



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing
SUBJECT: Sage Collegiate Update & Request to Defer Opening
DATE: June 25, 2021

Background

Sage Collegiate was approved by the SPCSA Board at the November 6, 2020 Board meeting to open in the fall of 2021. At the time of application, the school planned to locate in the 89107, 89108 or 89146 zip codes.

Since that action by the Authority, Sage Collegiate has worked to identify a viable facility for the 2021 – 22 school year and beyond. At a board meeting on May 20, the Sage Collegiate board approved an agreement for the school to locate at the Lied Memorial Boys and Girls Club at 2850 S. Lindell Road for the 2021 – 22 year only.

According to the leadership team of Sage Collegiate, the delay in finalizing a facility for the opening year of operations had a significant impact on the school's ability to recruit and enroll students and families. Ultimately, low enrollment levels raised financial and viability concerns for the school. These concerns resulted in the governing body of Sage Collegiate formally requesting to defer the school's opening to the 2022 – 23 school year.

Sage Collegiate remains committed to serving the 89107, 89108 and 89146 zip codes. If approved, Sage Collegiate intends to finalize a facility agreement to permanently locate within one of these three zip codes.

Summary and Recommendation

SPCSA staff has been in close communication with leadership of Sage Collegiate over the past several months to monitor their facility progress. An enrollment audit occurred the week of June 14. Given that the school is slated to open in less than two months and has less than 50% of its anticipated Year 1 enrollment, SPCSA staff feels that a deferred opening to the 2022 – 23 school year is the best option for the viability of the school. This will allow Sage Collegiate to successfully identify a viable facility, more effectively recruit students, and complete the SPCSA Pre-Opening process prior to the start of school next August.

As a result, SPCSA staff recommends that the Authority take action to defer the opening of Sage Collegiate to the 2022 – 23 school year.

Proposed Motion

Approve the request of Sage Collegiate to defer the school’s opening to the 2022 – 23 school year, with the following conditions:

- **That the school provide written, monthly updates to SPCSA staff regarding progress towards a final facility; and**
- **That the school provide the Authority with evidence that real estate closing has occurred or that the school has entered into a lease agreement on or before January 1, 2022.**

The previously approved enrollment cap for Sage Collegiate is as follows:

School Year	2021 - 22	2022 – 23	2023 – 24	2024 – 25	2025 – 26	2026 – 27
Total Enrollment Cap	168	224	280	336	400	460
Grade Levels	K – 2	K – 3	K – 4	K – 5	K – 6	K – 7