

STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY



2019 CALL FOR QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS SUMMER CYCLE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Schools Opening Fall 2020 and Beyond

MS Word Application Template

SPCSA Charter Proposal Cover Sheet

Identify the **primary point of contact** for your team. Barring a change in the makeup of the founding group, this will likely be the liaison identified in the Notice of Intent. This individual will serve as the contact for all communications, scheduling, and notices regarding your application. The Primary Contact is expected to ensure that your team receives all general communications promptly. Please note that, as with all aspects of your application, names and contact information of the Primary Contact will become public information. Please note that neither the Primary Contact nor any other member of the Committee to Form may be an employee of a proposed vendor, including an educational management organization.

Primary contact person: Sable Marandi

Mailing address:

Street/PO Box: 4760 Santa Luc

City: Pahrump State NV Zip 89061

Phone Number: day 702-612-0172 evening 702-612-0172

Fax Number: _____ Email: missmarandi@gmail.com

Name of team or entity applying: Pahrump Valley Academy

- Track A
- Track B
- Track C
- Track D

Provide a brief description of your school that includes the name, the mission, grades served and other information you would like to include in a brief communication of this type. Your description will be used by the sponsor to provide information to the public about applicants and, for approved schools, new charter schools.

Pahrump Valley Academy, herein referred to as PVA, is a proposed college preparatory public, charter school that will serve students in grades K-8, in the township of Pahrump, in Nye County, Nevada.

The mission of Pahrump Valley Academy is to prepare all students for highly successful high school and college careers through highest quality instruction delivering most rigorous, standards-aligned curriculum, designed to accommodate learners' cognitive, academic, social, and personal growths on their way to becoming life-long independent learners. By offering an academically assertive, publicly funded educational choice in Pahrump, Pahrump Valley Academy will provide local students with the opportunity to receive a high quality college preparatory education that will prepare them for successful careers in high school, college, and beyond.

Names, roles, and current employment of all persons on applicant team (add lines as needed):

Full Name	Current Job Title and Employer	Position with Proposed School
Sable Marandi, M.S. (Ph.D. in progress/expected by Fall 2020)	Doctoral Candidate, Grand Canyon University	Executive Director
Edward Williams, M.Ed.	Retired US Army Instructor, Public School Teacher and Administrator	Principal
Kay Lapointe	Retired Afterschool Administrator; Teacher's Aide, NCSD	Office Manager
Tom Waters, Ed.D.	Retired US Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, Teacher and Administrator for DoDDS	Board Member
Maria Jerinic, Ph.D.	Associate Professor in Residence, Honors College of University of Nevada at Las Vegas	Board Member
Justin Curnutt, D.Ph.	Founder and Director, Pahrump Wellness Center; Vice President, Pahrump Chamber of Commerce	Board Member; Director of Parent Steering Committee
Jonathan K. Nelson, J.D.	Founder, JK Nelson Law	Board Member
Kenneth E. Johnson	Managing Partner, Creative Situations	Board Member; Director of School Site Leadership Council
Michael Hines	Vice President and Site Manager, Nevada State Bank, Pahrump	Board Member

Does this applicant team, charter management organization, or education management organization have charter school applications under consideration by any other authorizer(s) in the United States?

Yes No

If yes, complete the table below, adding lines as needed.

State	Authorizer	Proposed School Name	Application Due Date	Decision Date
	N/A			

Does this applicant team, charter management organization, or education management organization have new schools scheduled to open elsewhere in the United States in the 2018-19 or 2019-20 school years?

Yes No

If yes, complete the table below, adding lines as needed.

Proposed School Name	City	State	Opening Date
N/A			

School Name (add lines as needed):

Proposed School Name(s)*	Opening Year	Grades served Year 1	Grades served at capacity
Pahrump Valley Academy	2020-2021	K-5	K-8

a. Planned Enrollment (Must Correspond to Budget Worksheet Assumptions)

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
K	50	50	50	50	50	50
1	50	50	50	50	50	50
2	50	50	50	50	50	50
3	25	50	50	50	50	50
4	25	25	50	50	50	50
5	25	25	25	50	50	50
6		25	25	25	50	50
7			25	25	25	50
8				25	25	25
9						
10						
11						
12						
Total	225	275	325	375	400	425

Nevada law currently permits an operator to contract with for-profit and non-profit education management organizations and education service providers.

Does the proposed school intend to contract or partner with an education management organization (EMO) or education service provider (ESP) or other organization to provide school management services? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes, identify the EMO/ESP:	N/A

Effective January 1, 2016, Nevada law will also permit authorizers to enter into charter contracts to nonprofit charter management organizations which directly hold a charter in another state as well as to Nevada non-profit corporations formed for the purpose of applying for a charter in conjunction with such a CMO.

Is the applicant for the proposed school a charter management organization (CMO) or a Nevada non-profit corporation formed for the purpose of applying for a charter in conjunction with a CMO? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes, identify the CMO and any affiliated NV non-profit:	N/A

Applicant Certification:


	07/11/19
Signature	Date
Sable Marandi	07/11/19
Printed Name:	



Table of Contents

SPCSA Charter Proposal Cover Sheet..... 1

Executive Summary..... ii

Meeting the Need..... 1

 TARGETED PLAN 1

 PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT..... 5

Academic Plan..... 1

 MISSION & VISION..... 1

 TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE..... 4

 CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN 8

 PROGRAMS OF DISTANCE EDUCATION (Distance Education Applicants Only)..... 19

 PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS 19

 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND POSTSECONDARY READINESS (High School Applicants Only) 20

 DRIVING FOR RESULTS..... 20

 AT-RISK STUDENTS AND SPECIAL POPULATIONS..... 24

 At-Risk Students..... 25

 Special Education..... 27

 English Language Learners..... 31

 Homeless/Migrant Services 33

 SCHOOL STRUCTURE: CULTURE..... 34

 SCHOOL STRUCTURE: STUDENT DISCIPLINE..... 37

 SCHOOL STRUCTURE: CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE..... 39

