

1 Adopted 10/26/98
2
3
4

5 CHARTER SCHOOL PROPOSAL
6
7

8 Charter school legislation became law, in the state of Idaho, on July 1, 1998. The purpose
9 of this legislation was to provide innovative and expanded learning opportunities for students in
10 Idaho public schools. It is the intent of the legislation to provide opportunities for teachers,
11 parents, students and community members to establish and maintain public charter schools which
12 operate independently within the existing public school system as a method to accomplish the
13 following:
14

- 15 1. Improve student learning;
- 16 2. Increase learning opportunities for all students, with special emphasis on expanded
17 learning experiences for students;
- 18 3. Include the use of different and innovative teaching methods;
- 19 4. Create new professional opportunities for teachers, including the opportunity to be
20 responsible for the learning program at the school site;
- 21 5. Provide parents and students with expanded choices in the types of educational
22 opportunities that are available within the public school system;
- 23 6. Hold the schools established under this chapter accountable for meeting
24 measurable student educational standards.
25

26 While keeping the above statements in mind, the "Committee for More Choice in the
27 Meridian School District" petitions the Meridian School District Board of Trustees to establish a
28 Professional Technical Charter High School within the Meridian School District. This committee,
29 further, petitions the Board of Trustees to allow the Meridian School District to become the sole
30 sponsor of this charter school. In this behalf the following administrative structure and line of
31 authority is to be established:
32

33
34 CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

35 ↓

36 ↓

37 CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSITE COMMITTEE

38 ↓

39 ↓

40 CHARTER SCHOOL EMPLOYEES
41
42
43

1 Make up of the above authority groups will be:
2
3

4 Charter School Board of Directors = A board made up of a parent and/or student
5 representative(s) from the charter school oversight
6 committee and representatives from business and
7 industry and the School District Board of Trustees.
8

9 Charter School Oversight Committee = A committee made up of representatives from
10 charter school employees, parents and students
11

12 Charter School Employees = Those employed under the charter and working at the
13 school site
14

15 The Charter School Board of Directors will lease or contract with the Meridian School
16 District to provide a site and facilities for the operation of the school, to participate in the school
17 district liability insurance program and to be audited by school district auditors. Further, the
18 Charter School Board of Directors will contract to utilize the accounting and purchasing
19 departments of the Meridian School District in its operation. Should the charter school be
20 discontinued at some point in time, all assets would belong to the Meridian School District.
21

22 Employees of the charter school would be treated the same as employees of the Meridian
23 School District in relation to benefits, experience and education, as well as all state and federal
24 benefit programs. Teachers of the Meridian School District who transfer to the charter school
25 may return to the district under the same conditions as outlined in the district transfer policy.
26 Charter school employees will be allowed to participate in Meridian School District sponsored
27 training, workshops and inservice as needed. Certified employees of the Charter school may form
28 a collective bargaining unit separate from the school district bargaining unit if they desire to do so.
29
30

31 The administrator of the charter school and the Meridian School District will be the
32 individual and entity who shall be legally accountable for the operation of the Charter School.
33

34 An "educated person" in the twenty-first century is a person who has completed a
35 rigorous and relevant secondary program of studies that prepares him/her to live in a rapidly
36 changing, global environment. Each person will leave the secondary public school program
37 prepared with the basic skills necessary to enter the world of work and with the necessary
38 requirements to go on to a postsecondary educational program.
39

40 The goals of this Charter School will be as follows:
41

- 42 1. To meet the state educational thoroughness standards as stated below:
43

1 * A safe environment conducive to learning is provided

2
3 # Background checks will be done on all employees

4 # Regular fire and safety inspections will be made on the facility.

5 # The school will be served by a school resource officer.

6 # Zero tolerance policies will be used to remove students who are a
7 threat to others.

8
9 * Educators are empowered to maintain classroom discipline

10
11 # Teachers will be empowered to hold students to a very high level
12 discipline code. This is a choice school and discipline problems
13 will not be tolerated.

