Name of Proposed School   Starshine Academy Lisa Law Peace School

Date of Team Analysis: July 25, 2012

Team Members:

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CAPACITY INTERVIEW TEAM ANALYSIS SCORE SUMMARY

CAPACITY INTERVIEW SECTION	POINTS RECEIVED	APPLICANT SCHOOL'S POSSIBLE POINTS
12 STANDARD QUESTIONS	16	24
3 INDIVIDUALIZED QUESTIONS	3	6
OVERALL SCORE	19	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.
Score: 1	**Team Comments:** What was missing from the description was any unifying idea of how the CORE Knowledge, Paideia, and the various other activities or programs come together into an overall coherent school program. The response did not illuminate the team's understanding of the StarShine Academy Lisa Law Peace School model.
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?
Score: 1	**Team Comments:** The team was looking for indications that the founders understood that the student population might comprise those coming from both within and outside the identified Agua Fria neighborhood, and how might the StarShine Academy Lisa Law Peace School model be appropriate and elastic enough to support all students, regardless of background.
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.
Score: 0	**Team Comments:** The team did hear that the school administration would hire the staff. This clarified a statement in the application that indicated that the governing body would hire the staff, upon advice of the administration. The team remains a bit concerned that the founders do not quite understand the appropriate distinctions between governance and management. The team was also left wondering why the school both needed a foundation and needed to become a foundation. The team was concerned if this was allowed of a state agency. The response to this question raised more questions than it resolved.
Governance	4. How does the school's governing body exercise its oversight and accountability? What does the governing body have oversight of?
Score: 1	**Team Comments:** Though the school's response was a bit vague and rambling, it did highlight important concepts: governing councils exercise authority, in part, through policy actions, and receiving, reviewing, and acting on financial and student performance reports. The team was also looking for how the governing council holds the head administrator accountable.
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?
Score: 2	**Team Comments:** This is an ideal situation, and the StarShine team appears on its way to securing a building in the desired neighborhood.

Facility **Score: 2**	6. If you cannot find a building that meets PSFA approval, what is your next steps plan?
	Team Comments: The founders appear to have advanced this important part of developing a school, and being in a position to have a school built to meet its specifications is fortunate.
Finance **Score: 2**	7. How are you going to open your school without federal start-up funds?
	Team Comments: The founding group, due in part to personal connections and to StarShine's national standing, has resources available to opening a school possible.
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?
Score: 2	**Team Comments:** The team felt the founders understood what steps to take to ensure that the school remains on solid financial footing.
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?
Score: 1	**Team Comments:** The team was looking for a description of the process that the school would follow that includes the governing council.
Policies and Procedures	10. What role do policies have in the operation of a school? What triggers the need for a policy?
Score: 0	**Team Comments:** The team did not get a clear sense that the founders understood policies and why they are necessary. To the founders' thinking, policies appear to represent over-reaching rules, and this runs counter to their preferred way of operating, i.e., being actualized by Maslow's hierarchy.
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?
Score: 2	**Team Comments:** The team felt a bit surprised and pleased at the thoughtfulness of this response, given the nature of the previous question.
Planning Year	12. What major challenges do 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?
Score: 2	**Team Comments:** The team feels that the school founders have identified the top two challenges the proposed school faces as it seeks to set up in the Agua Fria neighborhood. Building rapport with the community has everything to do with engaging students and their families, essential for the school to be successful.

Review Team's Individualized Question	13. Who is Lisa Law and why is the school named after her yet no mention of her is made in the application?
Score: 2	**Team Comments:** The team heard passion, commitment, insight, educational values, and urgency that were compelling and meaningful. These have been markedly absent from the application and the "read" responses to the capacity interview questions. It left the team wondering why none of this passion ran overtly through the application. The team considered this a missed opportunity of the founders to promote its mission and connect with Santa Fe residents on a personal level.
Review Team's Individualized Question	14. The application makes a passing reference to a STEM program at the StarShine Lisa Law Peace School (page 12, Academic Growth Goal # II.), but there was no discussion or description of that program in the Education Plan of the application. If the school program will include STEM, please describe how this program will be implemented in conjunction with CORE Knowledge and Paideia.
Score: 1	**Team Comments:** The team did not believe that the founders appreciated the distinction between schools that teach Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math courses and those schools that are considered STEM schools, where the learning "prism" is through STEM. At these schools resource requirements are heightened. This was not observed in the school budget.
Review Team's Individualized Question	15. How will you cover all graduation requirements and ensure that the high school teachers are highly qualified, within the projected budget?
Score: 0	**Team Comments:** The team was concerned that the plan as described sounded cobbled together and unplanned. The team was also concerned that the founders did not appear to recognize the term, "highly qualified" as carrying specific meaning in federal law. The team was also concerned about the use of elementary teacher with secondary licenses / endorsements could be used for "pull-outs" in order to ensure that all graduation requirements are met. Finally, the team was concerned about the founders' understanding about the proper use of educational assistants.