



Anser Charter School

AN EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING SCHOOL

October 15, 2019

Hello Anser Families,

I am writing on behalf of the Anser Board to inform you of action taken at the 10/15/19 Anser Board meeting to advance Anser's mission and vision to grow to serve a more diverse, equitable student community with a future-ready, whole-child focused education program. Beginning in July 2020, the charter authorizer of Anser Charter School will transition from the Boise School District to the Idaho Public Charter School Commission.

While as a parent your experience at Anser will remain the same, this step positions Anser to reach the goals we have been sharing with you over the last year. As our new charter school authorizer, the Idaho Public Charter School Commission, in partnership with our board of directors, will provide academic and fiscal oversight for our school. Throughout this transition, Anser will continue to offer the same services you have come to expect. We will also take over some additional special education services that were previously provided by the Boise School District in 2020-2021.

This transition will allow Anser the support we need to provide more Garden City and Boise students with an inspiring, challenging and future-ready educational environment. Our team is excited for this next phase!

Our ability and the decision to grow over the next five years is built on a foundation of academic excellence and service to our community. Over the last 15+ years, we have outperformed the district and the state in math and English language arts on state tests. Anser's students have performed thousands of hours of service to our community. We are humbled by the opportunity to provide more Garden City and Boise students with opportunities to further their own academic achievement, character growth and confidence.

As we shared at Back to School Night, this expansion will allow Anser to provide more opportunities for student choice in courses, bring staff with new and varied experiences into our building and will also allow us to expand our impact in the community.

For the past 10 years, we have had over *400 families* on a waitlist to attend Anser. Over the next five years, we will gradually increase the number of students we serve in every grade level--ultimately serving 675 students in grades K-8 by 2025-2026 upon the remodeling of our current building and development of adjacent property the school acquired in 2018.

Anser will continue to build on our efforts to become a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment for our families through our growth. With Michelle Dunstan, a school leader of color with a culturally responsive leadership vision at the helm, Anser aims to continue our steps in developing a more diverse student population. Together with her Co-Director Heather Dennis, our school leaders have begun the work to establish powerful norms, create a space to discuss biases (racial and non-racial) and privilege, question and enhance the curriculum, give staff feedback and direction on addressing inequity and create space for all of us to share our experiences to humanize and anchor the work. Our recently launched Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory

Committee will work with our Board of Directors, to ensure this work is embedded in all aspects of our work.

We plan to provide access to free transportation for all families as we expand. We heard from many families that access to transportation can sometimes be an obstacle and we want to eliminate that. We're also excited by the work that Tamara Reames, will be able to accomplish with the creation of her Community Relations and Engagement position, focused on expanding Anser's recruiting reach. As a Board, we believe this investment in our community engagement efforts will help us meet our goals to reach into and recruit from new communities in Garden City and Boise. We believe all of these steps will benefit our existing families and our new families.

I will be at Anser this week on Wednesday after school and Thursday before and after school to meet with any parents who would like to learn more about this transition to the Idaho Public Charter School Commission. If you aren't able to meet with me during those times, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, or to Heather Dennis or Michelle Dunstan with your questions.

Anser and our families have been on an expedition to create a collaborative learning community in the service of all children for over 20 years. This is just one of the many steps we will take together to continue to realize Anser's mission and vision. We are grateful you allow us the privilege of educating your children, and that you work alongside us each day to create what Anser is now and will be in the future.

Sincerely,



Nichoel Baird Spencer, Board President
On behalf of the Anser Community Board
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