

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

2080 East Flamingo Road, Suite 230
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119
(775) 687 - 9174 · (702) 486-5543

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing
SUBJECT: Quest Preparatory Academy Update & Reconstitution Recommendation
DATE: August 28, 2020

Summary of Request:

Quest Preparatory Academy has been in Receivership due to the severe financial and organizational mismanagement of the prior Board since 2015. Following his appointment as Receiver, Mr. Josh Kern has led a number of positive changes for the school and has resolved many inherited problems associated with the school over the past five years.

Quest has exhibited improvement in key areas during this charter term, particularly under the direction of the receiver. While Quest was issued a Notice of Concern in 2014 due to organizational underperformance prior to the installation of the receiver, Mr. Kern has resolved many of the compliance issues that resulted in the transition from a governing board to a receiver.

The school's academic performance, as measured by the NSPF, has also dramatically increased since the installation of the receiver. In 2017, the elementary school had earned 19 index points under the NSPF. Under the 2019 ratings, the school has earned 42 index score points and remains above the goal for this past year of 38.5 index points. The middle school has also improved its performance, earning 52.78 index points this past year, compared to 33.5 points earned in 2017.

Additionally, the school has shown adequate financial performance. The school was issued a Notice of Concern in 2017 regarding financial performance, but SPCSA staff finds the school to be in good standing at this time. All of this performance data led the Authority to conditionally renew Quest for a new, three-year charter term which began on July 1, 2020.

Over the last several months, Mr. Kern has sought out interest among community members to serve on the Quest Board. The following individuals listed below have been interviewed by SPCSA staff over the past two weeks. Given their qualifications and interest in the success of Quest Preparatory Academy, SPCSA staff is recommending that the following individuals formally reconstitute the Quest School Board:

- Will Batista
- Lynn Hanrahan
- Edward Jimenez
- Monique Parker
- Kelle Snow

All candidates have shown a willingness to serve on Quest Preparatory Academy's governing board. At this time, SPCSA staff is confident that the proposed names fulfill the requirements of [NRS 388A.320](#). Given that the Receiver has identified five qualified candidates, and each candidate has been vetted by SPCSA staff, it is recommended that the Authority approve the appointment of each of the individuals listed above.

To allow for a smooth transition from the Receiver, SPCSA staff and Mr. Kern believe that a formal transition date occur of October 15, 2020 will allow these individuals to enhance their understanding of the school and its community, as well as afford time for important governance tasks such as formal training and orientation in addition to opportunities to engage with SPCSA staff to understand the school's performance as defined within SPCSA performance frameworks.

Recommendation and Proposed Motion: *Reconstitute the Quest Preparatory Academy School Board, with the condition that the Quest Preparatory Board continue to appear at least quarterly in front of the Authority for the 2020 – 21 school year, and terminate the Receivership effective October 15, 2020.*

Quest has the following enrollment caps for the current charter term:

School Year	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Enrollment Cap	525	550	565

School Demographics since 2015

Year	Total Enrollment ¹	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
15-16	1275	5.2%	23.3%	35.0%	24.4%	0.8%	7.9%	3.5%	9.6%	8.0%	31.4%
16-17	723	4.8%	28.9%	23.2%	32.2%	0.7%	7.5%	2.6%	10.4%	9.4%	34.7%
17-18	738	3.5%	33.6%	17.2%	35.0%	0.5%	8.1%	2.0%	9.2%	11.2%	53.1%
18-19	505	2.4%	46.5%	10.9%	30.1%	0.8%	8.1%	1.2%	7.3%	10.1%	69.9%
19-20	484	2.1%	50.2%	8.5%	29.8%	0.8%	8.5%	0.2%	8.7%	9.9%	100%

- A – Asian
- B – Black
- C – Caucasian
- H – Hispanic
- I – American Indian/Alaskan Native
- M – Mixed/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

Academic Performance according to the NSPF since 2015

School Year	NSPF Rating
2018 – 19	Northwest Elementary: 2 stars (42 index points) Northwest Middle: 3 stars (52.78 index points)
2017 – 18	Bridger Elementary: 2 stars (47 index points) Northwest Elementary: 2 stars (48.5 index points) Northwest Middle: 3 stars (56 index points)
2016 – 17	Elementary: 1 star (19 index points) Middle: 2 stars (33.5 index points) High: N/A ² (46.67 index points)
2015 – 16	No Star Ratings published by the Nevada Department of Education
2014 – 15 ³	Elementary: 4 stars Middle: 3 stars High: 3 stars

¹ Enrollment as of Validation Day each year (October 1).

² Quest Preparatory Academy ceased to offer high school instruction beginning in the 2016 – 17 school year.

³ 2014 – 2015 NSPF ratings were carried over from the prior year.