 A DAY IN THE LIFE & SCENARIOS 41

Operations Plan..... 1

 BOARD GOVERNANCE 1

 LEADERSHIP TEAM 8

 STAFFING 14

 HUMAN RESOURCES 15

 STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND ENROLLMENT 19

 INCUBATION YEAR DEVELOPMENT 24

 DUAL-CREDIT PARTNERSHIPS..... 24

 SERVICES..... 25

 FACILITIES..... 28



ONGOING OPERATIONS.....	31
Financial Plan.....	1
Attachments.....	1



2. Executive Summary

4 Page Limit

Provide a brief overview of your proposed school, including:

An overview of the mission and vision for the school

Pahrump Valley Academy, herein referred to as PVA, is a proposed college preparatory public, charter school that will serve students in grades K-8, in the township of Pahrump, in Nye County, Nevada.

The mission of Pahrump Valley Academy is to prepare ALL students for highly successful high school and college careers through highest quality instruction delivering most rigorous, standards-aligned curriculum, designed to accommodate learners' cognitive, academic, social, and personal growths on their way to becoming life-long independent learners. By offering an academically assertive, publicly funded educational choice in Pahrump, Pahrump Valley Academy will provide local students with the opportunity to receive a high quality college preparatory education that will prepare them for successful careers in high school, college, and beyond.

The vision of Pahrump Valley Academy is that ALL students, regardless of socioeconomic status, linguistic needs, ethnicity, national origin, or academic level, are prepared for both high school and college success while developing a strong sense of cognitive, academic, social and personal growth.

Proposed model and target community

Pahrump Valley Academy (PVA) will fully commit to the service of the township of Pahrump in Nye County, Nevada by providing a choice in education that includes a rigorous college preparatory educational program. Beginning in 2020, PVA will serve grades kindergarten to five. The demographics by ethnicity was listed on the Nevada Report Card for 2017-2018 for Nye County School District (NCS) as 61.65% White, 27.62% Latino, 3.7% Two or More Races, 2.94% African American, 1.4% Asian, 1.35% American Indian and 1.18% Pacific Islander. The demographics of special populations was listed on the Nevada Report Card for 2017-2018 for NCS is 14.65% Students with Disabilities (SWD), 7.53% English Learners (EL), 76.73% Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (SED) and 0.37% Migrant. PVA will serve all students, and anticipates that the significant subgroups will be White students, Latino students, English Learners, Students with Disabilities and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged students.

The proposed educational model will align a rigorous college preparatory elementary and middle school education using the Pearson Suite of curriculum that is rigorous and aligned to State Standards. The students to be served will reflect the demographics of the Pahrump township. To ensure that all students are achieve grade level mastery and above in English Language Arts and Mathematics, PVA will incorporate a strong Response to Intervention (RtI) model that will screen all students to determine areas of opportunity in reading, writing and mathematics. PVA will utilize integrated English Language Development in English Language Arts and Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE) strategies in all core content areas to address the needs of English Learners and will also incorporate designated English Language Development daily for every English Learner. PVA believes in providing a supportive and inclusive program providing for all students with disabilities as per each Individualized Education Plan (IEP). PVA will also incorporate a strong enrichment model for all students to include art, music and French language which will supplement the core curriculum and provide rich experiences to all students in preparation for high school and college. This educational model has been strongly developed to ensure the academic development of the students of Pahrump.



The outcomes you expect to achieve

PVA board, site leadership, faculty, and staff will work in collaboration with each other to achieve the following academic, organizational, and financial goals:

Academic Goals

- Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)
 - At least 61% of the students enrolled at the academy for a period of two consecutive years will achieve meet or exceeds standard mastery in SBAC English Language Arts (ELA) by 2022. The Charter School will continue to meet or exceed the State goal in each subsequent year.
 - At least 41% of the students enrolled at the academy for a period of two consecutive years will achieve meet or exceeds standard mastery SBAC in Mathematics (Math) by 2022. The Charter School will continue to meet or exceed the State goal in each subsequent year.
- English Language Proficiency Assessment (WIDA)
 - At least 80% of the students will have an Overall Composite Score of 4.0 by grade 3 if they have been enrolled in school consecutively in the United States since grade K.
- NWEA MAP Assessments
 - At least 65% of the students will score at or above average on the NWEA MAP Assessment on the Spring Reading and Math assessments.
- STAR Assessments- As part of the intervention and enrichment program, Renaissance Accelerated Reader and Accelerated Math, all students will participate in the Renaissance Learning STAR Assessments.
 - At least 80% of the K-3 students will score as Probable Reader by the end of grade 3 on STAR Early Literacy.
 - At least 80% of the independent readers – grade 8 students will score Average or Above Average by the end of each school year on STAR Reading.
 - At least 80% of the 1-8 students will score will score Average or Above Average by the end of each school year on STAR Math.
- High Quality Schools
 - Achieve a minimum of a 4 Star School rating by the end of the Charter Term

Organizational Goals

- Governance
 - The academy’s Board of Directors will complete recommended trainings as required.
- Operations
 - The academy will demonstrate at least 50% licensed employee retention rate, not reflective of the separations for reasons of health, family, or licensure issues.
 - The academy will demonstrate at least 80% satisfaction rate in an end of the year survey administered to its student body’s parents and legal guardians.

Financial Goals

- Fiscal Solvency
 - The academy will strive for a minimum positive of 3% net income annually.
 - The academy will maintain a minimum cash reserve covering 30 days by the end of the academy’s second year in operation.
 - The academy will maintain a minimum cash reserve covering 60 days by the end of the academy’s third year of operation.

