

**Nosotros Academy
Board Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, January 16, 2013**

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Location: Nosotros Academy
440 N. Grande Ave.
Tucson, Az. 85745
Bldg 1, Multipurpose Room

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Approval of Minutes of October 10, 2012**
- III. Action Item:**
 - **Adoption of the new mission statement. (see attachment A)**
- IV. New Business:**
 - **Adoption of 2013-2014 calendar. (see attachment B)**
 - **Discussion of enrollment and budget projections for 2012-2013.**
- V. Old Business: 450 N. Grande property**
- VI. Executive Session to discuss Employee Compensation and other related personnel issues**
- VII. Adjournment**

NOSOTROS ACADEMY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- DATE:** Wednesday, January 16, 2013
- LOCATION:** Nosotros Academy
440 N Grande Ave
Tucson, Arizona 85745
Multi-Purpose Rm., Bldg #1
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ruben Suarez, Chair
Rudy Gallego, Secretary/Treasurer
Margaret Romero
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Luis Kamei
Gene Benton
- STAFF PRESENT:** Paul M. Felix, Principal/ CEO
Ron Kovar, CPA
- CALL TO ORDER:** R. Suarez at 3:54pm
- CALL TO AUDIENCE:** None
- MINUTES:** **Motion to approve the June 27, 2012 minutes as printed.**
- Motion: R. Gallego
 - Second: M. Romero
 - Approved by unanimous voice vote
- ACTION ITEMS:** **Adoption of the new Mission statement.**
- Motion: R. Gallego
 - Second: G. Benton
 - Approved by unanimous voice vote
- NEW BUSINESS:** **Adoption of 2013-2014 calendar.**
- Motion: G. Benton
 - Second: R. Gallego
 - Approved by unanimous voice vote.
- Discussion of mid-year status of enrollment and budget projections for 2012-2013. 100th day count between 160-170 ADM.**

Announcements:

- Darcie Aukeman-Liarakos – Resignation effective end of the year.
- Rebecca Zwick – Resignation effective, replaced by M. Biskofski.

OLD BUSINESS:

450 N. Grande property – Board did not authorize a counter offer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Discussion of principal succession. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

R. Suarez

Next Meeting: May 1, 2013 at 3:30pm.

CURRENT

INTRODUCTION

Nosotros, Inc. has served the local community for over 30 years by offering a wide range of human services. From 1996 to 2008, Nosotros served as an alternative high school for the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD). The Nosotros Alternative Education Program established a reputation for excellence, serving approximately sixty (60) students per year.

Due to our excellent reputation, Mr. Frank O. Romero, Executive Director (1981-2009), and the Governing Board of Nosotros, Inc. made a decision to apply to the State Board for Charter Schools to obtain approval to open Nosotros Academy in August 2002.

Nosotros Academy serves approximately two hundred students, ages eight (8) to twenty-one (21), in grades 3 through 12. Nosotros Academy is a tuition-free public middle and high school and offers an official Arizona High School Diploma.

THE NOSOTROS ACADEMY VISION

Nosotros Academy believes all students have the right to discover, set and realize high academic, post-secondary, professional and personal goals and uses the best K-12 educational practices to help our students reach those goals.

THE NOSOTROS ACADEMY MISSION

We will create a high quality center for education that will promote empowerment of the student, engagement of the family, and community building through mutual commitment to academic success by providing customizable instructional services in a safe, user-friendly atmosphere that meets the needs of student so they can excel as members of the greater community.

PROPOSED

INTRODUCTION

Nosotros, Inc. has served the local community for over 40 years by offering a wide range of human services. Nosotros, Inc. served as an alternative high school for the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) from 1996 to 2008. The Nosotros Alternative Education Program established a reputation for excellence, having served approximately sixty (60) students per year.

Due to our excellent reputation, Mr. Frank O. Romero, Executive Director (1981-2009), and the Governing Board of Nosotros, Inc. made a decision to apply to the State Board for Charter Schools to obtain approval to open Nosotros Academy in August 2002.

