



January 20, 2016

Oregon State Board of Education
255 Capitol Street
NE Salem, OR 97301

Re: Arco Iris Charter School Lottery Waiver Request for students transferring from Spanish Immersion elementary school programs

Dear Members,

To foster a successful middle school language immersion environment, we are requesting to grant priority to new students transferring from a Spanish language immersion program. This priority status will provide the opportunity for new students from other immersion programs to continue with immersion education during the middle school grades, 6th-8th. This priority enrollment would be instituted after all returning students and all children of board and staff members' have been enrolled. The special group of "Spanish language immersion students" would have priority over other resident new students from the district seeking enrollment for the first time in our middle school program.

Providing this option will enable us to attract new students who may not have other opportunities to further their study in and of Spanish language and culture. The middle school years are crucial to sustaining and building language proficiency and literacy. The waiver, moreover, would help improve the diversity of students in our middle school with more families having participated in a dual immersion program. The impacts to our school, therefore, are significant with minimal effect to others enrolling.

Please consider this waiver petition pursuant to ORS 338.125(3) as outlined below:

The Arco Iris Spanish Immersion Charter School (Arco Iris) requests that the Oregon State Board of Education waive ORS 338.125(3), which requires "the public charter school to select students through an equitable lottery selection process." Arco Iris requests a waiver to grant priority enrollment to new middle school students transferring from elementary school Spanish language immersion programs.

The specific reason(s) the charter school is seeking the waiver:

Arco Iris School competes with a significant number of middle school options offered by our authorizing school district, Beaverton School District. As a result, a

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handful of our fifth grade students opt for a new middle school, leaving openings in our middle school class. Adding students in Grades 6-8 with no prior Spanish language experience creates a classroom of heterogeneous language learners. In the middle school grades, language is used to teach content, and a student new to the Spanish language causes the teacher to alter teaching methods significantly to meet the needs of the new language student. This impacts the entire class, students and teacher and would be unnecessary if the new students had Spanish language experiences in elementary school similar to the elementary students at Arco Iris School.

The impact the waiver will have on the school and student outcomes:

Middle school students at Arco Iris will benefit from having classroom peers at a similar proficiency level in Spanish. The waiver will increase the chances that new middle school students will have Spanish language skills. We expect that students will benefit from having language-ready peers who can confidently contribute to classroom learning. This will allow the middle school teachers to focus on content and not be diverted to teaching the basics of the Spanish language. We expect this will benefit student outcomes as measured by formal assessments. Lastly, teachers have expressed that at the middle school grades, new non-Spanish speaking students have a very difficult time and that this unnecessarily requires the teachers to differentiate the lessons across both abilities and languages. Most of the local language-immersion schools require proficiency exams after the second grade before a spot in a language-immersion class is offered. Arco Iris School does not use language proficiency as a part of our enrollment process in elementary school and we are requesting to include prior attendance in a Spanish-language program in our enrollment policy for middle school only.

Evidence that the sponsor has been notified:

Arco Iris is a public charter school sponsored by the Beaverton School District and is currently in its 6th year of operation. We are renewing our charter agreement with our sponsoring district and asking for a ten-year term. We have notified our sponsoring district of our intent to seek this waiver. A copy of this notification is attached.

How the waiver will promote the development of programs and equitable access:

The waiver to grant priority enrollment to Spanish language immersion students in grades 6-8 will allow the classrooms to maintain the integrity of the Spanish language immersion program. Teachers have expressed strong support for this waiver application as the few students who enroll without Spanish language

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proficiency struggle in their classrooms. A number of these students stay for only a few weeks or a couple of months before withdrawing and moving on to another school. We suggest that this waiver will also improve teacher satisfaction, an outcome very important to our charter school, which loses teachers regularly to higher paying neighboring school districts. Thus, the program benefits, the students benefit and the teachers benefit from this enrollment policy.

Arco Iris School is more diverse, ethnically, than the average school in our authorizing school district, the Beaverton School District. We believe that this waiver will increase our diversity because most of the neighboring Spanish language immersion schools are two-way immersion programs (Arco Iris is a one-way immersion program). In a two-way immersion program, approximately 50% of the students are native-Spanish speakers. Thus, it is likely that this waiver would increase the diversity and multi-cultural qualities of our school. Further, Arco Iris could help these students further their proficiency in Spanish throughout these crucial years of language acquisition.

Plan for reporting on the impact:

If this waiver is approved, we will track, via the enrollment application, the number of students from Spanish-language immersion programs who apply for enrollment in grades 6-8. Further, discussions with teachers regarding differentiation in the classroom across languages will help assess the changes that the waiver would bring to the classroom.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to the next steps in this process.