The key components of your educational model

Key elements of the educational model of Pahrump Valley Academy are:



- Rigorous, standards-aligned college preparatory curriculum
- Frequent formative assessments as a basis for data driven instruction
- Timely academic intervention (RtI) for students who are academically low achieving
- Daily academic enrichment for all students to include art, music and French
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to ensure all students access the educational experience and participate in the school community
- Integrated and Designated English Language Development (ELD)
- Early and Effective Response to dilemmas of Behavior Management.
- Inclusive and supportive model for Students with Disabilities (SWD)
- Exceptional school leadership, teachers and staff committed to PVA’s mission and vision and supported with high-quality Professional Development, supportive work environment, and competitive compensation and benefits.

The values, approach, and leadership accomplishments of your school leader or leadership team

The values and approach of the leadership team center on Leadership through Service as it will commit to diligently and tirelessly serving its community of Pahrump. PVA will have a leadership team comprised of a Board of Directors, an Executive Director, and a site leadership team comprised of Principal, and Assistant Principal(s) to be added as needed. Additionally, through the voice of its Parent Teacher Organization and community organization, including but not limited to PVA Parent Steering Committee and School Community Leadership Council, families will take part in school leadership. The Parent Steering Committee and the School Community Leadership Council will regularly assess the Academy’s performance qualitatively and quantitatively in order to direct their relevant decisions.

The Committee to Form, many of whom may ultimately serve as the Board of Directors, is comprised of educators, veterans, businessmen, attorneys, bankers and entrepreneurs: Maria Jerinic, Ph.D., Associate Professor in Residence at UNLV Honor’s College; Tom Waters, Ed.D., Retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel, Retired Principal Educator, Retired Pahrump Township Board member, Nye County TV Host and Pahrump resident; Justin Curnutt, D.Ph., Pahrump Wellness Center Pharmacist, Pahrump Chamber of Commerce Board Vice President and Pahrump Resident; Jonathan K. Nelson, J.D., Founder and Attorney at Law at JK Nelson Law for Pahrump and Las Vegas; Kenneth E. Johnson, Managing Partner at Creative Situations and Pahrump resident; and Michael Hines, Vice President and Branch Manager at Nevada State Bank in Pahrump and Pahrump resident. The Board of Directors are active members of the community and powerful resources to PVA. They are committed to the power of a college preparatory charter school in Pahrump, NV.

The Executive Director will serve as the school leader, Sable Marandi. Ms. Marandi holds a Master’s in Educational Leadership and is completing a Ph.D. Doctorate in Cognition and Instruction as well as her Nevada Administrative license prior to Fall 2020. Ms. Marandi is a former English teacher and an educational researcher with research specialties in Raising Reading Grade Levels in accelerated time, and Elements of Cognition and of Personality Success to Nurture in the Character Make-Up of College Bound Students. She completed her undergraduate studies in English at UNLV, where she also served the university’s campus through the University Newspaper and through Alpha Delta Pi sorority. Ms. Marandi successfully carved a niche for herself in corporate America as a Marketing Director, bridging financial and non-profit sectors and meeting one’s public relation needs through another’s financial needs. Then, Ms. Marandi began her career in education as a tutor with the American Library of Literacy, teaching reading to an adult population too ashamed to admit their inability to read and write. It was at this time, Ms. Marandi gave up corporate success, in pursuit of the passionate dream that is the publicly funded education accessible by all while



delivering the excellence associated with the most exclusive and elite of the success driven organizations. Since realizing her calling as an educator, Sable Marandi has completed her graduate studies in both instructional and administrative aspects of education. She has earned a Master's in Educational Leadership from National University; and has set forth on earning her Ph.D. in Cognition and Instruction from Grand Canyon University, while focused on scientific research and adding to the realm of current knowledge in the knowledge domain of education. After teaching in California and Nevada, a lifetime of community service to communities of high needs, and on the onset of earning a doctorate in Cognition and Instruction, opening a public charter school committed to excellence in curriculum and instruction in the high needs community of Pahrump represents the culmination of a lifetime of education and experience.

The Principal will serve on the school leadership team, Eddie Williams, M.Ed. Mr. Williams is a retired U.S. Department of Defense instructor and curriculum designer, public school math teacher and middle school assistant principal, from Texas. He began his career as an enlisted man in the U.S. Military, where he met and married his wife; upon his retirement from the U.S. Armed Forces, Eddie used his G.I. Bill to pay for his continuing education, earning a B.A. in Education, and his Master's degree in Secondary Education. He then began a second career as a Math teacher with the San Antonio School District, where he was promoted to Middle School Assistant Principal. Having achieved the aforementioned, Mr. Williams returned to serving the U.S. Armed Forces, once again, this time at the capacity of instructor and curriculum designer with the Department of Defense. Eddie humbly volunteered his services to the PVA team, as a community member and veteran educator. Mr. Williams soon found yet another calling, to promote and fight for academic excellence and mastery in education in rural America.

Ms. Lapointe is a retired after-school administrator from Southern California, who is currently employed as a staff member with the Nye County School District at the elementary school in the very community which PVA proposes to serve, J. G. Johnson. She is also a well-known and highly respected active member of the Pahrump community.

Key supporters, partners, or resources that will contribute to your school's success

Pahrump Valley Academy has developed and will actively continue to cultivate positive relationships with community partners in Pahrump Valley. Through social media and an active presence in the community through events like the Chili Cook-Off, the Pahrump Business and Home Expo, Pahrump Fall Festival, Pahrump Balloon Festival, Members of Chamber of Commerce, Planning Committee for Fall Festival, as well as, successful Town Hall meetings, PVA has become an integral member of the Pahrump community. It is important to note that PVA has established itself as the realization of school choice in the community.

