

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

BRIAN SCROGGINS
Interim Executive Director



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

**1749 North Stewart Street Suite 40
Carson City, Nevada 89706-2543
(775) 687 - 9174 · Fax: (775) 687 - 9113**

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board

FROM: Mike Dang, Management Analyst
Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 18: Pinecrest Academy of Nevada Amendment Request: Addition of Extracurricular Bus Transportation

DATE: December 14, 2018

Pinecrest Academy of Nevada (PAN), operating under a charter contract into in 2012 and renewed in 2018, has submitted request for providing transportation for enrolled students to and from field trips and extracurricular activities on buses. Pinecrest Academy serves 4,422 students (as of validation day) in Kindergarten through 11th grade. Pinecrest Academy of Nevada operates four campuses:

- Pinecrest Academy of Nevada – Cadence
- Pinecrest Academy of Nevada – Horizon
- Pinecrest Academy of Nevada – Inspirada
- Pinecrest Academy of Nevada – St. Rose

Currently, under the 2017-2018 Nevada State Performance Framework, each of the 4 elementary school programs are rated at the 5-star level and the each of the 4 middle school programs are also rated at the 5-star level.

As discussed below, staff recommends approval of the amendment request, with conditions.

Summary of Request:

The mission statement of Pinecrest Academy of Nevada is to prepare students for college and career. To help achieve this mission, the school is seeking to provide transportation for enrolled

students to and from field trips and extracurricular activities on bus(es) owned by Pinecrest. All transportation to be provided under this plan will be limited to the following:

- All trips will originate at the Pinecrest campuses;
- From the Pinecrest campuses, the bus will transport participating students and the supervising adults to the destination of the field trip and/or extracurricular activity. Following the field trip and/or extracurricular activity, the bus will transport all participating students back to the Pinecrest campuses where they will either return to class or be picked up by their parent/guardian(s);
- Possible passengers will be limited to enrolled students in grades 6 through 12 and supervising adults. Current enrollment at Pinecrest Academy of Nevada is 4,422 students as of validation day (October 1st);
- Field trips will begin and end during school hours. Extracurricular activities using the bus(es) considered under this plan will be limited to locations in southern Nevada to ensure return times are not too late; and
- The bus(es) will not be used to transport students outside of Nevada

This proposed amendment will allow the school to offer a wider range of field trips and activities to its students so as to enhance their overall experience. The proposed amendment does not contemplate transportation for students to and from school on a daily basis. Finally, if approved, the school seeks to implement this proposed enhancement to programming as early as January 2019. To staff's knowledge, Pinecrest Academy of Nevada will be purchasing the buses to be used.

Pinecrest Academy of Nevada makes a number of assurances related to student safety within its amendment proposal. The school also provides a bevy of information related to student safety, such as a Bus Safety Program and Bus Checklist. Pinecrest Academy of Nevada has been engaged with Nevada Department of Education personnel extensively to confirm that proper steps are outlined within. These include:

- Inspections by the Department of Public Safety to ensure that the vehicle is mechanically safe and meets the minimum specifications established by the State Board;
- Compliance with [NRS 386.815](#), which ensures that the driver of the vehicle does not operate a vehicle for more than 10 hours;
- Compliance with [NRS 386.820](#), which ensures that Pinecrest Academy of Nevada conducts Bus Evacuation Drills at least twice a year, has a Bus Safety Program, and has a process to inform parents and bus riders of important safety information;
- Compliance with [NRS 386.825](#), which ensures that the driver of the school bus will meet the minimum qualifications under the law;

- Compliance with [NRS 386.830 – 386.840](#), which ensures that buses meet certain federal safety standards for motor vehicles which were applicable at the time the bus was manufactured and delivered for introduction in interstate commerce and includes Vehicle Safety Checks and semiannual vehicle inspections by the Nevada Highway Patrol.

Legal Authority and Requirements Related to Amendment Requests:

Pursuant to [NRS 388A.276](#) and [NRS 388A.279](#), the Authority may, at a duly noticed public meeting, approve, approve with conditions, or deny a request to amend a charter contract. Per the current charter contract with Pinecrest, Authority staff believes that a change in the transportation to be provided to students constitutes a material amendment to the current contract for Pinecrest Academy of Nevada pursuant to [NAC 386.3269](#).

Recommendation: Approve with Conditions

Pinecrest Academy of Nevada's each of the 4 elementary school programs are rated at the 5-star level and the each of the 4 middle school programs are also rated at the 5-star level under the 2017 – 2018 Nevada State Performance Framework. Staff believes that this amendment will help the school attract students and enhance programming, but is not mission-critical to the success of the school.

