

From: [Gibbs, Vicki](#)
To: [SPCSA Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public comment for Discovery Charter School increased enrollment
Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 3:21:19 PM

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I am writing my public comment for the SPCSA amendment meeting scheduled for December 16, 2022. I have been a teacher at Discovery Charter School for six years. I have also taught in the public school and private school arenas. I currently teach middle school history for grades 6-8. I know each and every one of my students by name as well as their families and circumstances. I have even been fortunate to teach many of the siblings of my current students. If you were to come into my classroom, you would see students who varied by ethnicity as well as income level, with the lower income level being over represented.

Discovery is a family atmosphere unlike any other school that I have taught at. The teachers love each and every student. Many of my students come from difficult circumstances. As a teacher at Discovery, I have bought food, clothing, including bras and underwear, school supplies and other needed items for my students. Most of my students come from areas of the city where their zoned schools are underfunded and rough. Many of my middle school students are bussed across town in a bus owned by Discovery so that they can come to our school to get a better education than they would receive at their zoned schools. These students are not "Summerlin" students. These students are students whose parents want their children to have a chance to succeed so they put their children in a charter school to give them that ability. That is what charter schools are meant to do--provide an option to students who don't have the money for private schools or better neighborhood schools.

So many of my students have not had educations that lend themselves to learning all of the standards required by state standards. They are often coming to our school several years behind their peers. I have seen so many students have that gap closed at Discovery. I also have so many students with special education needs that I recently got my masters degree in Special Education so that I could have more tools to assist those students. To my delight, I have seen so much progress with students with special needs as well.

I have been concerned that these wonderful students are outside eating their lunch and having physical education classes in extreme cold and heat. We need a multipurpose building for physical education and eating inside when the weather is extreme. We need a place where we can have community experiences to build our

Discovery family. I have attended basketball games played by my students who do not have a basketball court to practice on so they struggle to run up and down the basketball court on game day. The students are so excited to be able to participate that they play knowing that they probably won't win. Give them that basketball court to practice on. Essentially even the playing field for these students.

Please consider our request to expand and be able to help a few more needy students come to our school to be taught by caring teachers and administration. Our mission aligns with your stated mission of sponsoring and supporting dynamic and responsive public charter schools that prepare all students for academic, social, and economic success. At Discovery, we would love the opportunity to make a difference in a few more deserving children.

Sincerely,
Vicki Gibbs
6-8 Grade Social Studies Teacher
Middle School Department Chair
Discovery Charter School