The members of the Committee to Form are active in the community through organizations like the Rotary Club, Nye County Community Outreach, Not for Profits of Pahrump, Veterans of Foreign Wars 10054, churches, and community councils. Pahrump is a small town and many of the partners reached are members of the same families PVA will be serving. Because news travels fast in Pahrump, PVA has been successful in its social media campaign as evidenced by the Charter School's website and Facebook. The families of Pahrump sense great urgency in their need for a publicly funded choice in respect to their children's education. PVA is committed to developing a community supported Charter School offering the children of Pahrump a college preparatory Charter School to serve them. PVA Leadership has been invited for a Community TV show in October 2019, and has been featured in Pahrump Valley Times, <https://pvtimes.com/news/pahrump-valley-academy-striving-to-be-first-local-charter-school-68456/>



3. Meeting the Need

TARGETED PLAN

(1) Identify the community you wish to serve and describe your interest in serving this specific community.

Pahrump Valley Academy seeks to serve the township of Pahrump, located in Nye County, Nevada. Pahrump is an unincorporated city, a township, situated approximately 63 miles away from Las Vegas. Traditionally only one route has connected the township to its largest metropolitan neighbor, Las Vegas. Over the past two years, the said road has been reconstructed to accommodate greater traffic and smoother travel in service to the increasing population of the township of Pahrump. Over the last ten years, major American builders have moved into the township, built a multitude of residential communities and accommodated family living at highly feasible costs. Many of these families are larger hard-working families who wish to furnish their family units with a home and as such realize the American homeownership dream, yet these families are unable do so in Las Vegas due to the Las Vegas' rising real estate prices. Pahrump has become a home to families growing a vibrant community needing strong choices for schools. Walmart, Home Depot, Good Will, Smith's and Albertson's are five of the major vendors who have come to Pahrump which will increase the sustainability of the community. Pahrump, NV is the largest township in Nye County.

The community can be described as the following:

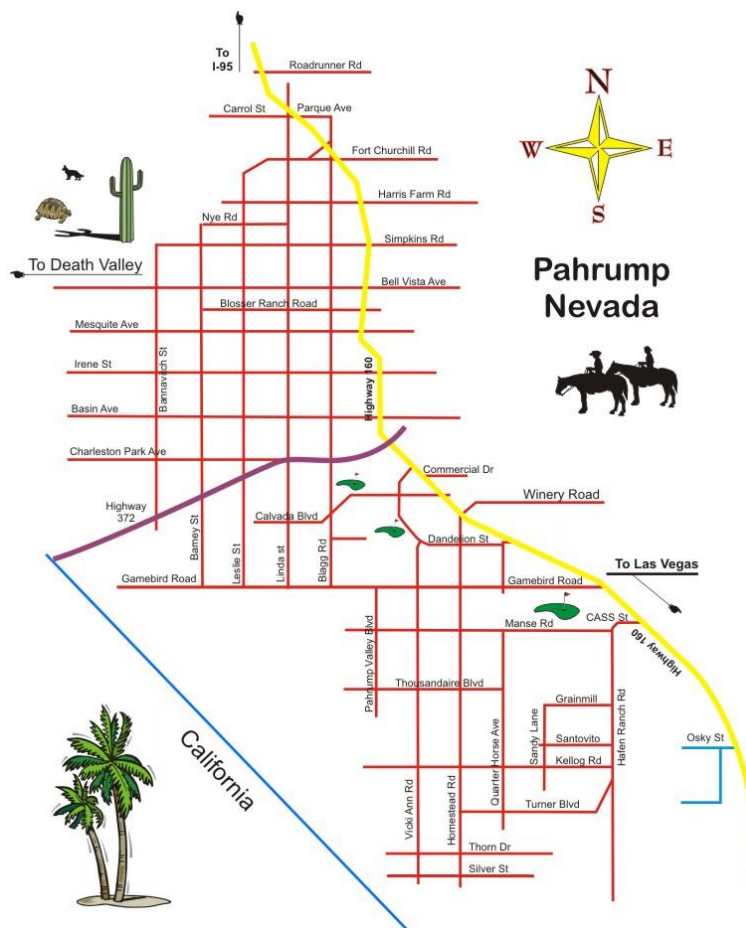
- ❖ It is an unincorporated City and Township served by a Town Manager, who currently is Timothy Sutton.
- ❖ It is populated at a density of 82.7 people per square mile.
- ❖ The demographics by ethnicity was listed on the Nevada Report Card for 2017-2018 for Nye County School District (NCS) as 61.65% White, 27.62% Latino, 3.7% Two or More Races, 2.94% African American, 1.4% Asian, 1.35% American Indian and 1.18% Pacific Islander.
- ❖ The demographics of special populations was listed on the Nevada Report Card for 2017-2018 for NCS is 14.65% Students with Disabilities (SWD), 7.53% English Learners (EL), 76.73% Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (SED) and 0.37% Migrant.
- ❖ Pahrump is populated by over 10,150 families, of whom over 24% have children living at home.
- ❖ Pahrump is served by two major super markets, one Walmart superstore, one Home Depot, one Goodwill, three Family Dollar stores, and a growing number of smaller vendors. It is entertained by two wineries, one race track, three larger casinos and hotels, and a growing number of smaller casinos and lodges. Pahrump is served by one hospital and one pediatric clinic. The sum of the Pahrump education sector serves a total of 3,953 students with a reported 7,236 population of unmarried individuals under the age of 18 years old.
- ❖ NCS has one high school, one middle school, four elementary schools, one alternate education school, and a significant number of children are home-schooled.
- ❖ In the community, there is one Community Christian school. The number of families choosing home schooling due to the limited choices offered within the city is extremely high and rapidly growing.
- ❖ The community's population as reported as 36,441 in 2010 from City-Data.com, making the township of Pahrump the largest settlement in Nye County. The education rate in Pahrump indicates that only 12.1% of the population has a Bachelor's degree and only 3.5% with a graduate degree. The median household income was approximately \$43,204 in 2016, with a per capita calculation of \$22,771, annually. Unemployment was 8.7% in 2015, job growth



rate is 0.84% and future job growth rate is 33.17%. A great measure of new construction, both commercial and residential, as well as, roads and facilities demonstrate even greater immediate growth in the township.

