

1. General Information

- Name of Proposed School

First Things Classical Charter School

- Grade levels to be offered and enrollment projections

Grade Levels to be offered	Projected Total Enrollment
K-12 starting with K-6	520

- Primary Point of Contact

Name	Chris Kershner		
Mailing Address	kershner@kershner.com		
City	Los Poblanos	State	NM
Phone	(505)288-1726	Zip	87107
Email	kershner@kershner.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

Names	Role on Team	Qualifications: Education, Employment, and Experience
Chris Kershner	Chair/Information Technology	<p>Education: ASEET from North American Technical Institute</p> <p>Current Employment: Owner of Breaking Good, LLC</p> <p>Qualifications: 15 years as CEO/Chairman of the Board for La Vida Llena Retirement Community, contracted to reorganize how Intel retooled plants in the world, put first networks in the University of New Mexico and Albuquerque Federal Savings and Loan, assisted in creation of Technology Ventures Corporation, cofounder of Checker Airport Express, COO of Trilinear Corporation, CEO of Advanced Data International</p>
Stacy Moses	Secretary	<p>Education: Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, minor in Business, Master of Arts in Education, from UNM, and Master of American History and Government from Ashland University.</p> <p>Current Employment; Ashbrook Center at Ashland University–Teacher Programs Administrator, after 36 years of teaching, 22 years at Sandia Prep School in Albuquerque.</p> <p>Qualifications: MAEd and MAHG. Thirty-six years</p>

		<p>of teaching in total, and focus on American History and Literature; have studied methods/curriculum in Classical Education for the last few years. Was recognized by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History for her original curriculum for juniors which included research, presentation, art music, and collaborative learning.</p>
David Mueller	Treasurer/Project Management	<p>Education: BS in Meteorology from University of Oklahoma, graduate work at Texas A&M; graduate of Squadron Officers School and Air Command and Staff College.</p> <p>Current Employment: Retired as Major, USAF; also retired from private business ventures.</p> <p>Qualifications: 25 years military experience as linguist, academic instructor and course writer, operational weather forecaster, forecast center quality control officer, worldwide data acquisition manager, and program manager acquiring IT assets for Air Weather Service; 2 years developing and teaching introductory Mandarin language course; 10 years as Val-Pak franchisee; 4 years as Executive Director, Oklahoma Chapter Independent Electrical Contractors Association; sales person and purchasing agent for a Fort Worth builder; founder and 4-year operator of family owned bed and breakfast capable of hosting family reunions and large weddings as well as corporate team training retreats.</p>
David Stoliker	Board Member	<p>Education: BS Engineering from University of Michigan, MS Engineering from Washington State University, MBA from University of New Mexico</p> <p>Current Employment: Retired, but working part time as a sole proprietor with the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority on the operation of the Cutter Water System, part of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project.</p> <p>Qualifications: ASK Charter School Board Member from 2018 - 2021. Senior Civil Engineer with the Bureau of Reclamation and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission from 2011 to 2020. Southern Sandoval County Flood Control Authority Executive Engineer from 1997 to 2011.</p>

		Bernalillo County Engineering Manager from 1990 to 1997. Previous board member assignments include Paradise Hills United Methodist Church, Albuquerque Metro Area Public Transportation Boards, New Mexico Society of Professional Engineers, New Mexico American Public Works Society, New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association, Sandoval County Domestic Violence Shelter (Haven House) during the planning and completion of the facility and the Corrales Recreation Committee.
Gloria Salazar	Vice President	Education: BS Mechanical Engineering, MBA Technology Management Qualifications: 20 years as Owner/Funeral Director of Salazar Mortuary and Reflections Chapel which are both companies within Reflections LLC. Previously an Engineering Manager for Chromex, Project Engineer for Honeywell Power Systems.
Darin Templet	Board Member	Education: BS Finance, Nicholls State University Qualifications: 28 years of teaching experience. Currently holds a 7-12 General Education License with endorsements in Language Arts, Math, and Business Education, and a K-12 Special Education License. Taught Special Education and General Education classes for Language Arts, Math, and Business Education

