founder | Teacher | BS in Biology MS in Veterinary Virology PhD in Veterinary Virology 10 years teaching experience |
| Gail Stamler | Founder | Certified Nurse-Midwife | RN, BS degree in Community Health |
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3. Model or focus of the proposed school (e.g. performing arts, dual language, college prep, STEM):

The focus of the proposed charter will be an elementary STEM school approach to curriculum aligned with Common Core State Standards. Science integrated with technology, engineering and mathematics will be the distinctive qualities of the charter. At least four hours of the school day will be spent on science and math using engineering and technology as tools to problem

solve and communicate hypotheses and conclusions. Our curriculum will build on the natural inclination young children have for science and encourage them to relate every day experiences to science and math. We will encourage active participation by students of all abilities to question, investigate, hypothesize, discover and communicate. The model will also include a Comprehensive Literacy research based curriculum. The essential components of this literacy approach will include phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension and the writing process. The integration of science, math, engineering and technology with a strong foundation in literacy will present unique possibilities for children to succeed and become the scholars of the future.

4. Does the school expect to contract with another entity for either management, or substantial oversight or direction in the school's operation?

Yes: Describe the entity and role it will have in the school's operational plan. No: X.

5. Does the applicant team or any members of the team currently operate any other schools?

Yes: No: X

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

Not applicable

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

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics STEM core curriculum intends to prepare young students with the foundation to investigate, discover, create, problem solve and communicate to their peers and community with presentations, projects and forums in the school environment. STEM Elementary will prepare children to function as scholars in an increasingly complex and competitive academic environment. The charter welcomes children of diverse abilities, ethnicity, and cultural background to build tolerance, acceptance and cooperation among all students in the quest for knowledge.

8. Student body to be served, including key demographic data and targeted geographical area of the proposed school. Describe the targeted student population including key demographic data (academic performance, home languages, ELL and special education populations). 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.

Silver City is a unique New Mexican rural community nestled along the Continental Divide surrounded by the Gila Wilderness. Our history is rich in multi-ethnic culture and varied socio-economic status. This continues today, as

evidenced by current census data indicating approximately 47 % Anglo citizens, 46% Hispanic, 2% American Indian, 5% African American, 1% Asian American and 1% reporting other. Silver City lags behind State averages for household income and achievement in State Standardized tests. Presently, the Silver City Schools service approximately 3100 students. Approximately 100 documented English Language Learners (3%) and 350 students requiring special education services (12%- consistent with National averages). State standardized test data reported for 4th grade students (2009) was somewhat inconsistent school to school, but generally reported around 60% proficient in Reading, Math and Science, with all but one of the five Elementary schools behind the 60% proficient mark in Reading. Recent studies have indicated a direct correlation between the literacy rate in fourth grade students and predictability of incarceration. This is a frightening statistic and one that warrants strong consideration. Our doors will open to all of the children of Silver City. We plan to enroll students based on a lottery system as we anticipate high interest. Through best practice teaching instruction, close targeted monitoring of student achievement, school wide organizational support and continual close parent communication and involvement, we will ensure students will succeed daily and become positively contributing members of their community. All students will understand the high standards we will expect and curriculum will be closely aligned with State Standards and Benchmarks. Guided by a three-prong structure (assessment, response to intervention, differentiated instruction) of implementation we will ensure every child is getting the individualized attention and instruction they require, and thus have success daily. Each teacher will be expected to document lesson plans as they relate to the Standards. These targeted specific teaching techniques along with the innovative and passionate teachers to be employed, will ensure our students will meet and exceed the expectation we will hold them to. We will be the choice of excellence.

9. Evidence and assessment of a community need for a school of this nature: Detail any objective surveys or other measures of local demand for the proposed educational program.

We believe our community would benefit from another way to deliver instruction to young students in order to meet the demands of an evolving world connected through technology. Children of this generation need time to be observers, questioners, researchers and inventors. Our model will insist on providing students with increased time in the academic day to spend on science and math integration. A STEM school with a commitment to a literacy model and collaborative teaching would enhance the public school options in our area. Informal community meetings, conversations with perspective parents and a recent parent survey indicated enthusiasm for this type of charter school.

10. Key innovative, unique and/or programmatic features the school will implement in order to accomplish its vision and mission (non-traditional school year, longer school day, partner organizations, etc.)

This STEM school will operate as an all year program and include quarterly breaks for students and staff. The charter will offer a longer school day in order to offer an integrated art and music program correlated with math and science objectives. Our academic program will include at least 4 hours dedicated to science and math integration while including engineering and technology. Our model will provide differentiated instruction based on daily and weekly assessments in reading, math and science. Fridays will be reserved for field trips, special presentations from the community such as experts in the field of study at the time, multi-cultural presentations, fine arts rehearsals and other community activities when appropriate.

11. 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 charter will be more effective than the schools currently serving the targeted student population by providing the following framework to educate elementary students in the Grant County area:

1. Elevating science to the same level of importance as reading and mathematics
2. A year-long school calendar
3. A longer school day
4. Co-teaching with highly qualified regular classroom teacher and special ed. teacher
5. Data driven instruction from daily and weekly classroom assessments, MAPS and Lexia progress monitoring and standardized testing.
6. Differentiated instruction based on assessments and use of Des Cart and Lexia resources to guide instruction.
7. Integration of science, technology, engineering, and math with a strong literacy foundation to improve academic performance.
8. Collaboration and communication with all staff to provide a cohesive learning environment for students.
9. Common planning time for all staff to stay focused on objectives and goals in the academic program.
10. Standardized lesson plans from all staff.

11. Professional development in Aims science and math.
12. Professional development in Singapore math and Investigations.
13. Professional development in current methods of teaching engineering and technology to young students.
14. Professional development in comprehensive literacy research based curriculum.
15. Professional development in National Core State Standards.
16. Parental and community involvement and community outreach.
17. Constructing links with WNMU and professionals in science, math, engineering and technology that will enrich the school environment with real world experience.
18. Field trips and outdoor classrooms to encourage opportunities for scientific research and investigations.

Signature of founder(s) Date: December 28, 2011

Madge Slavec *Madge Slavec*

Stephanie Sexton *Stephanie Sexton*

Susan Johnson *Susan Johnson*

Gail Stamler *Gail Stamler*