The proposed school will be the first and to date, only charter school in the township of Pahrump, as well as, in Nye County. It will also provide the only college preparatory curriculum in the township, as well as, the county. PVA proposes to provide a college preparatory public charter school that will serve students in grades K-8. PVA will prepare students for highly successful high school and college careers through highest quality instruction delivering most rigorous standards-aligned curriculum, designed to accommodate learners’ cognitive, academic, social, and personal growths on their way to becoming life-long independent learners. It further proposes to most diligently meet the intervention and enrichment needs of the students in order to appropriately execute its curriculum and instruction’s diligent acceleration.

Map of Pahrump Valley in Nye County, Nevada



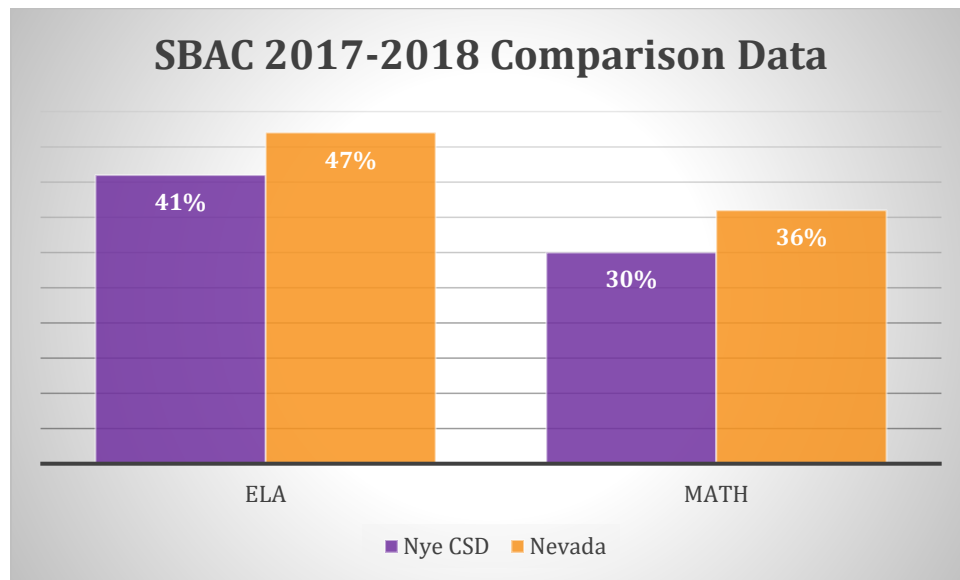
The community has indicated at Town Hall meetings that Pahrump needs a Charter School to address students’ academic underperformance, to incorporate high-quality research-based interventions for students who are academically low achieving, and to encourage the potential within each child. The community has further indicated that their children need to be empowered to go to college, and that their children need a strong academic base to be able to begin high school ready for a successful high school career leading to college and career. Currently in Pahrump, only 15.6% of the population has attended undergraduate or graduate school based on City-Data.Com.



The community of Pahrump is growing at record speed, and the families feel there needs to be stronger choices to address the educational needs of their children. Pahrump is one of the fastest growing communities in southern Nevada (Raghavan, 2014), and the largest community in Nye county which is itself the fastest growing western rural county in USA (Sokolova, 2017).

In addition, the Pahrump community is dissatisfied with the academic performance of NCSD. On the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) annual performance test for English Language Arts (ELA), NCSD scored 41% met or exceeded standard mastery in comparison to the State which was 47% of students tested scoring met or exceeded standard mastery. On the SBAC for Mathematics (Math), NCSD scored only 30% as having met or exceeded standard mastery in comparison with the State which was 36% of students scoring met or exceeded standard mastery. This data indicates that nearly 60% of students in NCSD are not proficient or at grade level in ELA, and 70% of students in NCSD are not proficient or at grade level in Math. The community needs PVA, a proposed public charter school that is designed to bring students up to grade level, to meet and exceed standard mastery through strategic and intensive interventions, and to be able to compete against peers across the state and nationwide.

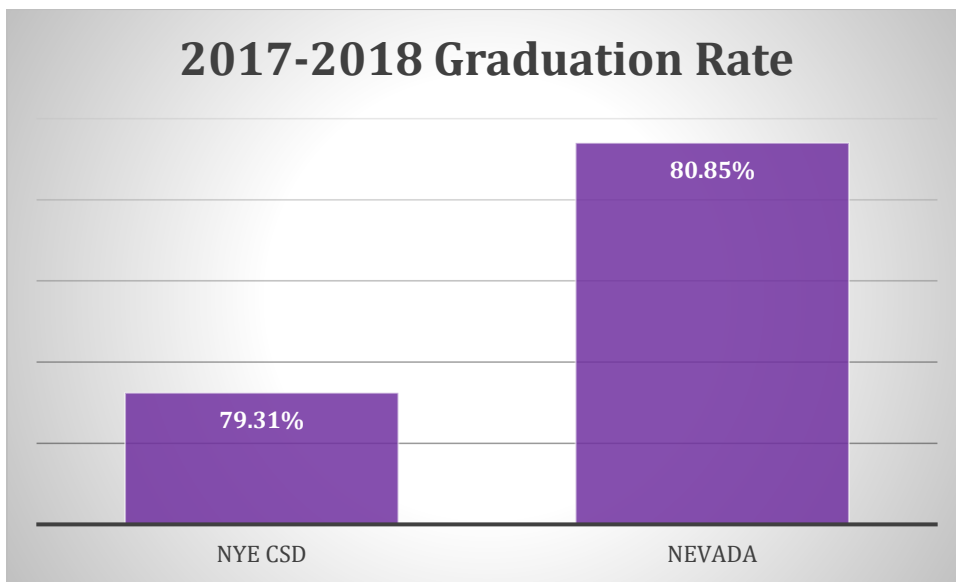
Chart 3.1: SBAC 2017-2018 Comparison Data for ELA and Math in NCSD and Nevada



NCSD’s Graduation Rate is 79.31% in comparison to the State which is only 80.85%. The concern that 20% of students in grade 12 do not even attain a high school diploma. PVA intends to improve the high school graduation rate in the community by nurturing life-long independent learners who can meet or exceed grade level standard mastery. By entering high school ready for college preparatory classes, PVA students will be prepared to graduate high school and go on to college and career.



