



NORTON SPACE & AERONAUTICS ACADEMY

School wide Review of Proposed NSAA Charter Modifications

November 12, 2013

Agenda

- Overview of NSAA curriculum and value
- Review of Proposed Charter modifications
 - Facilities
 - Sustainability
 - Considerations
- Focus of NSAA with the charter amendments
- What Happens Next

NSAA Mission

NSAA is dedicated to educating in an academically rigorous dual language immersion program with a special focus on the sciences and technology.



NSAA Provides...

- Mandarin Chinese within a FLEX (Foreign Language Experience) program.
- Enrichment opportunities through art, music, and P.E. rotations.
- A highly structured and nurturing small school environment.
- NSAA has been able to maintain reduced class sizes.
- Encourages strong partnerships with parents, and the community.



Proposed Charter Modifications by Staff

In the six years since the school opened, a number of operational concerns have arisen, which coupled by a desire to strengthen the educational program, have caused staff to review the original charter requirements.

As a result, staff is recommending **three** changes to both the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and NSAA Charter to ensure that the school continues to provide a quality education to the students.

What is the purpose of the MOU and Charter?

Charter

- Specific goals and operating procedures for the charter school are detailed in an agreement (or "charter") between the sponsoring board and charter organizers.

MOU

- An agreement with the California Board of Education and NSAA
 - To be reasonably assured that Implementing the provisions of the Charter as approved.
 - Obeying all requirements of federal, state, and local law that apply to the School.
 - Being operated prudently in all respects.
 - Providing a sound education for all of its students.

Proposed Modifications Overview

School Program K-8th

- Instead of a K-12th school

Chinese Program

- Change to a FLEX language program (Foreign Language Experience)

Language of Instruction

- Change to say “between 30-50% in Spanish in the Middle Grades”

Reconfigure as a K-8th School

Goal: To continue to provide a quality educational experience to NSAA students.

- Issues to consider:**
1. Enrollment
 2. Single-subject credential requirements
 3. Limited course selection for students
 4. Need for an academic counselor
 5. Facilities
 6. Sustainability
 7. Athletics

Facilities

- Right now, the school cafeteria is at maximum usage, so an additional cafeteria (serving space - indoor)/ eating space with appropriate sheltering from the weather would be required.
- The expansion to 8th grade alone will require to move the fence out to Foisy and add 10 more portables.
- Lack of open space for PE classes

Financial Requirements - Sustainability

Financial requirements for a comprehensive 9th-12th Grade program

Revenue estimates:	\$246,183
Expenses estimates:	
Teaching staff	\$420,000
Support staff	\$102,000
Facilities	\$205,200
Textbooks	\$12,000
Athletics	\$25,000
Miscellaneous expenses	\$25,000
Estimated Revenue Total:	\$246,183
Estimated Expenses Total:	\$859,200
\$638,017 Shortfall	

There are some alternatives...

- Create a virtual high school
- Joining with other local charters to create a high school.



Financial Requirements – Virtual 9-12

Financial requirements for a virtual 9-12 high school program

Revenue estimates: \$246,183

Expenses estimates:

Teaching staff \$70,000

Support staff \$102,000

Facilities \$34,200

Online cost \$5,100

Estimated Revenue Total: \$246,183

Estimated Expense Total: \$211,300

Balance: \$ 34,883

Virtual High School - Limitations

- Quality of instruction or relationships different from a full-time seat program.
- Not a viable option for many or all students
- Virtual/online high school science courses are not accepted by CSUs or UCs
- It will require a Charter modification approved by the County Board.
- Does not include CIF athletics.

Challenges of joining with other charters

- It will take several charters to establish a high school.
- The planning and collaboration between different charters will require consensus by all – this could take years.
- It will require a Charter modification approved by the County Board.
- Is not sustainable at the current facilities
- No other facility options available due to circumstances out of the Lewis Center's control.
- A new format will not necessarily reflect the NSAA values

Our focus at NSAA, K-8 today and moving forward...

- Concentration/focus of resources
- Strengthen the academic program within the dual language program with strong Science emphasis
- Focus on the full implementation of the 1-1 Laptop Program
- Focus of professional development around aligning existing programs to the Common Core State Standards
- Maintaining a small and safe school environment
- Continue to address the planned actions stated for WASC accreditation

Next Steps

- NSAA will propose modification to its School Board for approval
- If NSAA Board approves, the proposal will be brought forth at the County Board for their consideration
- At this point in time, parents with students in 7th grade have about a year and a half to make educational decisions for their children





Where can I find answers to my questions?

- There will be lots of questions, not just about the proposed modifications, but about the charter itself.
- Send questions to ggirard@lcer.org
- Information will be compiled into an FAQ document
- FAQ will be sent /posted at <http://www.lewiscenter.org/NSAA/index.php>