14 # A policy will be established requiring teachers to work directly with
15 parents and students, where possible, to resolve discipline problems
16 before a student is removed from the Charter School. This policy
17 will set a higher level of discipline expectation than is currently used in
18 the Meridian School District.

19
20 * The basic values of honesty, self-discipline, unselfishness, respect for
21 authority and the central importance of work are emphasized

22
23 # Character education will be integrated into all aspects of the
24 education program. The importance of a strong work ethic will be
25 emphasized.

26
27 * The skills necessary to communicate effectively are taught

28
29 # Communication will be an important aspect of the Charter School
30 program. Communication skills including technical reading and
31 writing, verbal and non-verbal skills, listening skills, and conflict
32 resolution will be an integral part of all programs and classes.

33
34 * A basic curriculum necessary to enable students to enter academic or
35 vocational post secondary educational programs is provided

36
37 # This statement is the heart of the educational program. Students will
38 leave this program with the ability and knowledge to go directly to
39 the workplace or into a program of postsecondary instruction.
40 Opportunity for postsecondary credits will also be available.

41
42 * The skills necessary for students to enter the work force are taught

1 # Students will be provided hands on experiences in a work setting
2 that will provide them the technical skills as well as the interpersonal
3 skills necessary to enter the work force.
4

5
6 * The students are introduced to current technology

7
8 # Students will have training in the use of current technology as it
9 relates to the field of work they choose.

10
11 * The importance of students acquiring the skills to enable them to be
12 responsible citizens of their homes, schools and communities is
13 emphasized.

14
15 # This will be the frame work of the discipline code that is established
16 for this school.

- 17
18 2. To reduce the student drop out rate, increase the graduation rate and increase the
19 number of college completers.
20
21 3. To increase the degree of satisfaction among employers about the work quality of
22 graduates.
23
24 4. To increase scores on standard tests, such as, ITBS, SAT, ACT, etc..
25
26 5. To increase the level and amount of involvement by parents.
27

28
29 **Mission Statement:**

30
31 The Professional Technical Charter High School employs the best practices and
32 innovations of today and tomorrow to provide a quality educational experience for every student.
33 We emphasize the lifelong application of learning, coupled with intelligent risk taking, to
34 encourage participation as a productive member of this learning community and society.
35

36
37 **Statement of Purpose:**

38
39 It is the belief of the petitioners that learning best occurs in an environment where
40 innovative programs empower students to be successful academically, socially and culturally. This
41 environment sets high expectations for all students and provides the support needed to meet those
42 expectations through a collaboration of teachers, students, parents, and the community. This
43 environment also promotes respect and dignity for each individual by encouraging development of

1 personal interests and aptitudes while acquiring skills to become successful in future endeavors.
2 Teaching for understanding and application occurs in this environment when academic learning is
3 immediately applied to real life situations through the use of carefully designed integrated
4 curriculum involving student projects. In the junior and senior years the walls of the classroom
5 will be expanded into the community with students learning and gaining experience in a business
6 or industry setting.

7
8 Student assessment will be done using the Meridian School District Checkpoint
9 Assessment tools. Students will be required to pass a variety of assessments for each basic/core
10 subject before credit is awarded. Students will participate in district wide ITBS testing and any
11 other state required assessment.

12
13 The charter school will employ only certified instructional staff unless waivers are
14 obtained. Qualifications of personnel and other issues such as background checks, hiring
15 practices, anti-discrimination policy and dismissal policies will follow those outlined in Meridian
16 School District policy manual.

17
18 The attendance boundary for the charter school will be that of the Meridian School
19 District. Students within the Meridian School District will have first priority in enrollment.
20 Students outside the Meridian School District will be considered on a space available basis. The
21 enrollment for this charter school will be capped at 200 students, with each grade level also being
22 capped. The grade level caps will be determined as the grade level program and curriculum is
23 developed. If more students apply for admission, in each grade level, than seats are available,
24 then a lottery system will be used to select students for enrollment.

