

STEVE SISOLAK
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

REBECCA FEIDEN
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
SUBJECT: Imagine School at Mountain View — Request For Amendment to Terminate Bus Transportation Services
DATE: July 26, 2019

Summary of Request:

Imagine School at Mountain View (Imagine) is requesting approval of its request for a good cause exemption to submit this Request For Amendment (RFA) and this RFA to terminate its bus transportation services beginning SY 19/20.

Staff recommends the Board approve the school's requests.

Background:

Imagine teaches over 680 Elementary School students in Northwest Las Vegas, Nevada at 6610 Grand Montecito Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89149. The school was rated a three-star school during the 17-18 School Year (SY).

The term of the school's contract began June 13, 2017 and will terminate on June 13, 2023.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for consideration of approval of a contract amendment a school must timely submit a complete and accurate RFA, in accordance with the requirements and directions stated in the RFA application. Imagine requests a good-cause exemption to the submittal date requirement based on new school leadership transitioning responsibilities after the prior Principal left.

The SPCSA and the Executive Director also consider "a charter school's compliance with applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations and evidence relating to the academics,

finance and organization of the charter school when determining whether to approve a request for an amendment to its charter contract,” pursuant to NAC 388A.400.

Staff reviewed the above factors and its findings regarding the school’s academic, finance and organizational performance are:

1. Regarding academic performance, Imagine meets standards with its a three-star rating.
2. Regarding financial performance, Imagine meets standards, in general.
3. Regarding organizational performance, Imagine meets standards, with no known material organizational issues and is compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Additional Considerations

Due to the nature of this amendment, it is noteworthy that the school has invested time seeking and considering the input of its community, parents and stakeholders.

Imagine estimates that 60 students would potentially have used the bus service for SY 19/20. As a result of repair challenges throughout this year and bus service being down, some of families set up carpools to help ensure their child’s attendance.

In consideration of removing bus services, the school administration sent out an email blast to the parents/guardians about the bus services on April 4, 2019.

The email blast informed parents of a meeting to be held on April 16 regarding the consideration of removing transportation services. Another email/text blast was sent on April 16th, after the first parent meeting, informing parents of two additional meeting dates, on Monday, April 22nd and Thursday, April 25th, both at 4:30 pm.

At all three meetings, parents were able to provide input into the decision. After the meetings, a follow-up letter was sent by then school leader, Dr. Breier-Ramos to families indicating that the school determined to move forward with eliminating bussing for the 2019 – 2020 school year. The Imagine Board voted to make this change at its Governing Board Meeting on May 15, 2019.

In light of this change, the school will provide free before and after care to all of the families potentially affected by the decision. So far, two families have indicated they will remove their children from the school as a result of this change. While that is regrettable, in terms of financial impact to the school, the school will tap into its waiting list to address this loss.

Regarding the financial impact, eliminating this expense should strengthen the school’s financial position. Imagine projects a \$171,972 surplus in their tentative budget as a result of this action. Imagine incurred a Net Loss of \$38,000 in its most recent year.

Imagine plans to apply the savings to add a full time IT position, meet its mandated PERS increase, fund a teacher on assignment, and improve the AC Units and MPR sound systems.

Even after absorbing these new expenses, the school says the Final Budget will still have a surplus of \$64,015 for the upcoming school year.

Imagine did not find any additional notifications required to any state, federal or county municipalities regarding the termination of bus service after it reviewed any special considerations,

NRS 388A.381-NRS388A.393 and NRS388A.405. Additionally, SPCSA staff confirmed with NDE personnel that no other requirements exist.

In the event this amendment is approved, Imagine intends to sell the buses that were purchased with Nevada State Funds. All of the funds received from the sale of the buses will be returned to the general operating fund of Imagine .

Legal Authority and Requirements Related to Amendment Requests

NRS 388A.246 Contents of application. An application to form a charter school must include all information prescribed by the Department by regulation and: ...

22. A statement of whether the charter school will provide for the transportation of pupils to and from the charter school. If the charter school will provide transportation, the application must include the proposed plan for the transportation of pupils. If the charter school will not provide transportation, the application must include a statement that the charter school will work with the parents and guardians of pupils enrolled in the charter school to develop a plan for transportation to ensure that pupils have access to transportation to and from the charter school.

NAC 388A.155 Application to form charter school: ... An application to form a charter school must include information regarding issues of health and safety that affect the proposed charter school, including, without limitation:

1. A description of the manner in which pupils will be transported to the proposed charter school, including, without limitation, the details of any contract that the charter school has entered into pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 388A.378 for the transportation of pupils and the details of any plan developed in consultation with the parents and guardians of pupils for the transportation of pupils.

NAC 388A.330 Amendment of written charter or charter contract: Governing body must obtain approval from sponsor for certain amendments. ...The governing body of a charter school must obtain approval from the sponsor of the charter school for any of the following amendments to the written charter or charter contract, as applicable:...

4. An amendment to a plan for the transportation of pupils.

The current **Charter School Contract** between Imagine and the SPCSA states:

2.13 Transportation

2.13.1 If applicable, the Charter School shall be responsible for providing students transportation consistent with the plan proposed in the approved Charter Application appearing in Exhibit #3 and incorporated herein.

2.13.2 The termination or change of transportation shall constitute a material amendment of this Charter Contract and shall not become effective and the Charter School shall not take action or implement the change requested in the amendment until the amendment is approved, in writing, by the Authority.

Staff Recommendation

For the above reasons, noting the above concerns and efforts to address them, SPCSA staff recommend the SPCSA approve Imagine's requests for a good cause exemption to submit this RFA and approval of this RFA to terminate its bus transportation services.

Imagine School at Mountain View Key Statistics

I. Star Ratings

Year	Stars
2012	N/A
2013	N/A
2014	5
2015	5
2016	N/A
2017	3
2018	3

II. Enrollment Statistics

Year:	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
Grade				
Pre-K	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
K	140	122	148	124
	24%	18%	22%	17%
1	115	153	127	149
	19%	22%	19%	21%
2	105	122	121	118
	18%	18%	18%	17%
3	108	95	109	109
	18%	14%	16%	15%
4	54	93	77	100
	9%	13%	11%	14%
5	50	62	73	61
	8%	9%	11%	9%
6	21	50	30	51
	4%	7%	4%	7%
Total	593	697	685	712

100% 100% 100% 100%

Enrollment Change 18% (2%) 4%

III. Enrollments by % Ethnicity and Special Populations

Year	Ethnicity							Special Population		
	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	FRL	IEP	ELL
15-16	8%	21%	31%	29%	1%	8%	3%	29%	5%	13%
16-17	8%	21%	29%	30%	0%	9%	2%	30%	4%	12%
17-18	9%	19%	30%	31%	1%	9%	2%	21%	7%	12%
18-19	8%	17%	29%	32%	1%	12%	1%	29%	10%	10%

Key: I. Enrollments by % Ethnicity and Special Populations

Ethnicities

- A – Asian
- B – Black
- C – White
- H – Hispanic
- I – Native American
- M – Two or more races
- P – Pacific Islander

Special Populations

- FRL – A student who qualifies for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch
- IEP – Individualized Education Plan
–A student with a disability/special education student
- ELL – English Language Learner