

**Dreamland Academy of Performing & Communication Arts
Board of Directors' August-September Meeting
November 15, 2011**

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY FUNCTIONS

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call

II. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

- A. Welcome to Guests
- B. Board President's Comments & Announcements
- C. Superintendent's Monthly Report

III. FINANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

- A. Monthly Financial Report, Chris Bell, CPA
- B. Report: Resolution on Internal Revenue Penalties, Chris Bell

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Modification in Employment Contract
 - a. Mark Loken @ \$4,000, Math Leadership/Science Leadership
- 2. Approval of Dreamland Academy Charter School Renewal Application
- 3. Approval of Access Educational Management Corporation Contract
- 4. Approval of Employment Contract for Dr. Brendly Clark
- 5. Approval of ACSIP District Improvement Plan
- 6. Approval of ACSIP School Improvement Plan
- 7. Approval of Athletic Coaches for 2011-12

V. BOARD POLICY AND REGULATIONS REVIEW

n/a

VI. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

n/a

VII. HUMAN RESOURCES

VIII. CLOSING REMARKS

n/a

IX. HEARINGS

n/a

X. ADJOURNMENT

EMO/Superintendent's Monthly Report

November, 2011

This month we have our hands full. We received notification last week that we needed to submit a renewal application that must be completed by Jan 4, 2012 and that must be approved by the local Board of Directors prior to submitting it to the DOE. I included the application in this agenda packet to advise the Board of the work required to complete the application, including the gathering of required financial documents that will not be available until after November 30, 2011. In short, the department gave us a few weeks to complete something as important as a renewal application. Thank God I wrote articles about the first years, so I have a lot of narrative for the application. I just need to organize it in a coherent fashion. I will have a copy for the Board on Tuesday.

Additionally, we have devoted a lot of time to teacher development. Recently, we had an English professor work with teachers to unify their writing instruction. She will return next week and help teachers implement our writing intervention. Also, two seasoned special education experts provided 2 days of development in behavioral management that resulted in the teachers developing uniform standards for behavior (as opposed to individual ones) and the teachers as a result, developed the following colorful posters that deliver the standards in nurturing language; these will be placed throughout the school. (I attached them at the end of this document)

Dr. Clark took a team of Dreamland staff to the International Alliance of Invitational Education conference in Kentucky. They studied with world renowned Dr. William Purkey, an expert on school climate. I am confident that under Dr. Clark's leadership, we will witness the dawning of the kind of school climate that maximizes student achievement.

Mark Loken attended assessment workshops and a workshop advising of how to implement the Common Core State Standards provided by the Arkansas Public School Resource Center. Donald Joseph attended a parental involvement conference in Hot Springs also.

Parental Involvement Nite at Dreamland last month: Mark Loken delivered workshop for parents to help them support math education at Dreamland. Mr. Joseph was his partner.

We created a schedule for the reading specialist, one that provides her with close access to the classroom as she is scheduled to meet with each group of teachers each week and devote 2 consistent hours within each classroom per week to tutor, team teach, or demonstrate reading instruction techniques. As a result, Mark Loken will assume more of her assessment duties.

The consent agenda has a number of items: the renewal application for Dreamland Academy, renewal contracts for Dr. Clark and Access assuming we are renewed for additional years. I am also requesting that the Board approve an additional \$4,000 for Mark Loken. We do not want to lose a math and science specialist such as Mark's caliber to Little Rock. Also, he will be assuming assessment coordination duties as we have locked Joy Hurst to the classrooms.

Consent Agenda Items & Background Information

Item 1: Modification in Employment Contract: Mark Loken @ \$4,000

Background: Mark Loken was offered employment at Hall High School at a higher rate (\$48,000). Mark is critical to our school improvement plans and is needed at Dreamland to further student achievement in math and science. He serves as the teacher of record for students in grades 4 and 5 for math and science (assisted by Mr. Mc Call) and serves as the science and math consultant. He will assume additional duties, administering the NWEA assessments and the ACT-TAAP assessments.

