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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Authority Board
FROM: Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, State Public Charter School Authority
SUBJECT: **Discovery Charter School – Charter Amendment Request to occupy a temporary facility**
DATE: September 11, 2023

Summary of Request and Recommendation

Discovery Charter School (Discovery) has submitted an amendment application requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) approve the school’s request to operate at a temporary facility.

SPCSA staff has reviewed the application and recommends that the Authority approve the amendment request with conditions. A proposed motion can be found on pages 2 and 3 of this memo.

Background and Overview of the Amendment

Discovery currently operates two campuses in Clark County: the Hillpointe campus, which is located at 8941 Hillpointe Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89134, and the Sandhill campus, which is currently located at 3975 S Sandhill Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89121. Due to flooding, and water damage, at the Hillpointe campus, Discovery is requesting the Authority approve an amendment request to transfer the affected students to a temporary facility located at 9011 Hillpointe Rd Las Vegas, NV 89134.

According to the school, Discovery is expecting to be at the temporary facility for at least 30 days, and possibly longer, and the school will have access to the temporary facility for the duration of the repairs at the Hillpointe campus. Additionally, Discovery included a Temporary Use Agreement with the proposed facility which can be found as a supporting document for this

request.

Legal Authority and Requirements Related to Amendment Requests

Existing charter schools that are sponsored by the SPCSA may submit a charter school contract amendment application to the SPCSA – which is reviewed by SPCSA staff and presented for SPCSA Board action – in order to, among other things, increase enrollment, add grade levels above and beyond what the charter school is approved to serve, or add a new campus. When determining whether to approve an amendment request, the sponsor considers the charter school’s compliance with applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations and evidence relating to the academics, finance and organization of the charter school. (See NAC 388A.400(8) and NRS 388A.276).

Analysis and Staff Recommendation

When reviewing an amendment application, SPCSA staff reviews the academic, financial and organizational performance of the applicant charter school. Discovery Sandhill is currently rated as a 2-star elementary school program and the Hillpointe elementary and middle school campuses are rated as 4-stars according to the 2018 – 19 NSPF ratings. The Hillpointe elementary and middle school received 69.9 points and 75.2 points respectively on the points 2021-2022 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework. The Sandhill elementary campus did not meet standard on the 2021-2022 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework and received 33.2 points.

Additionally, the school earned 95 points (out of 100) under the SPCSA Organizational Performance Framework for the 2021 – 22 school year as approved by the Authority on December 16, 2022. As such, SPCSA staff finds the school to be ‘Meeting Standards.’ Discovery has also been found to ‘Meet the Standards’ on the most recent 2021 SPCSA Financial Performance Framework.

SPCSA staff is supportive of the request by Discovery. This is an extraordinary situation for the school and finding a facility for the affected students is the priority for both the school and SPCSA staff. Discovery was able to secure a temporary facility quickly, and SPCSA staff will continue to work with the school as it navigates the situation. SPCSA staff would also note that the temporary facility is located at a church, and Discovery has worked with the owner of the property to ensure the school is compliant with NRS 388A.090. Additionally, SPCSA staff recommends the Authority approve Discovery to operate at the temporary site until all repairs have been completed at the Hillpointe campus and that can be found as part of the motion.

Proposed Motion: Approve Discovery Charter School’s request to occupy a temporary facility located at 9011 Hillpointe Rd Las Vegas, NV 89134 until the Hillpointe campus is repaired, and approved to serve students with the following conditions:

- **Discovery provide SPCSA Staff with a signed attestation by both the lessor and the Discovery Board Chair confirming that the proposed temporary facility and organization will not exercise any control over the educational**

program of the charter school, pursuant to NRS 388A.090. Additionally, the attestation will confirm the school will comply with any statutes, regulations or guidelines related to any public school operating out of a religious facility.

- Discovery provide SPCSA staff with a Certificate of Occupancy, or Temporary Certificate of Occupancy for the temporary facility.
- Discovery work with SPCSA staff to identify and complete pre-opening requirements, including a walkthrough, that pertain to the occupation of the 9011 Hillpointe Road Facility.