25
26 The Charter School Board of Directors will contract with the Meridian School District to
27 use school district auditors to audit the charter high school just as they do each of the high
28 schools in the district. The audit of the charter high school will be more detailed than a
29 traditional high school audit and more in line with a district compliance audit. Reports of the
30 audit will be made to the Board of Trustees in October of each year.

31
32
33 Provisions for governance are outlined below:

- 34
35 * School wide governance: how the school will operate on a day-to-day basis
36 # The school will utilize block scheduling.
37 # Site based management will be used to determine proposed policy,
38 procedures and management.
39 # Five teachers will be teamed to plan the instructional program for each 100
40 students.
41 # There will be two classified employees for each 100 students.
42 # All recommendations will be presented to the Charter School Board of
43 Directors for final approval.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43

- * Administration of the site
 - # Administrative and counseling services will be limited at this school. The person in charge may have an administrative certificate but may serve in multiple capacities. Under the state allocation for administration, a school of 200 only qualifies for .75 administrators.

- * Role of parent involvement and how this is to be enforced
 - # The expectation is that parents/guardians will take an active role in their student's education. This will include participation in supportive activities each semester.

- * Physical plant
 - # To be determined.

- * Food services
 - # In the first year or two the Charter School Board of Directors will contract with the Meridian School District to provide food service on a pack out basis from near by school within the Meridian School District.

- * Clerical support
 - # Clerical support will come from the two allowable classified positions per 100 students.

- * Fiscal affairs
 - # The Charter School Board of Directors will contract with the Meridian School District to utilize the accounting and purchasing department of the Meridian School District. A separate account will be established for the Charter School, monitored by the Charter School Board of Directors and audited by the School District auditors.

- * Public relations
 - # Public relations will be the responsibility of all of the Charter School employees, students and parents.

- * Policy

1 # Policy will be developed by the Oversight Committee and Charter School
2 employees and recommended to the Charter School Board of Directors for
3 adoption.
4

5 * Personnel: supervision and evaluation
6

7 # Supervision and evaluation programs will be developed through community
8 effort involving employees, parents and students. The administrative
9 equivalent and board of directors will have the final responsibility for
10 meeting Idaho state code on employee evaluation.
11

12 * Custodial services
13

14 # Custodial services will be provided from the two classified allocations per
15 100 students.
16
17

18 PTC HIGH SCHOOL STRUCTURE AND PROCEDURES: 19

20 This high school will be developed around specific occupational opportunities in the area
21 of communications/computer technology. This will be a technology rich environment designed to
22 give students experience in technology applications in school and the workplace. The technology
23 used in this school will be the same used by workers in their offices, industry, manufacturing and
24 other work environments. The difference is that technology in this school will be integrated as a
25 tool into every lesson and activity. Students will leave the program with the skills necessary to
26 enter the world of work, go on to a two-year technical program or a four-year degree program.
27 In the first and second year of attendance at PTC high school, students will receive the basics and
28 begin exploring career options. At the end of the second year, they will choose a major or focus
29 in a specific vocational area. During their final year, students will spend part of their school day in
30 a business or industrial setting learning from those already in their chosen field. The PTC high
31 school will not offer an activities program, but will allow students to return to the high school in
32 their attendance area for activities.
33

34 This will be a school based on relationships -- those of student to instructor, instructor to
35 instructor, staff to administration and school to community. The emphasis of the school will be
36 on a collaborative, project-based, applied learning where working together, thinking, problem
37 solving and pushing for excellence are expected. The school will promote a healthy, spirited
38 student-body, working in a clean, safe environment. Students will be here by choice and will be
39 challenged to be responsible for their own learning and for their environment.
40

41 EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES 42 43

1 This PTC high school will not be designed for an elite group of students but rather for
2 students wanting a different way to learn and connect the learning to the world in which we live.
3 Students will not be given a menu of electives to choose from, but rather a program of learning
4 activities designed around the major focus areas in communications and computer technology.
5 Students will exit this program having completed four courses for postsecondary credit. By
6 creating links, during high school, to postsecondary education, students will experience success
7 with college-level work and will begin to see opportunities open to them for postsecondary study.
8
9