Authority staff recommends approval, but with conditions, to ensure a smooth and safe implementation of transportation for field trips and extracurricular activities. The school should submit the following to Authority staff:

- Evidence of a successful bus inspection to confirm that the vehicle is mechanically safe and meets the minimum specifications established by the State Board;
- A year-end report of bus evacuation drills completed by students and staff. This will occur annually at the end of each school year, and staff will work with the school to determine the appropriate format of the report;
- An annual statement signed by the head of school verifying that Pinecrest Academy of Nevada plans to abide by the Charter School Bus Checklist as presented within the amendment application;
- An annual statement signed by the head of school verifying that Pinecrest Academy of Nevada has a current Driver Qualification File for each bus driver; and
- Evidence of successful semiannual vehicle inspections by the Nevada Highway Patrol.

Total Amount Across All Existing Campuses - Number of Students										
Grade Level	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19			
							Cadence	Horizon	Inspirada	St. Rose
Pre-K	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	41	0	0	0	0
K	125	96	100	285	446	447	125	145	149	100
1	100	125	100	283	427	448	119	142	149	100
2	100	100	123	307	445	464	129	109	129	104
3	100	100	103	307	444	470	129	113	129	104
4	100	100	106	297	473	469	135	102	130	104
5	100	100	115	308	457	495	132	92	124	124
6	85	130	113	293	417	469	212	0	123	124
7	54	84	105	169	335	388	212	0	106	123
8	N/A	50	72	92	197	316	171	0	60	109
9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	75	95	119	0	0	0
10	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	65	85	0	0	0
11	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	60	0	0	0
12	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0
Total	764	885	937	2341	3716	4126	1628	703	1099	992

Background:

Year	NSPF Rating
2018	Inspirada Elementary School: 5 stars Inspirada Middle School: 5 stars St. Rose Elementary School: 5 stars St. Rose Middle School: 5 stars Horizon Elementary School: 5 stars Horizon Middle School: 5 stars Cadence Elementary School: 5 stars Cadence Middle School: 5 stars Cadence High School: N/A
2017	Elementary: 5 Star Middle School: 5 Star High School: N/A
2016	No star rating published by State
2015	Elementary: 3 Star (frozen from 2014) Middle School: 4 (frozen from 2014) High School: 5 Star (frozen from 2014)
2014	Elementary: 3 Star Middle School: 4 Star High School: 5 Star

2013	Elementary: 3 Star Middle School: 3 Star High School: 4 Star
------	--

School Demographic Change since 2015 (prior to 18-19, demographic data was not separated by campus)

Pinecrest	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	TOTAL ENROLLED	IEP	ELL	FRL
15-16	6.3%	3.9%	57.4%	21.2%	0.5%	8.7%	1.6%	2341	6.7%	0.5%	6.8%
Pinecrest	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	TOTAL ENROLLED	IEP	ELL	FRL
16-17	7.1%	5.0%	54.4%	21.4%	0.4%	9.7%	1.5%	3701	8.1%	1.6%	15.2%
Pinecrest	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	TOTAL ENROLLED	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	7.8%	5.9%	51.2%	23.1%	0.4%	9.5%	1.8%	4126	9.9%	2.1%	11.9%
Pinecrest Cadence	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	TOTAL ENROLLED	IEP	ELL	FRL
18-19	5.9%	7.2%	49.3%	26.9%	0.4%	8.7%	1.6%	1628	11.6%	3.6%	30.8
Pinecrest Horizon	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	TOTAL ENROLLED	IEP	ELL	FRL
18-19	4.6%	5.1%	51.6%	29.9%	0.3%	7.8%	0.7%	703	10.2%	1.8%	27.7
Pinecrest Inspirada	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	TOTAL ENROLLED	IEP	ELL	FRL
18-19	10.6%	4.5%	50.3%	19.2%	0.4%	13.3%	1.6%	1099	8.5%	0.5%	11.0
Pinecrest St. Rose	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	TOTAL ENROLLED	IEP	ELL	FRL
18-19	13.2%	5.0%	42.1%	23.9%	0.2%	11.7%	3.8%	992	8.6%	1.9%	19.6

A – Asian

B – Black

C - White

H – Hispanic

I – American Indian/Alaskan Native

M – Two or more races

P – Pacific Islander

IEP – Individualized Education Plan –A student with a disability/special education student

ELL – English Language Learner

FRL – A student who qualifies for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch