



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 19: Sports Leadership and Management (SLAM) Academy Amendment
Request: Addition of Extracurricular Bus Transportation

DATE: December 14, 2018

Sports and Leadership Management (SLAM) Academy, operating under a charter contract entered in 2015, is located in Las Vegas, Nevada, serves 921 students in grades 6 – 11 and is currently rated as a 2-star middle school. The Authority issued a Notice of Concern in September due to this level of underperformance. The high school was not rated under of the 2018 Nevada School Performance Framework. As discussed below, Staff recommends approval of the amendment request, with conditions.

Summary of Request:

The mission statement of SLAM Academy is to prepare students for postsecondary studies and careers through an engaging educational program emphasizing sports leadership and management career preparation. 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 SLAM. All transportation to be provided under this plan will be limited to the following:

- All trips will originate at the SLAM campus;
- From the SLAM campus, 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 SLAM campus 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 SLAM is 921 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, SLAM Academy has already purchased the bus to be used.

SLAM 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. SLAM Academy 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 SLAM 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 SLAM, Authority staff believes that a change in the transportation to be provided to students constitutes a material amendment to the current contract for SLAM Academy pursuant to [NAC 386.3269](#).

Recommendation: Approve with Conditions

SLAM Academy of Nevada was classified as a 2-star middle school and the high school was not rated under the 2017 – 2018 Nevada State Performance Framework. The middle school is currently operating under a Notice of Concern which was issued in September 2018. 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 SLAM Academy 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 SLAM Academy has a current Driver Qualification File for each bus driver; and
- Evidence of successful semiannual vehicle inspections by the Nevada Highway Patrol.

Total Current Enrollment Across All Campuses:

Grade Level	Total Amount Across All Existing Campuses - Number of Students		
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Pre-K	N/A	N/A	N/A
K	N/A	N/A	N/A
1	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	N/A	N/A	N/A
4	N/A	N/A	N/A
5	N/A	N/A	N/A
6	148	186	189
7	117	186	190
8	119	152	196
9	88	129	153
10	N/A	85	118
11	N/A	N/A	75
12	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	472	738	921

Academic Performance

Year	NSPF Rating
2016	No star rating published by State
2017	Elementary: N/A Middle School: 3 Star High School: N/A
2018	Elementary: N/A Middle School: 2 Star High School: N/A

School Demographic Change since 2016

SLAM	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
16-17	3.1%	6.9%	29.6%	49.5%	0.2%	8.2%	2.1%	7.6%	5.0%	26.6%
SLAM	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	2.9%	7.9%	28.5%	51.0%	0.6%	6.7%	1.8%	8.5%	7.3%	32.6%
SLAM	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
18-19	3.5%	12.2%	23.5%	52.2%	0.3%	6.1%	2.3%	9.6%	10.3%	52.0%

A – Asian

B – Black
C - White
H – Hispanic
I – Native American
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