Sincerely,
Caitlin Jeffery, President,
Board of Directors
Arco Iris Spanish Immersion Charter School

Attachment

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **jon bridges** <Jon_Bridges@beaverton.k12.or.us>
Date: Tue, Dec 15, 2015 at 12:03 PM
Subject: RE: Waiver approval for Arco Iris Middle School enrollment priority
To: Sonia Ticas <sonia.ticas@arcoirisschool.org>
Cc: April Rose Castillo <aprilrose.castillo@arcoirisschool.org>, brenda lewis <Brenda_Lewis@beaverton.k12.or.us>, ginny hansmann <Ginny_Hansmann@beaverton.k12.or.us>, carl mead <Carl_Mead@beaverton.k12.or.us>

Yes, that is correct. --Jon

From: Sonia Ticas [<mailto:sonia.ticas@arcoirisschool.org>]
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2015 8:59 PM
To: jon bridges
Cc: April Rose Castillo; brenda lewis; ginny hansmann; carl mead
Subject: Re: Waiver approval for Arco Iris Middle School enrollment priority

Hello Jon,
You mean NO opposition right? Could you just confirm.

Thank you all for your consideration,

Sonia

On Mon, Dec 14, 2015 at 8:39 PM, jon bridges <Jon_Bridges@beaverton.k12.or.us> wrote:
Hi Sonia,

I have forwarded this on and there was opposition to either of the waiver requests. So **your all set to move forward.** Thanks much for your work on behalf of our students. --Jon

From: Sonia Ticas [<mailto:sonia.ticas@arcoirisschool.org>]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 10:56 PM
To: jon bridges; April Rose Castillo
Subject: Waiver approval for Arco Iris Middle School enrollment priority

Dear Jon,

I hope this e-mail finds you well. As Christie, Jan and Erin informed you in a recent meeting with you, I'm following up on a new waiver we would like to apply for that will hopefully allow us to grant **priority enrollment, at the middle school level, to new students coming from immersion schools.** Attached you will find the full waiver application and the approved minutes from our board meeting where this was presented and approved unanimously (see pg. 3).

April Rose Castillo, the other educator on the Arco Iris board, has prepared the application **for enrollment priority for staff and board members.** I'm attaching this one as well.

Would you please forward our requests to the appropriate person(s) in the BSD board and indicate to us whether they approve. We'd be most appreciative if you can get back to us within the next week.

Thank you for your consideration

--

Sonia Ticas
Board Educator
Arco Iris Spanish Charter Immersion School

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 19, 2015

At Arco Iris Spanish Immersion School

Attendance

	Present	Absent
Caitlin Jeffery – President (Project Manager)	X	
Jim Mullaney – Treasurer	X	
Amy Velázquez – Secretary (Project Manager)		X
Scott Schiefelbein (Project Manager)	X	
Jenifer Nelles (Project Manager)	X	
April Rose Castillo (Educator)	X	
Todd Watkins (Project Manager)		X
Sonia Ticas (Educator)	X	
Candice Aguilar (Project Manager)	X	

Regular Meeting: Call to order @ 6:02 pm (Caitlin)

Opening Comments (Caitlin)

- No opening comments other than today is officially Todd’s last meeting.

Public Comment (Caitlin)

- Skylar Johnson – Lost the first grade teacher suddenly. Question has to do with the kids, they don’t know what is going on and are confused. Are they going to be talked to about what has happened? Understands that public cannot know personal stuff, but want make sure the kids are taken care of. Principal Miles indicated that they will be introduced to their teacher very soon.
- Sky Johnson - Are we moving forward with a cooling rack – Jim indicated yes we are. Sky - Why? There are so many other solutions out there that are cheaper and better. Some research was done and Sky found that we don’t need 2 servers, but a tower server might be a better option. Jim indicated that he will discuss with Sky outside of public meeting.

Re-opened Public Comment - due to late arrivals

- Rocio Espinoza - For the future can we consider substitute teachers that are bilingual. There are a couple of teachers that only speak English to the students. Also, if there is a teacher that leaves can we find out what curriculum the teacher was teaching because with the departure of the first grade teacher it doesn’t seem like they are doing any learning this week.
- Laura contreras – Is anyone going to address the students regarding the departure of the first grade teacher. Principal Miles indicated that they will be introduced to their teacher very soon.

Board Business

- Approval of Minutes (Caitlin)
 - No corrections
 - Candice moved to approve the October minutes, Scott seconded, none opposed, October minutes were unanimously aproved

- **Treasurer's Report (Jim)**
 - October Figures: Cash balance \$656,590; ADMW revenue \$118,737, Net Profit of \$21,962
 - Page 3 of Financial report (Profit and Loss) - Close to a break even point when looking to ADMW when looking at the month in comparison to our actual expenses. Getting to a point where we should start evening out in November – January and then seeing more income due to spring fundraisers. Will continue to be at a break even point until we get more fundraising next year
 - Have not completed audit for 2015. Still waiting on the CPA firm. Jim has talked to them about the amount of time it is taking. Hopeful that by Tuesday or Wednesday next week it will be done. Needs to be done in order to get the tax return done by 12/15/15. It will be sent to Department of Education and Oregon Department of Justice. This is public information so will be available to all once it is done. The audit is also needed for the charter renewal.
 - Finance meeting last week – Discussion around the server issues as well as supply and repair issues. Would like to have an additional meeting with the site search team. Also need to meet with renewal committee to be sure all financial info is taken care of.
 - Jim will email the school board email if the finance committee is not happening.
 - Jim made a motion to approve new servers for the school due to an urgent need Scott seconded via email. Discussion and vote via email. Approved.

