

April 13, 2022

Nevada State Public Charter School Authority
2080 East Flamingo Road, Ste. 230
Las Vegas, NV 89119-5164

RE: Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy Nevada (“PTAAN”) Request for Good Cause Exemption Relating to Enrollment & Lottery Requirements

Dear SPCSA Staff and Board Members:

Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy Nevada (“PTAAN”) hereby requests a good cause exemption of the timeline to provide notice of enrollment under NRS 388A.450 and a good cause exemption to allow a lottery to be held 30 days after PTAAN begins accepting applications for enrollment for the 2022-2023 academic year pursuant to NRS 388A.453(7). This request is being submitted contemporaneously with PTAAN’s charter addendum/resubmission and is a result of the remand proceedings ordered by a result of the March 24, 2022 hearing by the Clark County District Court, in Case No. A-22-849079. Good cause exists for the exemptions requested herein based on the delay associated with the Court’s findings that PTAAN was entitled to a new notice of deficiency and the requirement that a new hearing on PTAAN’s charter application be held by the State Public Charter School Authority (“SPCSA”) on or before April 29, 2022.

Additional information in support of the same is further detailed below.

Notice of Enrollment

NRS 388A.450(1) indicates that at least 45 days prior to a new charter school begins to accept applications for enrollment, that the charter school make reasonable efforts to notify each household within two miles from the charter school regarding when the school will accept applications, how to apply, and the enrollment process for pupils. However, NRS 388A.450(7) specifies that a sponsor of a charter school may revise the timeline for good cause.

Here, good cause exists to revise the timeline for notice because the SPCSA will consider PTAAN’s charter application on April 29, 2022 and has the ability to grant the application on that date. PTAAN has a facility to open its school in August of 2022 located at 1849 N. Bruce St., North Las Vegas, NV 89030 (the “Facility”) and intends to take immediate steps to begin enrollment. Enrollment plans include, but are not limited to: posting notice of the granting of its charter and enrollment status on the PTAAN website; posting signage at the proposed Facility regarding open enrollment; sending post cards to household in a two mile radius of the school advising of open enrollment, and hosting three open houses at the Facility.

Because PTAAN needs to immediately begin the enrollment process in order for enrollment data to be reported to the Nevada Department of Education (“DOE”) by June 18, 2022 (as requested by the DOE), the 45 day prior notice set forth in NRS 388A.450(1) is not practical in this unique situation. Moreover, the additional enrollment efforts set forth above will provide households in the neighborhoods that PTAAN intends to serve notice of the school and the ability to enroll in the same.

Shortened Time for Lottery

NRS 388A.453 and 388A.456 provides additional guidance regarding enrollment in a charter school including provisions relating to a lottery in situations in which more pupils eligible for enrollment apply to enroll in a charter school than the number of spaces that are available and approved by a charter school’s sponsor. As is relevant here, NRS 388A.453(7) provides that a lottery be held not sooner than 45 days after a charter school begins accepting applications, unless the sponsor of the charter school determines there is good cause to hold a lottery sooner.

Here, good cause exists to hold a lottery in a time period shorter than the 45 days set forth in NRS 388A.453 (7). Indeed, as referenced above, the DOE has requested that verified enrollment numbers be provided to it for charter schools by June 18, 2022. The verified enrollment numbers have a direct impact on funding provided to charter schools on August 1, September 1 and October 1, 2022. As such, PTAAN needs to have a process in place to have its enrollment verified and provided to the DOE by June 18, 2022. To effectuate the same, PTAAN proposes the following timeline, subject to the SPCSA approval:

April 29	SPCSA approves PTAAN Charter Application
May 2	PTAAN begins enrollment efforts described above
May 2- 31	PTAAN open enrollment forms collected
June 1	PTAAN lottery held for grade levels in which enrollment forms exceed available seats
June 1-8, 2022	PTAAN confirms enrollment and collects necessary proof of eligibility from families needed for audit
June 9-10, 2022	SPCSA Staff audits enrollment data ¹

Although this is a truncated enrollment process, we believe it will provide families in the neighborhoods that surround the Facility with sufficient notice and an opportunity to enroll in PTAAN. Additionally, the above timeline will allow PTAAN the ability to collect and obtain the necessary information for the enrollment validation process. To the extent the total number of seats approved by the SPCSA are not filled by the June 1, 2022 lottery date, PTAAN will continue to recruit and enroll students at the school until such seats are filled. In the unlikely event enrollment numbers are not what are projected by PTAAN, it reserves the right to request a decrease in its proposed 236 enrollment number on or before July 15, 2022.

We appreciate your time and attention to this matter and are looking forward to opening PTAAN this August in an area where it will make a substantial impact.

¹ SPCSA staff has indicated they intend to audit charter school enrollment the week of June 6, 2022. PTAAN respectfully requests its audit be scheduled for June 9th or 10th.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RPM', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rudy Pamintuan
Board President