

Start-Up Charter School Board Member Information

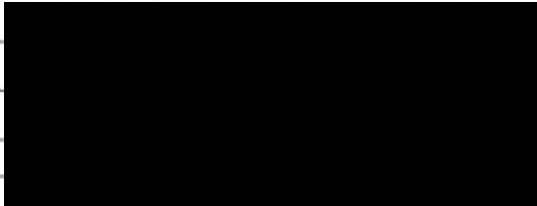
**To be completed individually by each proposed charter school board member and member of the Committee to Form (including prospective employees or consultants).
All forms must be signed by hand.**

Serving on a public charter school board is a position of public trust and fiduciary responsibility. As a board member of a public school, you are responsible for ensuring the quality of the school program, competent stewardship of public funds, and the school's fulfillment of its public obligations and all terms of its charter.

As part of the application for a new charter school, the SPCSA requests that each prospective board member respond individually to this questionnaire. Where narrative responses are required, brief responses are sufficient.

The purpose of this questionnaire is twofold: 1) to give application reviewers a clearer introduction to the applicant team behind each school proposal in advance of the applicant interview, in order to be better prepared for the interview; and 2) to encourage board members to reflect individually as well as collectively on their common mission, purposes, and obligations at the earliest stage of school development.

Background

1. Name of charter school on whose Board of Directors you intend to serve Discovery Charter School
2. Full name Nicholas Tyrone Petsas
Home Address 
Business Name and Address _____
Phone Number _____
E-mail address _____
3. Brief educational and employment history and discussion of qualifications to serve on the board of this charter school.

Educational History:

- **B.S., Elementary Education - UNLV, 2007**
- **J.D. - Willamette University College of Law, 2012**
- **M.S., Educational Leadership - Western Governors University, 2017**

Employment History:

- **Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada - Children's Attorney**
- **CCSD - Teacher**
- **Quest Academy Charter High School - Teacher; RTI Facilitator**
- **Clark County District Attorney's Office - Deputy District Attorney**
- **Odyssey Charter High School - Teacher**

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My educational and professional experience draws from a broad background of working with young people as an educator, administrator, and representing young people in dependency matters in Clark County. I have significant experience with all aspects of schools in Clark County, particularly charter schools. I have assisted both as a teacher and as part of the administrative team in two local charter schools and feel that I am qualified to serve as a board member to Discovery Charter School to ensure that the school is operating in accordance with its original purpose and doing so in a responsible manner. I will continually strive to ensure that I always act in a professional and ethical manner in executing my duties.

4.

Resume and professional bio are attached.

5. Indicate whether you currently or have previously served on a board of a school district, another charter school, a non-public school or any not-for-profit corporation (to the extent not otherwise indicated in your response to Item 3, above).

Does not apply to me. Yes

6. Why do you wish to serve on the board of the proposed charter school?

I am familiar with Discovery Charter School's history and current situation, and want to ensure that the school achieves its vision of educational excellence, academic opportunity, and bettering the local community.

7. What is your understanding of the appropriate role of a public charter school board member?

A public charter school board member of a school already in the midst of operations, as would be the case here, should be to choose or maintain a talented school leader and build an effective, productive, and trusting relationship with that school leader. Further, the board should both support the school leader and hold that leader accountable to mutually agreed upon expectations.

8. Describe any previous experience you have that is relevant to serving on the charter school's board (e.g., other board service). If you have not had previous experience of this nature, explain why you have the capability to be an effective board member.

Although I do not have any direct board service experience, I have experience in many aspects of school management, including experience as support staff, as a teacher, and as an administrator. During my time working with administrative teams, I have been privileged to be a part of providing input as to major decisions affecting the schools. In discussing board matters, I feel that I will be able to understand specific aspects regarding the school and how the school leader makes informed decisions.