He is willing to work after school and has been known to visit students' homes to provide tutoring in their home. He has taken significant training this year to prepare for the challenge at Dreamland, and has demonstrated teammanship across the board. I asked him to remain at Dreamland and offered to increase his salary by \$4,000.

Budget Impact: Will add additional \$5,200 to budget with his increase and the attendant benefits.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the salary increase for Mark Loken.

Item 2: Approval of Dreamland Academy Charter School Renewal Application

Background: Dreamland is in year five of a five year charter. It must submit a renewal application that has been approved by the local Board of Directors. I have drafted the attached renewal application and in so doing detailed the progress we have made at Dreamland since its inception.

This renewal requires me to cover all five years and add a number of financial documents. I cannot add the November 30th documents until after the month's end, so providing you with a copy of the application is not possible until after month's end. I am attaching the application to advise the Board of the scope of the renewal application and will have a completed renewal application for each member at the upcoming meeting.

Budget Impact: No impact on budget.

Recommendation: That the Board approve the Dreamland Academy charter school renewal application and in so doing authorize Dreamland administration to submit the same to the Arkansas Department of Education for consideration.



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Open Enrollment Public Charter School Renewal Application

Deadline for Submission: January 4, 2012



Charter School: Dreamland Academy

Date Submitted: ~~12-15-11~~ _____

Date Approved: _____

Arkansas Department of Education

Charter School Office

Four Capitol Mall, Room 302-B

Little Rock, AR 72201

501.683.5313

Application Instructions

In accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-23-307, the State Board of Education is authorized to renew open-enrollment public school charters on a one-year or multi-year basis, not to exceed twenty (20) years. The State Board of Education may place a charter school on probation or may modify, revoke, or deny renewal of its charter if the state board determines that the persons operating the school: a) committed a material violation of the charter, including failure to satisfy accountability provisions prescribed by the charter; b) failed to satisfy generally accepted accounting standards of fiscal management; or c) failed to comply with this chapter or other applicable law or regulation.

1. This application for renewal must be approved by the governing board of the sponsoring entity prior to being submitted to the State Board of Education for consideration.
2. Attachments should be labeled as indicated in the application and submitted in the prescribed order.
3. Submit one original unbound application and twelve (12) one sided complete paper copies of the entire document. The original copy must include signatures in blue ink. One copy must also be submitted on a CD in Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat pdf file. Do not send copies in binders or staple the original application and attachments.
4. List of attachments to be provided:

- a. Documentation that the governing board of the sponsoring entity has voted to approve this application for renewal
 - b. Copy of the school's approved 2011-2012 district-level Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (ACSIP)
 - c. Latest copy of the school's Standards Assurance Report
 - d. Latest copy of the school's Special Education Monitoring Report
 - e. Latest copy of the school's School Report Card
 - f. Latest copy of the school's Equity Compliance Report
 - g. Fiscal year 09-10 Cycle 1 Validation Report. If the data comparison indicates a variance outside of stated ranges, highlight the data and provide an explanation of the reason for the variance.
 - h. June 30, 2011 Detailed Statement of Changes in Fund Balances
 - i. November 30, 2011 Detailed Statement of Changes in Fund Balances
 - j. June 30, 2011 Summary Revenue Status Report
 - k. November 30, 2011 Summary Revenue Status Report
 - l. June 30, 2011 Summary Expenditure Status Report
 - m. November 30, 2011 Summary Expenditure Status Report
 - n. June 30, 2011 Audit, if available
 - o. June 30, 2010 Audit
 - p. Copies of any audit findings documented in other audits since last charter renewal
 - q. June 30, 2011 Bank Reconciliation report, including corresponding bank statement. If any adjustments were made to the school's books to balance to the bank statement, include a comprehensive description of the adjustments.
 - r. November 30, 2011 Bank Reconciliation report, including corresponding bank statement. If any adjustments were made to the school's books to balance to the bank statement, include a comprehensive description of the adjustments.
5. Return completed application and all required copies no later than 4:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, January 4, 2012** to:

Arkansas Department of Education

Public Charter School Office

Four Capitol Mall, Room 302-C

Little Rock, AR 72201

Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Renewal Application

Section I - Contact Information

Sponsoring Entity:	Wilson Community Development Corporation
Name of Charter School:	Dreamland Academy of Performing & Communication Arts
School LEA #	6042701
Name of Principal/Director: Mailing Address: Phone Number: Fax Number: E-mail address:	Dr. Brendly Clark 5615 Geyer Springs Little Rock, AR 72209 501-562-9278 501-562-9279 bclark@dreamlandacademy.org

Name of Board Chairman:	Patricia Phillips
Mailing Address:	1809 Kimberly Drive
Phone Number:	Little Rock, AR 72205
Fax Number:	501-227-7826
E-mail address:	501-993-2013 Paphillips7935@sbcglobal.net

Board Chairman's Signature _____

Date _____

Requested Number of Years for Renewal (1-20) 20

Renewal Application Approval date by the School/Entity Board(s): November 15, 2011

Section II – General Description of the Charter School's Progress

Please provide a narrative on the progress of the public charter school during the current contractual period.

Dreamland Academy has made significant progress in increasing student learning and in helping students with histories of extreme behavior problems adjust to school norms and experience success in the classrooms in the process. Below is a summary of the specific process

Dreamland opened in 2007-08 school year. Dreamland students were tested on reading and mathematics in 2008 to determine a baseline of student performance. In 2007-08, Dreamland students in grades 3-5 were administered the Arkansas state assessment (ACT-TAAP) and reported the following results:

3rd Grade: On Mathematics Assessment in the 3rd grade: 28% scored at the Proficient or Advanced; 72% scored basic or below basic in mathematics. In literacy, 26% of grade 3 students scored at the Proficient or Advanced levels, while 74% scored basic or below basic in literacy.

4th Grade: In the 4th grade, 20% scored at the Proficient or Advanced levels in mathematics, while 80% of students in grade four scored basic or below basic in mathematics. In literacy, 20% of students scored at the Proficient or Advanced levels, while 80% scored at the Basic or Below Basic level.

5th Grade: In the 5th Grade: 5% of students scored at the Proficient or Advanced levels, while 95% scored basic or below basic. By anyone's imagination, these scores indicated the extreme academic needs the students brought with them to Dreamland Academy.

Use additional space as needed

Section III – Composition of Governing Board and Relationships to School Employees

Part A: Composition of Governing Board

In the space provided, describe the governance structure of the open-enrollment charter school, including an explanation of the selection process, authority, and responsibilities of the charter school board.

Part B: Disclosure Information

In the space provided, identify any contract or lease (other than an employment contract), in which the charter school is or has been a party, and in which any charter school administrator or board member, or an administrator or board member's family member, has or had a financial interest.

Use additional space as needed

Part C: Relationship Disclosure

In the space below, provide the name of each Board member and indicate if his/she is related to any school employee(s). Describe the relationship (e.g., spouse, parent, sibling) and employees' job titles, where applicable.

Board Member's Name and Contact Information	Related to Employee(s)? ("No" or describe.)	Employee Job Title

Use additional pages as needed

Section IV – Performance Goals

Part A: Original Performance Goals

In the space provided, list each of the school’s student academic performance goals contained in the original charter and provide supporting data and narrative documentation of the school’s progress in achieving each goal.

Part B: New Performance Goals

In the space provided, list all current, revised or new student academic performance goals that the school would like to use during the approved renewal contract period and provide data and narrative documentation on how the school will measure progress toward achieving each goal.

Use additional space as needed

Section V – Test Data

Part A: Testing Data

Please attach the testing data summary furnished by Arkansas Department of Education (ADE).

Part B: Narrative on Academic Performance Test Data

Please provide a narrative on the testing data results provided by the ADE furnished in Part A above documenting each year's performance and how this supports the public charter school's academic goals.

Use additional space as needed

Part C: Additional Assessments

Please provide/attach additional data, if any, used to measure student academic performance at the public charter school.

Part D: Narrative on Academic Performance Test Data

Please provide a narrative on the testing data results provided by the ADE furnished in Part C above documenting each year's performance and how this supports the public charter school's academic goals.

Use additional space as needed

Section VI – Waivers

Part A: Original Waivers

Please attach a copy of your current approved waiver list as furnished by ADE.

