

EXHIBIT 7

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asked why there was such a precipitous decrease between 10 and 11 grade. Ms. Dukek said there were a few factors that go into the drop. First, they just started offering 12 grade, and they also tend to see a higher percentage of middle schools students enrolling into their program, but then going back to the high school they were zoned for. Member Mackedon suggested segregating out students who had been continuously enrolled at the school in order to determine how the school is educating those children. The Authority continued their discussion on reasons for enrollment decrease from 10 to 11 grade.

Member Abelman said he was having reservations regarding the renewal of Nevada Connections Academy and asked Director Canavero if the school was serving a specific need. Director Canavero said it was the recommendation of the SPCSA staff to renew the charter and with that believed was serving an educational need. Member Abelman asked Nevada Connections Academy what their goals for graduation rates would be in the future. Ms. Dukek said it is the goal of the school to meet or exceed the average graduation rates for the state. Member Wahl also stressed the importance of inputting data correctly when reporting on different metrics in the school. Dr. Rohrer added that she believed the data would be cleaner in subsequent years and with that the graduation rate would improve.

Member McCord motioned for the approval for the term specified under statute with provisions that Nevada Connections Academy must create a clear plan for math proficiency improvements and high school graduation rates. Member Abelman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 13 - Charter Schools Association of Nevada Update

Jim LaBuda introduced himself to the Authority as the new director of the Charter School Association of Nevada. Mr. Labuda explained his vision for charter schools in Nevada and the reasons that attracted him to the state. He believes innovation is one of the best ways to improve education and that charter schools are a great way to implement these innovations. He also announced the dates and location for the 2013 Charter Schools Association of Nevada conference that is planned for late June in northern Nevada.

Agenda Item 9 – Presentation concerning the Authority’s proposed Performance Framework

Director Canavero began by giving background on the development of the frameworks for measuring outcomes at SPCSA-sponsored charter schools. He said there are three frameworks, Academic, Financial, and Organizational, and he believed the Organizational and Financial frameworks were ready for Authority approval now. He said the Academic Framework is more complicated and needs more input from parties. Director Canavero said these frameworks will be in addition to the Nevada School Performance framework and will do a better job monitoring and showing outcomes of the charter schools in Nevada. He said one of the things that had been disagreed upon with regard to the Academic Framework was the mission-specific goals being included in the Academic Framework’s measurement. Director Canavero said that he and SPCSA staff believed these goals should not be included in the Academic Framework.

Katherine Rohrer, Education Program Professional then detailed the Academic Framework and the differences between it and the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF). The NSPF does not include all the charter schools in its measurements because some of the schools are too small for data to be used. Dr. Rohrer said that these schools then would not receive a rating in the system and the SPCSA needs a framework that consistently measures charter schools performance across all spectrums. She then detailed the values used to shape the Academic Framework. Dr. Rohrer than explained the indicators and measures the Academic Framework would be using to monitor the schools.

Member McCord asked if requiring schools to use certain tests would be an infringement on their autonomy. Dr. Rohrer said that they had chosen the Explore ACT plan so there would be standardized data for measurement across all the schools. Director Canavero also added that it is not uncommon for a sponsor, when developing or implementing frameworks require schools to use certain tests as a condition of sponsorship. Chair Conaboy also added that during legislative hearings a constant balance that is debated is autonomy