Chart 3.2: 2017-2018 Graduation Rate of NCSD and Nevada



(2) Explain how your model, and the commitment to serve this population, including the grade levels you have chosen, would meet the district and community needs and align with the mission of the SPCSA.

The proposed educational model will meet the needs of the students in the Pahrump community. PVA anticipates that it will serve the significant subgroups of White students, Latino students, English Learners, Students with Disabilities and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged students. PVA will be representative of the community that serves educationally disadvantaged students. Most of the students of Pahrump are educationally disadvantaged because they currently only have the choice of underperforming public schools (NCSD’s SBAC scores in ELA and Math are lower than Nevada), costly private schools or homeschooling, lack enrichment activities, and will be the first to attend college. In addition, 14.65% are Students with Disabilities in NCSD and are often educationally disadvantaged. Most of the students of Pahrump are socioeconomically disadvantaged (76.73% of NCSD) and receive free or reduced priced meals through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). PVA will align a rigorous college preparatory elementary and middle school education using the Pearson Suite of curriculum that is rigorous and aligned to State Standards. The students to be served will reflect the demographics of the Pahrump township.

To ensure that all students are achieve grade level mastery and above in English Language Arts and Mathematics, PVA will incorporate a strong Response to Intervention (RtI) model that will screen all students to determine areas of opportunity in reading, writing and mathematics. PVA will utilize integrated English Language Development in English Language Arts and Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE) strategies in all core content areas to address the needs of English Learners and will also incorporate designated English Language Development daily for every English Learner. PVA believes in providing a supportive and inclusive program providing for all students with disabilities as per each Individualized Education Plan (IEP). PVA will also incorporate a strong enrichment model for all students to include art, music and French language which will supplement the core curriculum and provide rich experiences to all students in preparation for high school and college. This educational model has been strongly developed to ensure the academic development of the students of Pahrump.



Pahrump Valley Academy's interest in setting out to meet the above-mentioned educational needs of the above-described community of Pahrump is embedded in the alignment of the academy's mission to the mission of the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority. Where the mission of SPCSA is fundamentally grounded in the intent to improve the quality of public education in Nevada, the mission of Pahrump Valley Academy is grounded in the intent to improve the quality of public education in the local community of Pahrump within the greater community of Nevada. Where the mission of SPCSA calls for the sponsorship of charter schools that prepare all students for college and career success across Nevada, the mission of Pahrump Valley Academy calls for the preparation of all its local students for high school, college and career success within the greater community of Nevada. Finally, where the mission of SPCSA calls for modeling of best practices in charter school sponsorship across Nevada, the mission of Pahrump Valley Academy calls for sponsorship of best practices and relevant professional developments in pedagogy at the academy.

In order to accomplish the above stated, the academy proposes to open its doors to grades K-5, with two classes each of grades K-2 and one class each of grades 3-5. PVA will add one grade level per year culminating in 2023-2024 with grades K-8. In the second year of the charter term, as the students matriculate from grade 2 to grade 3, there will be two classes each of grades K-3 and one class each of grades 4-6. In the third year of the charter, as the students matriculate from grade 3 to grade 4, there will be two classes each of grades K-4 and one class each of grades 5-7. This will continue until the final year of the six year term when there will be two classes each of grades K-7 and one class of grade 8. The average class size will be 25 students to 1 teacher.

PVA has determined this enrollment projection model to serve as a complete elementary school (K-5) in year one to address the requests from the community. PVA determined that in grades K-2 to start with two classes each because that is the growth target for the school. PVA has considered and prepared that students in upper elementary school (grades 3-5) may be academically low achieving and may need significant strategic and intensive interventions to increase each student's mastery of grade level standards. It is for this reason, that PVA will start with one class each in grades 3-5 in year one, then grow up from the lowest grade. PVA realizes that success in high school and college is dependent on a student's abilities as independent learners with solid reading, writing and mathematics skills. PVA will ensure that students have strong academic skills through intervention and enrichment and that students will develop cognitive, social, and personal skills on their way to becoming life-long independent learners. PVA alumni will be prepared to advance to successful high school and eventually college careers.

According to statistics, rural America lags behind its urban counterpart in educational achievement (Marre, 2018). Pahrump Valley Academy seeks to reduce and eliminate the aforementioned achievement gap through the provision of a meticulously designed curriculum that adheres to the college and career ready common core and state standards together with a regiment of interventions and enrichments diligently directing every student's appropriate acceleration.

PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

(1) Describe the role to date of any parents, neighborhood, and/or community members involved in the development of the proposed school.

Pahrump is a small and closely-knit community. Many families in the community have moved here from larger metropolitan communities in order to afford their children the peace and safety of small-town America. Pahrump Valley Academy started as an idea, and was encouraged and nurtured by parents, families, and neighborhoods involved in the education of local youth. Many families have moved to Pahrump in search of affordable housing, allowing their children room to



play and explore. Many of these same parents are now disenchanted with their limited choices relevant to their children's educations. Among these parents, some have organized and began to unite and refine their voices in speaking for the rights of their children to their future security as warranted in the state of their current education. It is these parents who have led the campaign for PVA.