10 CORE CURRICULUM

11
12 The core curriculum - English, social studies, math, and science - will be based on the
13 same content taught at high schools throughout Idaho. These courses will be unique only in the
14 way they are taught. The curriculum will be integrated. It will be project-based and team-
15 assigned and the course work will require both individual and group performance standards.
16 Students will accept responsibility for their own learning and will help each other as they research
17 assignments, prepare reports, and present their findings to their peers. Using technology tools in
18 their studies will require that students navigate the Internet, visit (electronically and in person)
19 local libraries, study for tests, write notes, develop concepts and speak before groups. Every day
20 students will use spreadsheets, word processors, e-mail, and multimedia software in completing
21 their assignments.
22

23 INTEGRATION OF CURRICULA

24
25 Using block scheduling, all aspects of the curriculum will be integrated. With block
26 scheduling curriculum areas can be integrated in blocks of time ranging from one hour to four
27 hours. Blocks may include combinations such as English and social studies and/or algebra and
28 geometry. Teachers with multiple endorsements will be necessary. Students will complete
29 numerous projects during their program at PTC high school and each project will integrate all of
30 the core curriculum areas within its development and presentation. No area of curriculum will be
31 designed and set in stone. Curriculum review and revision will be ongoing.
32

33 REQUIREMENTS

34
35 Credits, to meet state requirements and college entrance, will be awarded after passing a
36 variety of assessments for each required course. Demonstrating knowledge and understanding
37 will be necessary to obtain credit. Seat time will not be the determining factor for issuing credit.
38 Guidelines for discipline and attendance will be very strict. Parents/guardians will play a key role
39 in the operation of this school. Policy and procedures will be developed by a site based team and
40 taken for approval to the Charter School Board of Directors. At the conclusion of each year, an
41 annual report will be made to the Meridian Board of Trustees.
42

43 Students will be required to choose one of five different majors/focus areas at the end of

1 their second year. Majors being considered at this time are:
2

- 3 * Certified Network Administrator
- 4 * Computer Programming
- 5 * Computer Repair
- 6 * Website Development and Maintenance
- 7 * Electronics
- 8 * Information Systems/Business Applications
- 9 * Broadcast Technology
- 10 * Video Productions
- 11 * Graphic Arts

12
13 This list will be narrowed to five and may even change as we conclude our research on the
14 job market in technology.

15
16 A team of four teachers and one project leader will have the responsibility of developing
17 specifics of curriculum, policy and procedures. As they are developed they will go before a
18 Charter School Board of Directors for review and approval.

19 20 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

21
22 The PTC high school will employ the best practices and innovations of today and
23 tomorrow to provide a quality education experience for every student. It will emphasize the
24 lifelong application of learning, coupled with intelligent risk taking, to encourage participation as
25 a productive member of this learning community and society.

- 26
- 27 1. Students will be able to enter academic and vocational postsecondary educational
- 28 programs or enter the work force with the skills necessary to be successful.
- 29 2. Students will be able to communicate effectively at work or in the community.
- 30 3. Students will leave the program with the basic values of honesty, self-discipline,
- 31 unselfishness, respect for authority and the central importance of work.
- 32 4. The high school dropout rate will be reduced, graduation rates increased and more
- 33 students will complete college/postsecondary training.
- 34 5. Students in this school will perform higher on assessment and entrance tests than
- 35 other high school students.

36 37 MEASUREMENTS OF SUCCESS

- 38
- 39 1. Higher test scores on such tests as ITBS, ACT, SAT, etc.
- 40 2. Lower dropout rates, higher graduation rates and higher college/postsecondary
- 41 training completion rates.
- 42 3. Higher employer satisfaction.
- 43 4. Positive student, teacher and parent attitude surveys.