9. Describe the specific knowledge and experience that you would bring to the board.

I bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the board. As I stated above, I have worked in education for over 15 years. I have seen how decisions at the highest levels affect employees, students, their families, and other stakeholders. Further, two of my three college degrees are directly related to education – I am a licensed teacher and have met the requirements to be a licensed administrator. I have been fortunate to work under multiple effective and ineffective administrations, which has given me knowledge and experience to

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see both how schools should and should not operate. Most importantly, I have had years of firsthand experience understanding how decisions regarding school governance affect students in and out of the classroom.

School Mission and Program

1. What is your understanding of the school's mission and guiding beliefs?

Discovery Charter School's mission is to promote a safe, nurturing environment which fosters student success through community involvement, progressive educational practices, and innovative use of technology.

2. What is your understanding of the school's proposed educational program?

Discovery Charter School's educational program is based on a project based learning model, which is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to a complex question, problem, or challenge.

3. What do you believe to be the characteristics of a successful school

A successful school puts students first. The school must understand the needs of its stakeholders, and must then through its administration, develop a strategic plan to ensure that all stakeholders are represented in achieving the school's vision for success. That success should be determined through comparing data with goals that are measurable and achievable.

4. How will you know that the school is succeeding (or not) in its mission?

I will know whether the school is succeeding in its mission by collecting and interpreting qualitative and quantitative data, then comparing that data with the measurable goals set out over a given time period.

Governance

1. Describe the role that the board will play in the school's operation.

The board will focus on student achievement, act strategically, raise and use resources wisely, fulfill all compliance expectations, manage the school leader, and manage itself.

2. How will you know if the school is successful at the end of the first year of operation?

By reviewing data as to school and student progress measured against goals that were created at the beginning of the first year of operation.

3. How will you know at the end of three years of the school is successful?

By reviewing each year's data in its totality, examining trends and outliers, and comparing that data to long term goals that were created at the beginning of the three year period.

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4. What specific steps do you think the charter school board will need to take to ensure that the school is successful?

By developing a supportive, working relationship with the school leader; by ensuring that the board is managing itself using charter school governance best practices; and by educating ourselves to ensure that we are meeting our duties, which will allow the excellent professional school staff to do their jobs with stakeholder support.

5. How would you handle a situation in which you believe one or more members of the school's board were acting unethically or not in the best interests of the school?

I would address it with the board, have a candid discussion, and with the rest of the board, determine what course of action to take.

Disclosures

1. Indicate whether you or your spouse or any relative within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity knows the other prospective board members for the proposed school. If so, please indicate the precise nature of your relationship.

I / we do not know any such trustees. Yes

2. Indicate whether you or your spouse or any relative within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity knows any person who is proposed to be or you anticipate will apply to be a school employee. If so, indicate the precise nature of your relationship.

I / we do not know any such employees. Yes

3. Indicate whether you or your spouse or any relative within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity knows anyone who is doing, or plans to do, business with the charter school (whether as an individual or as a director, officer, employee or agent of an entity). If so, indicate and describe the precise nature of your relationship and the nature of the business that such person or entity is transacting or will be transacting with the school.

I / we do not know any such persons. Yes

4. Indicate if you, your spouse or any relative within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity anticipate conducting, or are conducting, any business with the school. If so, indicate the precise nature of the business that is being or will be conducted.

I / we do not anticipate conducting any such business. Yes

5. If the school intends to contract with an education management organization or other education service provider, indicate whether you or your spouse or any relative within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity knows any employees, officers, owners, directors or agents of that provider. If the answer is in the affirmative, please describe any such relationship.

Not applicable because the school does not intend to contact with an education service

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provider or school management organization.

I / we do not know any such persons. Yes

6. If the school contracts with an education management organization or education service provider, please indicate whether you, your spouse or any relative within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity have a direct or indirect ownership, employment, contractual or management interest in the provider. For any interest indicated, provide a detailed description.

N/A. I / we have no such interest. Yes

7. If the school plans to contract with an education management organization or education service provider, indicate if you, your spouse or any relative within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity anticipate conducting, or are conducting, any business with the provider. If so, indicate the precise nature of the business that is being or will be conducted.