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

First Things Classical Charter School will be a Core Knowledge, American Classical, liberal arts school that aims to undergird its content-rich, balanced, rigorous, and integrated curriculum with a warm, cohesive school community, moral and Intelligent teachers/support staff, and a culture of discipline, decorum, and order to provide a first-class educational experience for all students. FTCCS' academic program combines cutting-edge, researched-based programs each of which involves an organized and sequential continuum of learning, with the robust and integrated study of core subjects in the liberal arts and sciences tradition. FTCCS commits to embrace and uphold the following key characteristics:

- 1) Western tradition in the study of history, literature, philosophy, and fine arts;
- 2) A rich and recurring examination of the American literary, moral, philosophical, political, and historical traditions;
- 3) The use of explicit phonics instruction leading to reading fluency, and the use of explicit grammar instruction leading to English language mastery;
- 4) The teaching of Latin;
- 5) The acknowledgement of objective standards of correctness, logic, beauty, weightiness, and truth intrinsic to the liberal arts;

- 6) A school culture demanding moral virtue, decorum, respect, discipline, and studiousness among the students and faculty;
- 7) A curriculum that is content-rich, balanced and strong across the four core disciplines of math, science, literature, and history;
- 8) A faculty where well-educated and articulate teachers convey real knowledge using traditional teaching methods rather than “student-centered learning” methods;
- 9) A school that uses technology effectively but without diminishing the faculty leadership that is crucial to academic achievement.
- 10) Physical education

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

FTCCS will be supported by The Vigil Group for financial management assistance including budgeting and financial planning.

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

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

First Things Classical Charter School will provide a tuition-free opportunity for all children to receive a classical K-12 American education in the liberal arts and sciences, emphasizing mastery in literacy and content-rich study of science, mathematics, history, and literature. The academic program will also include geography, Latin, and the fine arts. It will be built around the concurrent development of good moral character and civic virtue, leading to lifelong contributions as responsible citizens to enrich our community.

7. Student population and geographical setting of the school

- Define the targeted geographical area from which the proposed school is expected to draw a significant number of its students

The anticipated location of the school is in the vicinity of the Rio Rancho Civic Center.

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

FTCCS will serve all students in the greater Rio Rancho and surrounding metropolitan area regardless of family or financial circumstance.

- 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

Anticipated students are most likely attending Rio Rancho Public Schools, other Rio Rancho charter schools or previous location schools prior to moving into the area.

There is no other K-12 classical education school within a 30 minute drive from the proposed location.

8. Provide evidence that the applicant team has assessed community need for the type of school proposed (e.g., objective surveys or other measures of local demand for the educational program)

Among all of the charter schools serving students in the Rio Rancho area, none provides a classical education. We believe FTCCS will fill the need for those students and their families desiring a classical foundational education.

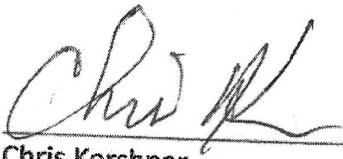
9. Identify significant innovative features that the school will implement to help realize the school's vision/mission.

We seek to bring to Rio Rancho what has already been proven in New Mexico with a Latin-based, classical curriculum

10. 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.

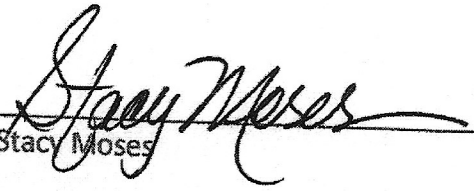
FTCCS will have lower student/teacher ratios focused on a classical curriculum with an emphasis on core subjects, the arts, Latin, physical education, civics, and service.

Signature of founder(s):



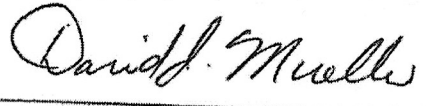
Chris Kershner

1/8/2023



Stacy Moses

1/8/23



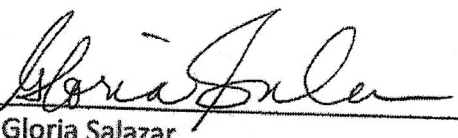
David Mueller

1/8/23



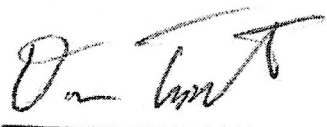
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