2 **TIMELINE**

- 3
- 4 September 1998 - Letter of Inquiry to the Albertson Foundation
- 5 October 1998 - District Board approval
- 6 November 1998 - State Board approval
- 7 November 1998 - Charter School Board of Directors formed
- 8 January 1999 - Five people begin design of curriculum, policy and procedure
- 9 March 1999 - Student recruitment and registration
- 10 March 1999 - Facilities determined
- 11 May 1999 - Employees hired
- 12 September 1999 - School begins

13

14 **CONCLUSION**

15

16 Change can cause chaos and uncertainty. Navigating the chaos requires a concern for and

17 a belief in young people. It also requires the ability to dream the future while living in the

18 present. This adventure will not be an easy one. There will be concerns about funding, dreaming

19 too big, being too futuristic and too optimistic. However, change will never occur if all our time

20 is spent worrying about existing or potential obstacles.

21

22 Students of the Meridian School District deserve to have a choice about the learning

23 environment and the way learning is delivered. This PTC high school will not be for everyone.

24 But it will meet the needs of two distinct groups: those who desire a different learning

25 environment and those who want to explore and possibly work in the communications/computer

26 technology fields. It will allow those students to connect their general academic learning to their

27 interests as well as learn the technical skills needed in those fields.

28

29 This PTC high school will pave the way for a new and different way of thinking about

30 how students in general are educated. It can be a research and development center for ideas that

31 work toward a better education for all students in the Meridian School District and Idaho.

32

33 The "Committee for More Choice in the Meridian School District" asks your support and

34 approval of this petition.

35

36

AMENDMENTS TO THE MERIDIAN CHARTER SCHOOL PETITION

ABSENCE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

This area was not intentionally left out. The Meridian Charter School will accept special education students and provide services as required by state and federal laws. If this population is very small then a contract will be established between the Charter School and the Meridian School District to provide the necessary services.

STANDARDS OF DISCIPLINE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Meridian Charter School has set high standards for discipline and zero tolerance. However, it is understood that procedural safeguards in discipline matters as defined in Section 504 and IDEA will be followed just as they are in other public schools.

PROVISIONS FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

It is certainly recognized and hoped that there will be gifted and talented students attending the charter school. We suspect that with 50 students per grade level attending this school that it will not be feasible to offer AP classes or any other class specifically designed for gifted and talented students. However, it is the intent of the charter school to handle gifted and talented students on an individual basis. Personal Education Profiles will be developed for each student with input from the parents, student, and teacher. This plan will include course outline, student goals and enrichment activities. Students will have the opportunity to work at their own pace and also to enroll in cyberschool courses offered over the Internet. These courses include advanced placement opportunities. In addition to cyberschool, students will have the opportunity to attain 12 college credits through dual credit options, tech prep agreements, and challenging college course requirements. Idaho Code 33-5205, section 3, does not require that this issue be addressed.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Students will demonstrate they have attained knowledge and skills through assessments such as ITBS, ACT, SAT, portfolio, and projects. The expected outcomes, as outlined in the charter on page nine are as follows:

1. Students will be able to enter academic and vocational post secondary educational programs or enter the work force with the skills necessary to be successful. Students will receive credits that meet college requirements.
 - English 8 credits

- Math 6 credits
- Science 6 credits
- Humanities 2 credits
- Social Studies 5 credits
- Speech/Debate 1 credit

In addition, credits in the following will be required for high school graduation:

- Physical Education 2 credits
- Health 1 credit
- Study/Life skills 2 credits

Technical skills from chosen focus area will be attained. A minimum of 9 credits will be required electives.

The academic grading scale at the charter school will be as follows:

A = 92 - 100%
 B = 83 - 91%
 C = 74 - 82%
 Work in Progress

Students will be expected to maintain a C or better. If a C has not been achieved, students will continue working until a satisfactory level has been achieved in order to receive credit. Students will also be expected to pass proficiency assessments in order to obtain credit.

MEASUREMENTS OF SUCCESS

1. Higher test scores on tests as ITBS, ACT, SAT, etc as compared to other high school students. Level testing will also be utilized to determine growth.