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**ACTION MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** SPCSA Authority Board  
**FROM:** Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, SPCSA  
**SUBJECT:** Nevada State High School - Meadowwood – Charter Amendment Request to Reduce Enrollment Cap  
**DATE:** January 26, 2024

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**Summary of Request and Recommendation**

Nevada State High School Meadowwood (NSHS) has submitted an amendment application requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption and approve the school reduce its enrollment cap across all campuses.

SPCSA staff has reviewed the application and recommends that the Authority grant the Good Cause Exemption and approve the amendment request. A proposed motion can be found on page of 3 this memo.

**Background and Overview of the Amendment**

NSHS is a college-prep public charter school that serves students in grades 11-12 across eight campuses in Washoe County. NSHS’s mission is to support students in a college environment with personal, academic, and social skills. The core purpose of NSHS is to provide opportunities for students’ success in a real college environment. As of the 2023 Validation Day, NSHS had 30 students enrolled.

According to the amendment application, NSHS is requesting to reduce its approved enrollment cap for the 2023-2024 school year. NSHS requests additional reductions in subsequent years for campuses which are detailed in the table below. If approved, the enrollment caps for the NSHS campuses would be:

<b>School Year</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>	<b>2028-29</b>
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Total Enrollment	30	50	53	56	59	59

According to the amendment application, NSHS is seeking to make the requested changes to align to the current, and projected enrollment counts this school year and beyond. NSHS listed a number of efforts to increase enrollment in the coming years. According to the amendment application, those efforts include:

- In August 2023, it was identified that year-over-year applications were down 30% and enrollment was down 10% year-over year, resulting in a change in personnel in the marketing department.
- In September 2023, NSHS created the role of Data and Registration and Director, focused on ensuring quality in the enrollment process.
- In October 2023, NSHS developed a 2024-2025 marketing and recruitment plan focused on brand awareness, digital marketing, grassroots events, and actively sharing information with families regarding the school.
- In November 2023, NSHS hired a new Marketing and Engagement Director whose primary focuses are on promoting brand awareness and increasing student enrollment.
- Through targeted community and grassroots events and enhancements to the current advertising strategies, NSHS anticipates a minimum of 10% YOY growth in student recruitment.
- In addition to the marketing efforts, NSHS continues to show signs of strength in application conversions. NSHS successfully met a target from Fall 2022 to Spring 2023, and retained nearly 98% of its student population. The graduation rate remains consistent at 98%.

NSHS explained in the application that the reduction in enrollment does not impact staffing because staffing is based on actual enrollment and not the approved enrollment caps.

### **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. In the case of NSHS Meadowwood, SPCSA staff finds the school to be meeting academic, financial and organizational performance expectations. NSHS has maintained strong academic performance as evidenced by the NSPF rating. NSHS Meadowwood a 5-star rating according to the most recent NSPF ratings and was

also found to be exceeding standards on the 2022-2023 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Additionally, the NSHS earned 99 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, and staff does not note any Organizational issues on the 2022 – 23 Organizational Performance Framework. As such, SPCSA staff finds the school to be ‘Meeting Standards.’ NSHS has also been found to ‘Meet the Standards’ on the most recent 2022 SPCSA Financial Performance Framework and preliminary results under the 2023 SPCSA Financial Performance Framework appear to signal that the school is in a sound financial position.

SPCSA staff is supportive of the request by NSHS. NSHS made necessary adjustments to its budget and shows no sign of financial trouble. NSHS has a strong track record and continues to operate successfully in Washoe County. Therefore, SPCSA staff recommends the Authority approve the request to reduce the enrollment cap for NSHS Meadowwood for the 2023-2024 school year and the remainder of the charter term.

**Proposed Motion: Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve NSHS Meadowwood’s request to reduce its approved enrollment cap for the for the 2023-2024 school year and to reduce enrollment caps in the remainder of the charter term as detailed in this recommendation memo.**

If approved, the enrollment cap for the NSHS Meadowwood campus will be as follows for the remainder of the charter term:

School Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Total Enrollment	30	50	53	56	59	59

The current, approved, enrollment cap for the NSHS Meadowwood is:

School Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Enrollment	68	75	83	91	100	110

**School Demographics change since 2018 – Nevada State High School Meadowwood**

**Nevada State High School Meadowwood**

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
18-19	26	3.8%	0.0%	69.2%	15.3%	0.0%	7.6%	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%	46.1%
19-20	55	3.6%	0.0%	65.4%	21.8%	0.0%	7.2%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	21.8%
20-21	68	10.2%	0.0%	60.2%	11.7%	1.4%	13.2%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	*
21-22	50	6.0%	2.0%	54.0%	18%	2.0%	12.0%	6%	*	0.0%	*

22-23	34	8.8%	0.0%	58.8%	29.4%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	*
23-24	30	6.6%	0.0%	50.0%	40.0%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%

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

### Nevada State High School Financial Performance

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

### Nevada State High School Organizational Performance

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

### Nevada State High School Academic Performance

School Year	NSPF Rating
2022 – 2023 Star Rating	Meadowwood: 5-stars
2021 – 2022 Index Score	Meadowwood HS: 86.5
2020 – 2021 <sup>1</sup>	Not Rated
2019 – 2020 <sup>2</sup>	Not Rated

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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

2018 – 2019	Not Rated
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**Nevada State High School 2022-23 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results**

<b>Campus</b>	<b>2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Score</b>	<b>2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating</b>
NSHS Meadowwood	89	EXCEEDS STANDARD

**Nevada State High School 2021-22 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results<sup>3</sup>**

<b>Campus</b>	<b>2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Score</b>	<b>2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating</b>
NSHS Meadowwood	86.5	EXCEEDS STANDARD

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(NSPF) school ratings

<sup>3</sup> 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>