



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board

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

SUBJECT: Oasis Academy –Amendment to move 9th and 10th grade students to Western Nevada College

DATE: June 26, 2020

Summary of Request:

Oasis Academy seeks an amendment to move its 9th and 10th grade students across the street from the Oasis school building to the Pinion Building located on Western Nevada College's (WNC) Fallon campus. The school listed several reasons within the amendment submission as to why it is seeking this change:

- Currently, 11th and 12th grade students at Oasis Academy already take the majority of classes, as dual enrollment students, at the WNC. According to the application, making this move will place all of the high school students together on the same campus. The school believes this will improve the climate and culture for all of the high school students and allow continuity in high school involvement for the upperclassmen.
- The proposed move would also provide counselors and academic advisors more opportune access to upperclassmen for weekly check in appointments as well as closer communication with college professors regarding student progress.
- The proposed change would also allow for the 9th and 10th grade teachers to remain in contact with upperclassmen and support them in their current college courses.
- The proposed move will provide more space at the main campus to house the approved K-8 slow growth model. Although the school does plan to purchase land and build a facility, the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have pushed that timeline back. This move would allow Oasis to complete the entire slow growth process up to 8th grade at its current site.

- Oasis also believes that moving the high school to a new location will help meet enrollment targets at those grade levels. According to the amendment submission, many of the eighth graders express that they leave Oasis Academy simply because they want to “go somewhere else,” or “I have been in this building for 9 years.”

Background Information

The Oasis Academy charter contract was first approved in 2011 and the school opened for the 2011-2012 school year. The school was renewed in 2017 for a second, six-year term which expires on June 30, 2023. As of April 1, 2020, the enrollment at the high school was 43 ninth graders, 40 tenth graders, 44 eleventh graders, and 29 twelfth graders.

The primary partnership that is relevant to this proposed amendment is with Western Nevada College. According to the amendment submission, over the course of the past five years, Oasis has developed a strong working relationship with the college, which provides all of the school’s dual enrollment courses.

Oasis Academy has set aside approximately \$180,000 for tenant improvements related to the already-approved slow growth model for Kindergarten – 8th grade. In the school’s FY21 budget, \$45,000 of that set aside has been allocated to make the required improvements necessary at WNC including security measures, internet infrastructure and FFE.

According to the amendment submission, the lease between Oasis Academy and Western Nevada College rent will be \$1 annually if the school enrolls the students in 2400 credit hours. In the 2019-2020 school year Oasis enrolled students in 2,670 credit hours and they project in the 2020-2021 school year that number will be 3,036.

The amendment submission further notes that in the event that the school has declining enrollment and the credit hours are not met, there is a sliding fee for the rent outlined in the lease. The Pinion building is 7,000 square feet and in the worst case scenario, the school amendment notes that Oasis would be required to pay 29 cents per square foot for the space, or \$24,000 annually. The only additional cost to Oasis Academy under this proposal would be the cost of utilities which is minimal and has been accounted for in the budget.

In the amendment application, it is important to note that Oasis says there has been “zero indication that the high school will have declining enrollment. In fact, the school may, for the first time, be required to hold a lottery at the 9th grade level for the 2020-2021 school year as there are 6 siblings on the waiting list, 13 applications were turned in during open enrollment and 48 eighth graders are eligible to move up to the high school.”

Legal Authority and Requirements Related to Amendment Requests

[NRS 388A.279](#) requires that:

1. The State Public Charter School Authority, the board of trustees of the school district or a college or university within the Nevada System of Higher Education, as applicable, which sponsors a charter school may hold a public hearing concerning any request to amend a written charter or a charter contract of the charter school it sponsors, including, without limitation, a request to amend a written charter or charter contract for the purpose of:
 - a. Expanding the charter school to offer instruction in grade levels for which the charter

- school does not already offer instruction.
- b. Increasing the total enrollment of a charter school or the enrollment of pupils in a particular grade level in the charter school for a school year to more than 120 percent of the enrollment prescribed in the written charter or charter contract for that school year.
 - c. Reducing the total enrollment of a charter school or the enrollment of pupils in a particular grade level in the charter school for a school year to less than 80 percent of the enrollment prescribed in the written charter or charter contract for that school year.
 - d. Seeking to acquire an additional facility in any county of this State to expand the enrollment of the charter school.
 - e. Consolidating the operations of multiple charter schools pursuant to [NRS 388A.282](#).

Staff Recommendation: Approve with Conditions

For all of these reasons, SPCSA staff is recommending that the Authority approve, with conditions outlined below, the request of Oasis Academy of Nevada to move its 9th and 10th grade students from the Oasis school building to the Pinion Building located on Western Nevada College’s (WNC) Fallon campus beginning in the 2020 – 2021 school year.

Conditions (Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the school was unable to submit the below documents. These submissions will be handled through conditions, but these must be submitted to SPCSA staff prior to the start of the 2020 – 2021 school year).

- Documentation demonstrating that the proposed facility meets all applicable building codes, codes for the prevention of fire, and codes pertaining to safety, health and sanitation
- Documentation demonstrating the governing Body has communicated with the Division of Industrial Relations of the Department of Business and Industry regarding compliance with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) in compliance with NAC 386.3265
- Full Certificate of Occupancy

Nevada School Performance Ratings (NSPF) - Oasis Academy

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Rating(s)</u>
2014 – 2015	Elementary School: 5 stars Middle School: 5 stars
2015 – 2016	No Star Ratings Released
2016 – 2017	Elementary School: 5 stars Middle School: 5 stars
2017 – 2018	Elementary School: 3 stars Middle School: 5 stars High School: 5 stars
2018-2019	Elementary School: 5 stars Middle School: 5 stars High School: 5 stars

Oasis Academy Historical Enrollment (as of Validation Day)

	<u>2015 – 16</u>	<u>2016 – 17</u>	<u>2017 – 18</u>	<u>2018 – 19</u>	<u>2019-20</u>
<u>K</u>	40	40	48	72	72
<u>1st</u>	42	40	48	48	72
<u>2nd</u>	40	40	48	48	48
<u>3rd</u>	40	40	48	48	48
<u>4th</u>	41	40	48	48	48
<u>5th</u>	41	41	48	48	48
<u>6th</u>	40	40	48	48	48
<u>7th</u>	40	40	48	49	48
<u>8th</u>	40	41	47	48	49
<u>9th</u>	46	41	40	40	43
<u>10th</u>	27	46	37	46	40
<u>11th</u>	48	22	44	38	46
<u>12th</u>	5	39	20	31	29
<u>TOTAL</u>	490	510	572	612	639

Demographic Breakdown

Year	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
15-16	2.7%	2.2%	75.9%	10.8%	4.7%	3.3%	0.4%	9.4%	1.0%	16.1%
16-17	2.5%	5.1%	54.5%	21.4%	0.4%	9.8%	1.6%	10.4%	0.6%	18.8%
17-18	3.5%	1.6%	75.0%	11.7%	4.2%	3.5%	0.5%	9.8%	2.3%	14.2%
18-19	3.8%	1.5%	72.9%	13.9%	3.8%	3.8%	0.5%	9.8%	2.3%	19.9%
19-20	3.3%	1.3%	70.3%	16.4%	3.3%	5.0%	0.5%	10.0%	2.0%	22.7%

A – Asian

B – Black

C – Caucasian

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