Nosotros Academy serves approximately two hundred students, ages eight (8) to twenty-one (21), in grades 3 through 12. Nosotros Academy is a tuition-free public school and offers an official Arizona School Diploma.

NOSOTROS ACADEMY MISSION STATEMENT

Nosotros Academy dedicates itself to bringing quality alternative education to at risk students that will promote empowerment of the student, engagement of the family, and community building through mutual commitment to academic success by providing individualized services in a safe, user-friendly atmosphere that meet the needs of students so they can excel as members of the greater community.

Nosotros Academy understands and ^{provides for} senses the unique needs of at risk students such as credit recovery, small class size, and caring teachers, so the student may transition from at risk to college bound.

THE NOSOTROS ACADEMY VISION

Nosotros Academy believes all students have the right to discover, set and realize high academic, post-secondary, professional and personal goals.

MOTTO

From at risk to college bound

ADOPTED
1/16/13


11. AZ LEARNS Achievement Profiles for Alternative Schools

In 2004, the ADE published profiles for alternative schools for the first time. Alternative schools are defined as schools that meet the Board-approved definition as schools whose sole and clearly-stated mission is to serve specific populations of at-risk students. Alternative school status is granted by application to the ADE. A.R.S. §15-241 makes an allowance for a “parallel” evaluation method for alternative schools. When AZ LEARNS achievement profiles were first issued in 2002 the Board determined that alternative schools would not receive an achievement profile using the conventional AZ LEARNS methodology, and that ADE should develop an alternate method for evaluating these schools.

Definition of an Alternative School

The following is the definition of an alternative school as approved by the Board of Education in 2002. In 2010 there were 146 schools that were granted alternative school status.

1. A school operated by a school district must have adopted a mission statement that clearly identifies its purpose and intent to serve a specific student population (please see criterion three) that will benefit from an alternative school setting. A charter school must be expressly chartered to serve a specific student population that will benefit from an alternative school setting.
2. The educational program and related student services of the school must match the mission or charter of the school.
3. The school must intend to serve students exclusively in one or more of the following categories:
 - Students with behavioral issues (documented history of disruptive behavior)
 - Students identified as dropouts
 - Students in poor academic standing who are either severely behind on academic credits (more than one year) or have a demonstrated pattern of failing grades
 - Pregnant and/or parenting students
 - Adjudicated youth
4. Any school offering secondary instruction for academic credit used to fulfill Arizona State Board of Education graduation requirements (in part or in full) must offer a diploma of high school graduation.

General Process to Produce Achievement Profiles for Alternative Schools

The method for calculating an achievement profile for alternative schools is as follows:

1. AIMS scale score points are calculated using the status point calculation as for all other schools. Alternative schools do not receive points for improvement or MAP
2. Points based on an alternative school's dropout rate are calculated as for all other schools. Starting in 2009, dropout rate will be evaluated for all schools.
3. Alternative schools will only receive labels of performing and underperforming.
4. Schools service both elementary/middle and high school grades will receive a single profile.

Because of the uncertainty of measurement associated with small sample sizes and the high stakes of school labels, schools initially determined to be underperforming receive a "second look." Instead of determining baseline groups based on the mean percent of students passing AIMS, an alternate baseline group for these schools is determined based on the upper bound of a 95 percent confidence interval around the mean. If a school initially determined to be underperforming moves to a higher classification due to the "second look," that school will receive a performing label.

Calculation of an Achievement Profile for an Alternative School

The method used to calculate scale score points earned by alternative schools, regardless of the grades served, for these performance measures are the same as the methods used for other schools.

- A school may receive up to six scale score points for each subject. Due to the small size of alternative schools, status points are calculated using a multi-year average of scores. Starting in the current year, scores from previous years are averaged until the total number of scores is 32. The status points are averaged across grades and then summed across subjects.
- If a school may receive one point based on its dropout rate.
- The total points earned by a school are added up and compared to the school classification scale to determine a school's preliminary classification.

Classification Scales for Alternative Schools

The following classification scales are used for all alternative schools.

Table 11.1. Alternative School Classification Cut Points	
	Scale Points
Underperforming	< 6.0
Performing	6.0