Principal's Report (Erin)

- See board book
- Enrollment – 261 students with 90 on the wait list. Don't expect to add new students other than the new 1st grade teachers 4th grade son.
- Had first book club at Erin's house last night – read a book on bi-literacy. Rich discussion at the meeting.
- Correction to Principal's report - Buenas Tardes extended day is 12/18 not 12/11.
- Received \$1000 grant from our insurance carrier PACE due to our addressing safety in our school. Covered all of the teacher's walkie talkies plus a little extra.
- Just heard from flooring people for cafeteria floors. Working on dates. Hopefully over winter break.

Parent Report (Christa)

- PTO update – see Board Book
- Auction: Two co-chairs are ready to go and working hard along with the rest of the team members. Met with zoo to talk about layout for event. Hitting procurement hard right now as deadline is February 20th. Feeling really good about the team.
- Concern over why multiple bids were not requested for the server technology issues.

Board Updates

- **Nominating Committee (Jeffery)**
 - See Board Book
 - Have finished interviews for Project Manager position and Finance
 - Erica Vo has been nominated by the committee for the Project Manager position
 - Sandy Pagan has been nominated by the committee for the Finance position
 - Jenifer moved to approve Erica Vo and Sandy Pagan based upon the nomination committee's recommendation. Scott seconded, none opposed – Erica Vo and Sandy Pagan unanimously approved as new Board members, Project Manager and finance respectively

- Caitlin indicated this will be Jim's last meeting as a board member. Thanked him for all of the work he has done through the many years he has served on the board.
 - Recommended to have Jim as an emeritus member - Candice moved to approve Jim as an emeritus member Scott seconds, none opposed. Jim has emeritus status
 - Recommended to have Todd as an emeritus member. Jim moves, Jenifer seconds, no discussion, all in favor, Todd is approved as an emeritus member.
 - Motion for Sandy Pagan to be Treasurer with a 12/15 effective date in order to allow time for appropriate transition, Jim moved, Scott seconded. No discussion, all in favor. Sandy Pagan has been approved to be a finance board member and treasure.
- **Site Search Committee (Jenifer)**
 - See board book
 - Jim recommends we send the letter of intent to the church as that would require them to respond in writing to us. Jenifer will discuss with Paul, Arco Iris' broker.
- **Development Workgroup (Candice)**
 - Auction
 - See board book – feel good about where we are right now
 - Grant writing
 - Nothing new since last report.
 - Need to work on some reorganization of responsibilities. So much effort is going into the auction that there hasn't been a lot of time to search out grants with current members. There were a few parents that indicated they might be interested in helping after one of the recent PTO meetings. Will need to reach out to them. Might have an option to have some of the charter renewal committee members move to grant writing when they are done.
 - Have we considered a professional grant writer – we are considering this. Caitin knows a professional grant writer that is an educator. She will get a quote.
- **Website (Candice)**
 - See Board Book
 - Hope to have the site live by 12/5 with training on 12/11 for the teachers.
 - Down the road we need to discuss who owns our web address – We will keep the address regardless of what we do (i.e. leave Edilio). We get the name, but if Edilio "owns" the name they deal with the maintenance.
- **Charter Renewal Committee (Sonia/Christie)**
 - See Board Book
 - Motion to approve the committees recommendations on waivers. Moved by Candice seconded by Jim, no discussion, unanimously approved.
 - Next committee meeting will focus on public meeting strategy. Who will speak, what we will focus on, etc.
 - Erin is trying to set up some time for BSD board members to come in to see our school
 - Asked about the financial plan – what do they want from us? What Jan put together in June with the individual from Portland State went over very well with the board.

- Requesting authorization of info in board book to be the main components for Charter renewal letter to be written. Sonia moves, Jim seconds. No discussion, none opposed, unanimously approved.
- Caitlin requests that we hold off on the board action request to update the mission statement regarding algebra until the governance meeting. All in agreement.
- **Board Training Report (Caitlin)**
 - Ongoing request that those who have not completed modules, complete at least one prior to the next board meeting.

ACTION ITEM – Caitlin knows a professional grant writer that is an educator. She will get a quote for the grant writing workgroup.

ACTION ITEM – Jim recommends we send the site letter of intent as discussed at last meeting. Jenifer will discuss with Paul, Arco Iris' broker.

ACTION ITEM – Email the minutes tonight. Need to review and approve by tomorrow.

ACTION ITEM - Candice will work with PTO to reach out to parents to find additional members for grant writing.

ACTION ITEM - April Submit waiver request the staff and board children priority enrollment

ACTION ITEM - Sonia – submit middle school waiver

Adjourn at 7:37 pm by Caitlin

Prepared by Jenifer Nelles