N/A. I / we or my family do not anticipate conducting any such business. Yes

8. Indicate whether you, your spouse or any relative within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity are a director, officer, employee, partner or member of, or are otherwise associated with, any organization that is partnering with the charter school. To the extent you have provided this information in response to prior items, you may so indicate.

Does not apply to me, my spouse or family. Yes

10. Indicate any potential ethical or legal conflicts of interests that would, or are likely to, exist should you serve on the school's board.

None. Yes

Potential conflict of interest could arise if my firm, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, represents a student at Discovery Charter School, and Discovery Charter School is in violation of that student's rights. No such conflict currently exists, and all precautions will be taken to ensure it does not arise.

Certification

I, Nicholas Petzias, certify to the best of my knowledge and ability that the information I am providing to the State Public Charter School Authority as a prospective board member for Discovery Charter School is true and correct in every respect.



Signature

7-2-19

Date

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Statement of Assurances

Revised June, 2015

1. The charter school herein named, Discovery Charter School,
(name of charter school)

shall be organized and administered in accordance and compliance with all applicable provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), and all applicable federal statutes and regulations.

2. The charter school shall enter into a written agreement with the sponsor and comply with all provisions therein during the term of the agreement upon approval by the sponsor.

3. The charter school shall report any and all substantive changes in personnel, facilities, schedules, and other pertinent components of the operation of the charter school to the sponsor in a timely manner.

4. The charter school shall keep such records and provide such information in the time and manner prescribed in NRS and NAC that the sponsor, the school district in which the charter school is located, the Nevada Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and the State Public Charter School Authority require, as needed for the purpose of fiscal audit, and program evaluation and reporting, including, but not limited to, the following. The charter school shall:

- Account for the total number of students, per NRS 387.123 and NRS 387.1233;
- Submit accountability and progress reports throughout the academic year;
- Conduct and report on required examinations of students;
- Submit required reports on class size averages and types of teacher assignments, including students in programs of special education;
- Submit separate accounting for funds received for pupils with disabilities and gifted and talented pupils, per NRS 387.047 and 388.520;
- Submit required accounts of funds from federal sources, per federal reporting and audit requirements;
- Submit reports regarding student truancy, transiency, attendance and dropout rates;
- Submit reports of weapons and violence incidence;
- Describe suspensions and expulsions; and
- Comply with state, district, and federal statutes and regulations regarding instruction of disabled students including the development and implementation of Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for disabled students.


5. Permission is hereby granted to any member of the State Public Charter School Authority, Nevada Department of Education, the Nevada Department of Taxation, the Legislative Counsel Bureau, and the local school district to visit the school and inspect the premises and operating procedures of the school during business hours.

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6. The charter school and its Governing Body shall comply with the provisions of NRS Chapter 281, Public Officers and Employees, General Provisions.

Notarized Statement

I, the undersigned, do consent and do solemnly swear (or affirm) that the information set forth in the forgoing application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, and that failure to disclose pertinent information or the concealment of information or making false statements in the detailed application for operation of a charter school shall constitute valid grounds for refusal or revocation of permission to operate said school. The undersigned also affirms that the charter school herein named is obligated to enter into an agreement concerning the methods and procedures for the sponsor to monitor the progress of the charter school herein named. The undersigned affirms that the State Public Charter School Authority, Nevada Department of Education and the sponsor are entitled to access to financial and other records relating to the operation of the charter school.



Signature of Certifying Charter School Official

Nicholas Petsas

Name Printed

Applicant for Board

Title

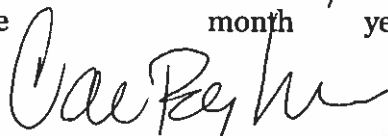
7-2-19

Date

Subscribed and sworn to before me

This 2nd day of July 2019

date month year


(Notary Public Seal)