These voices have become feedback from the community, and Pahrump Valley Academy has been most diligent in listening to them, learning from them and incorporating their ideas, requests and demands to develop the Charter School. Currently, Pahrump Valley Academy is being proposed by a Committee to Form, all of whom are stakeholders in the community of Pahrump and in the greater community of academia in Nevada. The parents have attended Town Hall meetings, events in the community and engaged on the website and social media with the proposed school and other families. Pahrump parents and families are excited at the prospect of their students attending a public, college preparatory charter school. PVA is the response to the community's voices and the culmination of the community's input.

(2) Describe how you will engage parents, neighborhood, and community members from the time that the application is approved through the opening of the school. What specific strategies will be implemented to establish buy-in and to learn parent priorities and concerns during the transition process and post opening?

Pahrump Valley Academy will practice a multitude of approaches in order to engage parents, neighborhood, and community members from the time of the approval of this application through the opening of the school, and even a period following the application's submission but preceding its approval. PVA will take specific steps to include parents, neighborhoods and community members who are socioeconomically disadvantaged and/or have children with disabilities and/or speak a language other than English. Some of these steps will include attending neighborhood council meetings, attending neighborhood and town events, and hosting Town Hall meeting with translation in English and Spanish (other languages will be added as the need arises)

Pahrump Valley Academy has designed a website to bring the community current and up to date information relating to the creation of the school, possible enrollment, and links to PVA's social media accounts. The website offers links to a blog, a Facebook page, a Twitter account, LinkedIn, and emails. The website is designed to inform parents and families in the community first of the concept of Charter Schools in America and in Nevada, its history, its funding, its supervision, its values, and its proposed outcomes. The website also includes information about PVA's mission, vision, values and opportunities to receive further information. In addition, PVA will send quarterly surveys to interested parents and community members to receive feedback on proposed activities and procedures in the incubation year. The proposed Charter School has been active in the community and the families are relieved that the focus of the Charter School will be based on college preparation. The Charter School has been featured in the local newspaper and the number of parents completing an application of interest to attend the school in the Fall of 2020 grows daily.

PVA is also planning a series of informational events including but not limited to setting up and manning booths in local Fall Festival (Sep 2019), Grape Stomp (Oct 2019), Social Powwow (Nov 2019), during all of which laptops will be available to visitors for the purposes of leaving their emails and joining the ranks of the families interested in benefitting from a public charter school focusing on college preparatory education in Pahrump, as well as, learning more about the concept. Following all of the events, follow up meet and greets will be organized to answer questions and turn interests to potential enrollments. Other meet and greets are currently being negotiated with



public organizations open to all in the community. Additional informational events will include Town Hall meetings, in person conversations, and school tours.

Currently, over one hundred potential families have expressed interest in PVA via the academy's website. These leads are families with children who qualify to attend grades K-5 in Fall 2020 and who are desirous of being the first to benefit from a public charter education in the community. Many potential parents have expressed interest in becoming members of the Parent Teacher Organization, a Parent Steering Committee, or School Community Leadership Council.

(3) Describe your plan for engaging parents/families in the life of the school, in addition to any proposed governance roles related to students' parents/guardians. Explain the plan for building family-school partnerships that strengthen student support and academic outcomes and how the school will encourage parental involvement. Describe any expectations for parent volunteering.

Pahrump Valley Academy recognizes the role parents and guardians, herein referred to as parents, play in the education of their children. In order to develop a culture of parent engagement and facilitate the role of parents in the daily instruction of the students, PVA will encourage parents to volunteer a minimum of twenty hours per year, though helping in the classroom, participating in Charter School committees and events, and attending Board meetings. PVA shall not require a parent or legal guardian of a prospective or enrolled student to perform volunteer service hours, or make payment of fees or other monies, goods, or services in lieu of performing volunteer service, as a condition of his/her child's admission, continued enrollment, attendance, or participation in the Charter School's educational activities, or otherwise discriminate against a student in any manner because his/her parent cannot, has not, or will not provide volunteer service to PVA.

Through parent volunteer participation in the routine activities of the Charter School, parents will become more aware of the school's culture, communicate with school administration, faculty, and staff, distinguish opportunities to support their children, as well as, potentially discover niches for their own gifts to be nurtured while enriching the school. These niches can range from activities such as technology, chess, debate, government, books, various literacy genres such as science fiction or poetry, and more, and all of their respectively organized clubs.

PVA will engage parents, teachers and community leaders to meet on a periodic basis to advise on the operations of PVA, with the purpose of increasing student achievement, sense of belonging to a greater learning community, and pride in how students are demonstrating their learning. These opportunities will include, though not be limited to the following:

- Parent-Teacher Organization: engaged parents meet monthly with engaged teachers
- Parent Steering Committee: member parents meet monthly with designated board member and designated school leader
- School Community Leadership Council: two (2) Middle School Students (grades 6-8), two (2) member parents, two (2) member teachers, two (2) staff members, and two (2) community members meeting monthly with designated Board member and designated school leader. Each of these two (2) members will share with their constituents for discussion. The School Community Leadership Council will develop, plan and approve required policies and plans for the Charter School as a part of the greater Pahrump Valley community
- Monthly, bilingual parent workshops presented by the Executive Director, Principal, Teachers, Paraprofessionals or other Parents. Topics may include Parenting for Success, Importance of Attendance, How to Prepare for Parent and Teacher Conferences.



