



May 28, 2024

Ms. Jayita Sahni, Board Trustee, Charter Committee Chair
Sun Mountain Community School
Via email: jsahni@santafewaldorf.org

Dear Ms. Sahni:

The New Mexico Public School Facilities Authority (PSFA) has received and reviewed the Facilities Master Plan/Educational Specifications 2024-2029 (FMP/Ed Specs) for the proposed Sun Mountain Community School (SMCS). The FMP/Ed Specs guide you in the planning and/or selection of a facility to ensure that it adequately accommodates your educational program and supports your method of instruction. Based upon our review, PSFA is pleased to announce that the FMP/Ed Specs meet our requirements for applicant charter schools and approves the plan. Your next step is to include your FMP/Ed Specs along with this letter in your charter school application to the New Mexico Public Education Commission (PEC).

In reviewing the SMCS FMP/Ed Specs, PSFA understands:

- The name of the proposed school, Sun Mountain Community School.
- The school will utilize the core principles of the Public Waldorf education model for its educational program. As a result, any facility the school chooses will need to be able to meet the unique needs of the Waldorf program with space for special projects, wood shop/metals, large group space, gardening, and open space.
- The proposed school will serve grades K-8th grade with an enrollment cap of 208. The school will phase the enrollment beginning with the lower grades with grade levels added in the subsequent years. The phasing will begin with 104 students in grades K-4th. It expects to reach the middle school grades in its third year of operation. It anticipates reaching its full grade level complement by its 5th year of operation.
- The school's preferred location is the campus of the former Santa Fe Waldorf School. This campus and building are specifically designed to meet the needs of the Waldorf educational program. The campus is located at 26 Puesta del Sol in Santa Fe, NM.
- While the school's Founders have not formally acquired the facility, it is engaged in active discussions. If the school is a successful charter applicant, it will move forward to formalize an agreement for obtaining the facility.



- The former Waldorf facility consists of approximately 18,000 square feet on 8 acres.
- The school will utilize standard New Mexico Public Education Department pupil/teacher ratios for classroom loading purposes.
- Section V of the plan and educational specifications provide a proposed program of spaces. To meet the school's educational program, the plan identifies the following spaces:
 - 9 classrooms for grades K-8th
 - Handwork room
 - Multi-purpose/Movement/Performing Arts space
 - Woodwork room
 - 3 Special Education Classrooms
 - 2 ELL Rooms
 - Library
 - Kitchen
 - Student dining/multi-purpose/gathering space
 - Administrative suite
 - Outdoor playgrounds, playfields, basketball/volleyball court, and archery range
- The school is confident the former Waldorf facility meets its needs and does not anticipate any significant capital needs during the first five years of charter. The school staff will continuously monitor building conditions and develop a capital improvement plan as needs arise.
- Section VII. contains site and floor plans with potential uses of the school campus and facility.

If you are a successful applicant, please let PSFA know so we can update our database. In addition, if you are successful, this FMP/Ed Specs becomes the school's master plan over the next five years. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or desire additional information.

Sincerely,

John Valdez, AICP, Facilities Master Planner

C: Iris Romero, Executive Director, PSFA
 Amy Smith, Programs Analyst, PSFA
 Alyce Ramos, Programs Manager, PSFA
 Larry Tillotson, Maintenance and Operations Manager, PSFA