Part B: New Waivers

In the space provided, list additional waivers from Title VI of Arkansas Code Annotated, State Board of Education Rules and Regulations, and/or the *Standards for Accreditation* that the school would like to add to their charter for the approved renewal contract. Please provide rationale supporting the need for each additional waiver.

Part C: Waivers To Be Rescinded

In the space provided, list any waivers from the original charter that the school would like to have deleted. If no waivers are listed, the school will be required to follow all waivers listed on both the original and renewal charter documentation.

Use additional space as needed

Section VII – Requested Amendments

Identify any requested amendments to the original charter including, but not limited to, the following:

- A) Grade levels to be served and/or enrollment cap. Provide rationale.

B) Changes to the educational program offered. Provide rationale.

C) Other amendment requests. Provide rationale.

Use additional space as needed

Section VIII – Attachments

- a. Documentation that the governing board of the sponsoring entity has voted to approve this application for renewal
- b. Copy of the school's approved 2011-2012 district-level Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (ACSIP)
- c. Latest copy of the school's Standards Assurance Report
- d. Latest copy of the school's Special Education Monitoring Report
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- r. November 30, 2011 Bank Reconciliation report, including corresponding bank statement. If any adjustments were made to the school's books to balance to the bank statement, include a comprehensive description of the adjustments.

Item 3: Approval of Access Educational Management Corporation Contract

Background: Access Educational Management Corporation has been with Dreamland since its inception and has charted the course needed to ensure that the Academy is a viable school program for children and parents in Little Rock. Access currently is contracted for the remainder of the 2011-12 school year, but the contract ends at the conclusion of the 2011-12 school year. Because creating a viable school program for urban students is challenging and because Access and Dr. Carolyn Carter, in particular have done a good job of creating a school concept, erecting the same, and managing the process, Access deserves to continue in the role of educational management organization for an additional 3 years with annual renewable options for years 4 and 5 assuming satisfactory performance.

Budget Impact: The budget impact will not change except for an adjustment for the cost of living that will be determined by our accountants.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the attached Access contract for an additional 3 years with options for years 4 and 5 assuming satisfactory performance and assuming that the Dreamland Academy charter school renewal application is approved by the Arkansas State Board of Education for continuation.

Item 4: Approval of Employment Contract for Dr. Brendly Clark

Background: Dr. Brendly Clark has made significant sacrifices for Dreamland Academy at the expense of her family obligations. She has served as my partner and has demonstrated with her own agreement to work for 18 months without pay to save the academy, that she is an unusual school administrator.

She has managed to take over from Bill and me and hold the school program together, even improving the same by adding more parental involvement, more staff appreciation, and more positive messages to students. Her contract expires at the conclusion of the 2011-12 school year. However, assuming that the Dreamland Academy renewal application is approved by the Arkansas State Board of Education, she deserves a renewed contract as well for 3 additional years with options for years 4 and 5 assuming satisfactory performance.

Budget Impact: The budget impact will be a slight increase in her salary in the following increments: Year 1: by 9,000 to 95,000; Year 2: by 5,000 to 100,000; Year 3 to 105,000.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the attached employment contract for Dr. Brendly Clark for an additional 3 years with options for years 4 and 5 assuming satisfactory performance and assuming that the Dreamland Academy charter school renewal application is approved by the Arkansas State Board of Education for continuation.

Item 5: Approval of ACSIP District Improvement Plan

Item 6: Approval of ACSIP School Improvement Plan

Item 7: Approval of 21CCLC Coaches

Background: Our 21CCLC program provides funds for athletic coaches. This year we will enroll in the elementary school league and recommend the following coaches:

1. Athletic Director (3-5) Mr. Howard
2. Basketball Coach, Boys (3-5) Mr. Blunt
3. Basketball Coach, Girls (3-5) Ms. Hall
4. Math Team Coach (3-5) Mr. Loken
5. Cheerleader Coach (3-5) Ms. Thomas

Each coach will receive a stipend of \$1,500 after the season has concluded.

Budget Impact: These fees are covered in the 21cclc 2011-12 budget.

Recommendation: That the Board approve the employment of the above persons for our athletic program.