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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Authority Board
FROM: Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, SPCSA
SUBJECT: Nevada Prep – Charter Amendment Request to Reduce Enrollment Cap
DATE: March 1, 2024

Summary of Request and Recommendation

Nevada Prep Charter School has submitted an amendment application requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption and approve the school to reduce its enrollment cap for 2023-2024 school year and the remainder of the charter term.

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

NV Prep is a charter school in Clark County located at 1780 Betty Ln., Las Vegas, NV 89156. Its mission is to educate every 3rd through 8th grade scholar to excel in high school, college, and life with a focus on academic achievement and leadership development. Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, NV Prep will begin offering grades K – 2 in addition to grades 3 – 8.

NV Prep, serving grades 3-8, and opened in the fall of 2018 and is currently in its fifth year of operation. According to the amendment application, NV Prep is requesting to reduce its approved enrollment cap for the 2023-2024 school year. If approved, the NV Prep enrollment caps would be:

School Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Grade Levels	3-8	K-8	K-8
Total Enrollment	330	420	500

According to the amendment application, to aid with maintaining our 10% threshold NV Prep applied and was approved for the addition of kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade. The addition of those grades will encourage families that were looking for an elementary/middle school to enroll with us. NV Prep have also participated in local events, within a 2-mile radius to make families aware of the school as an option for their students. The two bus route options have also helped with recruiting students in different parts of the valley and not just locals.

Finally, NV Prep explained in the amendment application that the reduction in enrollment will not have an impact on staffing at the school and the school is fully staffed for its current enrollment count.

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. NV Prep’s elementary and middle school were both rated 3-stars under the 2022-23 NSPF. The NV Prep elementary school received 65.3 points on the 2022-2023 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework and was to meet standards. The middle school received 70.6 points and was found to meet standards.

Additionally, the school earned 66 points (out of 100) under the SPCSA Organizational Performance Framework for the 2022 – 23 school year which has led to SPCSA recommending a Notice of Concern. However, the school under new leadership, has submitted a plan to improve Organizational Performance. NV Prep was also issued a Notice of Concern on the SPCSA’s 2021 – 22 Financial Performance Framework.

SPCSA staff is supportive of the request by NV Prep. NV Prep provided reasonable explanations as to why they are seeking this reduction, and SPCSA staff sees no reason to decline the request. Additionally, as noted previously in the memo, NV Prep will add grades K – 2 which should allow the school to have a more consistent and sustainable enrollment for both elementary school and middle school. SPCSA staff finds the staffing and budget assumptions to be reasonable as well.

As such, SPCSA staff recommend the Authority approve NV Prep’s request for a reduction of its 2023-24 school year, and the remainder of the charter term.

Proposed Motion: Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve Nevada Prep Charter School’s request to reduce its 2023-2024 approved enrollment cap from 480 students to 330 students and to reduce the cap for the remainder of the charter contract term as detailed in this recommendation memo.

If approved, the enrollment cap for NV Prep will be as follows for the remainder of the charter term:

School Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Grade Levels	3-8	K-8	K-8
Enrollment	330	420	500

The current, approved, enrollment caps for NV Prep is as follows:

School Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Grade Levels	3-8	K-8	K-8
Enrollment	480	540	540

School Demographics change since 2018 - NV Prep

NV Prep

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
18-19	113	0.0%	17.6%	9.7%	70.7%	0.0%	0.8%	0.8%	13.2%	18.5%	90.2%
19-20	214	0.4%	13.0%	15.8%	70.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	14.4%	22.4%	>95%
20-21	246	1.2%	15.4%	8.9%	73.1%	0.0%	0.4%	0.8%	10.9%	25.6%	>95%
21-22	215	1.8%	26.9%	6.5%	63.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	11.1%	28.8%	>95%
22-23	283	2.1%	26.5%	5.3%	64.3%	1.4%	0.0%	0.3%	13.4%	29.3%	>95%
23-24	314	0.3%	21.9%	7.3%	64.3%	1.5%	4.1%	0.3%	12.4%	25.7%	>95%

- 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

NV Prep Financial Performance

Year	Rating
2019 – 2020	Meets the Standard
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard
2021 – 2022	Notice of Concern
2022 – 2023	

NV Prep Organizational Performance

Year	Rating
2019 – 2020	Meets the Standard
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard
2021 – 2022	Meets the Standard
2022 – 2023	Notice of Concern

NV Prep Academic Performance

School Year	NSPF Rating
2022 – 2023	Elementary: 3 stars Middle School: 3 stars
2021 – 2022 Index Scores	Elementary Index Score: 12.2 Middle Index School: 74.4
2020 – 2021 ¹	Elementary: 2 stars Middle: 5 stars
2019 – 2020 ²	Elementary: 2 stars Middle: 5 stars
2018 – 2019	Elementary: 2 stars Middle: 5 stars

NV Prep 2022-23 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results

Campus	2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
NV Prep ES	65.3	MEETS STANDARD
NV Prep MS	70.6	MEETS STANDARD

¹ Due to COVID-19, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) applied for and was granted a 2020 – 21 school year waiver from the US 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 Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) school ratings for the 2020 – 21 school year.

² 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.

NV Prep 2021-22 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results³

Campus	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
NV Prep ES	19.3	BELOW STANDARD
NV Prep MS	84.6	EXCEEDS STANDARD

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>