

Name of Proposed School TAOS MOUNTAIN CHARTER SCHOOL

Date of Team Analysis: August 13, 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      | 19.5            | 24                                 |
| 3 INDIVIDUALIZED QUESTIONS | 4.0             | 6                                  |
| OVERALL SCORE              | 23.5            | 30                                 |

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| <b>Educational Plan</b> | 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.  |
| <b>Score: 2</b>         | <b>Comments:</b><br>A thorough description of a typical day was presented by the applicants. The description was in alignment with the philosophy and educational plan described in the application. The applicants emphasized that the Waldorf-inspired curriculum is aligned with the developmental stages of children.   |
| <b>Educational Plan</b> | 2. What is your plan if the school's actual enrollment population is different from the targeted population you originally intended to serve?   |
| <b>Score: 1</b>         | <b>Comments:</b><br>A limited discussion was provided in regard to a plan if the school's actual enrollment population is different from the targeted population originally intended to serve. The applicants described their target population as parents who are interested in Waldorf and emphasized the need to provide parent education before parents complete applications for their children. |
| <b>Governance</b>       | 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.  |
| <b>Score: 1.5</b>       | <b>Comments:</b><br>The applicant team's response indicated clarity about the roles and responsibilities of the founding team and the transition to a governing body during the planning year. Less clarity was expressed about the role of the founding group after the planning year was completed.   |
| <b>Governance</b>       | 4. How does the school's governing body exercise its oversight and accountability? What does the governing body have oversight of?  |
| <b>Score: 2</b>         | <b>Comments:</b><br>The applicant team's response indicated clarity in regard to hiring a Director, compliance with the Open Meetings Act, policy development and reports to the governing body.  |
| <b>Facility</b>         | 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?   |
| <b>Score: 2</b>         | <b>Comments:</b><br>The existing private Taos Waldorf School facility would be used for the proposed Taos Mountain Charter School facility. PSFA approved the Facility Master Plan. The founding team intends to oversee the process of transitioning that includes closing Taos Waldorf School and opening Taos Mountain Charter School.   |
| <b>Facility</b>         | 6. If you cannot find a building that meets PSFA approval, what is your next steps  |

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|                                | plan?   |
| <b>Score: 2</b>                | <b>Comments:</b><br>The applicant team's response indicated that should the application be approved, it is unlikely that current plans to occupy the existing Taos Waldorf School would change. The facilities committee would, however, develop a back-up plan to find another facility, if necessary.   |
| <b>Finance</b>                 | 7. How are you going to open your school without federal start-up funds?  |
| <b>Score: 1</b>                | <b>Comments:</b><br>The general response indicated establishment of a foundation, reliance on voluntary donations from current Taos Waldorf School families, formation of a fund-raising committee, and writing grant applications. The furnishings and materials would be available from the existing school which would eliminate some necessary start-up costs. Specifics in regard to grant applications and other fundraising activities were not provided. No specific funding has been received at this point in time. |
| <b>Finance</b>                 | 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?   |
| <b>Score: 2</b>                | <b>Comments:</b><br>The applicant team's response indicated that a clear "triage" plan would be prepared and ready for implementation in the event the expected revenue did not materialize.  |
| <b>Policies and Procedures</b> | 9. If your school requires a change to the original charter contract what is the process for your governing body to address that change?  |
| <b>Score: 2</b>                | <b>Comments:</b><br>A clear response was provided that included defining a material change vs. non-material change and following the authorizer's process to request a Governing Board-approved change to the charter contract.   |
| <b>Policies and Procedures</b> | 10. What role do policies have in the operation of a school? What triggers the need for a policy?   |
| <b>Score: 1</b>                | <b>Comments:</b><br>The response indicated a lack of familiarity with policies required by New Mexico rule and statute in operating a public charter school.  |
| <b>Policies and Procedures</b> | 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?   |
| <b>Score: 1</b>                | <b>Comments:</b><br>The applicant team's response did not include a specific plan for policy development and compliance review was not addressed.   |
| <b>Planning Year</b>           | 12. What major challenges to you anticipate during the planning year as you work  |

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|  | to open a new school? How do you envision organizing yourselves to carry out the tasks required to open a school?   |
| <b>Score: 2</b>                              | <b>Comments:</b><br><br>The applicant team's response indicated awareness of the challenges and included plans to implement a committee structure to focus on major tasks during the planning year, including facilities, outreach and enrollment. The need for mentoring to be adequately prepared to serve special populations, including special education and ELL students was addressed. |
| <b>Review Team's Individualized Question</b> | 13. A recurring theme of the application focuses on the school's target student population, including discussion of how the proposed methods of instruction are effective with the target population, outreach programs, recruitment efforts, etc. Please discuss what you consider to be Taos Mountain Charter School's target student population.   |
| <b>Score: 1</b>                              | <b>Comments:</b><br><br>The applicant team's response centered on attracting different sectors of student populations based on their different interests in art or practical arts or sustainability. It is appears from the response that the school is targeting all children in the community but also appears that the various sectors have not been clearly defined.                      |
| <b>Review Team's Individualized Question</b> | 14. The application states that Taos Mountain Charter School's enrollment at capacity (CAP) will be 300 students. The letter provided from the Public Schools Facility Authority (PSFA) states that you plan to have a cap of 208 students. Please address the discrepancy in the two enrollment figures.   |
| <b>Score: 2</b>                              | <b>Comments:</b><br><br>The response provided clarity in the founders' intention. Even though the facilities would not support more than 208 students, by establishing a cap of 300 students, the school would have room to grow with additions to the facilities.  |
| <b>Review Team's Individualized Question</b> | 15. In the application you've indicated that Taos Mountain Charter School would use the facilities currently occupied by Taos Waldorf School. Please describe the major steps in the process of transitioning from Taos Waldorf School to Taos Mountain Charter School.   |
| <b>Score: 1</b>                              | <b>Comments:</b><br><br>The response provided indicated clarity around the fact that the existing school would need to close, the existing staff members would need to be properly licensed, and teachers/staff would have to apply to teach at the proposed charter school. However, the discussion indicated a limited knowledge and familiarity with public school requirements            |