The approved enrollment cap for Discovery’s campuses is as follows:

School Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Hillpointe					
Grade Levels	K-8	K-8	K-8	K-8	K-8
Enrollment	380	380	380	380	380
Sandhill					
Grade Levels	K-5	K-5	K-5	K-5	K-5
Enrollment	100	120	120	120	120
Total	480	500	500	500	500

School Demographic Change since 2017 – Discovery Charter School

Hillpointe

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	234	2.1%	6.8%	59.8%	23.9%	1.2%	5.9%	0.0%	8.1%	*	17.9%
18-19	253	1.9%	9.8%	54.1%	24.1%	1.1%	8.6%	0.0%	6.7%	*	26.4%
19-20	267	1.1%	8.9%	50.1%	28.8%	1.4%	8.9%	0.3%	7.1%	*	0.0%
20-21	339	2.9%	7.0%	42.4%	33.9%	1.1%	11.5%	0.8%	7.3%	*	0.0%
21-22	359	2.5%	6.6%	40.3%	36.2%	0.8%	12.2%	1.1%	8.9%	<5.0%	16.9%
22-23	404	3.2%	7.6%	39.1%	37.6%	0.7%	10.1%	1.4%	13.1%	<5.0%	19.8%

Sandhill

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
17-18	154	3.2%	7.7%	50.6%	22.7%	0.6%	8.4%	6.4%	*	*	21.4%
18-19	119	0.8%	19.3%	34.4%	22.6%	0.0%	13.4%	9.2%	*	*	42.8%
19-20	106	1.8%	18.8%	19.8%	43.3%	0.0%	12.2%	3.7%	*	*	0.0%

20-21	111	2.7%	18.9%	21.6%	50.4%	0.0%	5.4%	0.9%	*	*	0.0%
21-22	101	1.9%	14.8%	20.7%	54.4%	0.0%	5.9%	1.9%	*	10.8%	31.6%
22-23	89	2.2%	17.9%	21.3%	48.3%	0.0%	8.9%	1.1%	*	*	48.3%

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
 * - Suppressed data due to n-count

Discovery Charter School Financial Performance

Year	Rating
2019 – 2020	Notice of Concern
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard
2021 – 2022	Meets the Standard

Discovery Charter School Organizational Performance

Year	Rating
2019 – 2020	Meets the Standard
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard
2021 – 2022	Meets the Standard

Discovery Charter School Academic Performance

Year	NSPF Rating – Hillpointe	NSPF Rating—Sandhill
2018	Elementary: 4 Star Middle School: 5 Star	Elementary: 3 Star Middle School: 4 Star (formally Mesa Vista)
2019	Elementary: 4 Star Middle School: 4 Star	Elementary: 2 Star Middle School: 2 Star (formally Mesa Vista)

2020 ¹	Elementary: 4 Star Middle School: 4 Star	Elementary: 2 Star Middle School: 2 Star
2021 ²	Elementary: 4 Star Middle School: 4 Star	Elementary: 2 Star
2022 Index Score	Elementary: 76.6 Middle School: 73.8	Elementary: 37.0

Discovery 2021-22 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results³

Campus	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
Discovery Hillpointe ES	69.9	MEETS STANDARD
Discovery Hillpointe MS	75.2	MEETS STANDARD
Discovery Sandhill ES	33.2	DOES NOT MEET STANDARD

¹ Due to COVID-19, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) applied for and was granted a 2019 – 20 school year waiver from the US Department of Education for certain assessment, accountability, school identification, and reporting requirements established by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Accordingly, for the 2019 – 20 school year, Nevada statewide assessments were not administered and the NDE did not calculate Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) school ratings

² Due to COVID-19, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) applied for and was granted a 2020-21 school year waiver from the U.S. Department of Education for certain requirements established by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Nevada statewide assessments were administered in the 2020-21 school year, but the NDE did not calculate new Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) school ratings for the 2020-21 school year.

³ The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) calculated NSPF index scores for the 2021-22 school year but did not calculate corresponding star ratings (shown as N/A). 2021-22 NSPF details and rules can be found at: <http://nevadareportcard.nv.gov/DI/MoreDownload?filename=Nevada%20School%20Performance%20Framework%20Manual%202021-22%20School%20Year.pdf>