- Monthly events for families to gather together to celebrate their children and the education the students are receiving. Topics may include Donuts with Dads, Muffins with Moms, Literacy Nights, Open House, Math Nights, Game Nights, and Movie Nights.
- Report Card Nights on the first Friday following every report card distribution, where parents may briefly conference with the teachers to discuss report cards and make arrangements for follow up discussions as desired.
- Email newsletters: These will go out monthly informing parents, families, and community of the latest PVA news. Currently, an email is sent out on the 7th of every month to a large list of Pahrump residents and businesses who wish to stay apprised of the PVA proposed college preparatory charter school in the community of Pahrump. Currently, a separate email is sent out on the 27th of every month to a large list of parents and families who wish to stay apprised of the PVA proposed college preparatory charter school in the community of Pahrump.
- PVA website: PVA has made certain that its website is well-designed and user-friendly while providing a wealth of information about the proposed school. To view the PVA website, please follow this link <https://www.pahrumpvalleyacademy.org/>
- PVA Facebook: To view the PVA Facebook page, please follow this link <https://www.facebook.com/PahrumpValleyAcademyNV>

Additional school-wide policies will be adopted in order to promote a culture of parent engagement that will include minimum required communication for teachers, and the means to facilitate teacher-parent communication en masse, as well as, individual levels through the Charter School's website. Each teacher will have their own webpage with monthly schedules of the class events, deadlines, weekly learning standards, focus vocabulary, and relevant weekly assignments required to be posted on the Friday prior to the relevant week. The teachers and parents' private communications will be facilitated through info@PahrumpValleyAcademy.org and subsequent arrangements will be made as deemed needed by the individuals. School planners, currently under design, will be differentiated and distributed by the grade level. Monthly awards assemblies will be held to honor Excellence in Academics, Excellence in Citizenship, Excellence in Attendance and Student of the Month. Moreover, students will have the opportunity to participate in the National Junior Honor Society which will help the parents recognize the value of academics in preparation for National Honor Society in High School and future College opportunities.

Although PVA already has built a rather large and enthusiastic following in the community of Pahrump, and among those community members who hope to send their children to the proposed school, PVA realizes that constant and continuous parent engagement requires constant and continuous action from the school. In particular in a growing community such as the community of Pahrump, it is important to stay in front of the growing town. PVA commits to nurturing and growing its relationship with the town and with its parents through best communication practices at all times.

(4) Discuss the community resources that will be available to students and parents. Describe any strategic partnerships the school will have with community organizations, businesses, or other educational institutions that are part of the school's core mission, vision, and program other than dual-credit partners discussed in subsequent sections. Specify the nature, purposes, terms, and scope of services of any such partnerships, including any fee-based or in-kind commitments from community organizations or individuals that will enrich student-learning opportunities. Include, as Attachment 1, existing evidence of support from community partners such as letters of intent/commitment, memoranda of understanding, and/or contracts.



PVA recognizes the significance of a community's engagement in the successful achievement and growth of a school, if the school is to successfully achieve all its goals and grow in service to the given community, as PVA is committed to do in Pahrump. PVA has been actively networking to create and nurture strategic partnerships in the Pahrump Valley community in order to best serve future students and their families. PVA has also been reaching out to potential partners, creating and nurturing strategic partnerships within the education community in order to situate itself both as a member of Pahrump community, as well as, that of the greater community of education. PVA is supported by numerous members of the Pahrump local community and that of the greater community of education. Some examples are as follows:

- **The Kiwanis Club of Pahrump** has agreed to provide before and after school care to ensure students of PVA will benefit from supervised care before and after school hours, through a Kiwanis Club Internationally/Nationally recognized before school and after school care program at no cost to PVA, Letter of Support
- **The Lion's Club of Pahrump** is interested in conducting vision exam for students and donating eyeglasses
- **The Rotary Club of Pahrump** supports the Charter School and contemplating ways they can participate which is anticipated to include sponsoring essay contests with attached rewards of scholarships, Letter of Support
- **4H-Club of Pahrump** will be seeking to collaborate with PVA, in order to maximize the learning experience for youth served by both institutions of learning
- **VFW in Pahrump** will be sponsoring essay contests with attached rewards of scholarships
- **Pahrump Chamber of Commerce** will be collaborating with PVA to bring about the most successful learning experience for its students on Career Fairs and ensuring third service providers of highest quality and integrity are always available to the school
- **Pahrump Wellness Center** will be sponsoring educational tuition-free seminars on health and wellness for PVA families
- **Pahrump Valley Museum** will be offering free tours of the museum to PVA students, faculty, staff, and families on special occasions, Letter of Support
- **Pahrump Miss Senior Golden Years** will be adopting the causes of college preparatory education and of charter education as two of the platforms, either of which, a Miss Senior Golden Years contestant may adopt and on either of which, a Miss Senior Golden Years contestant may run her campaign for the title, Letter of Support
- **Charter School Association of Nevada, CSAN**, Letter of Support

PVA is also seeking to establish strategic partnerships with the following entities:

- National Association for College Admission Counseling, NACAC
- Western Association for College Admission Counseling, WACAC
- University of Nevada at Las Vegas, Honors College
- Nevada State College, Department of Education
- College of Southern Nevada, Department of Education
- Great Basin College, Department of Education
- Grand Canyon University, Department of Education
- National University, Department of Education
- Smith Center for the Performing Arts
- Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo for Brain Health-Las Vegas
- Counselors, optometrists, and dentists to work through a mutually beneficial referral system at a discounted rate for the families.



Still additional strategic partnerships are currently under negotiation will ensure the future success of PVA and the wrap around services needed by the community.

Please see Attachment 1.

(5) Describe the group's ties to and/or knowledge of the target community. What initiatives and/or strategies will you implement to learn from and engage the neighborhood, community, and broader city?

The proposed Executive Director, Sable Marandi, is a resident of Pahrump. She is a home owner, a member of several academic, social, and philanthropic clubs and a local parish in the community. Although relatively new to Pahrump, Ms. Marandi is already an established name in the community of Pahrump with a reputation for her commitment to education and philanthropy, with a track record of excellence, mastery, even authority, as relevant to her achievements in both fields. She has a long history of volunteer service in small and large American communities, and a professional background in strategic marketing of the financial sector of corporate America through not for profits and small communities. Since establishing herself in Pahrump, Ms. Marandi has come to be known for her public lectures on Cognition and Instruction, what it means to be a life-long independent learner, and on education and what it means to be college ready at every given grade-level from kindergarten to twelfth grade. She has also earned a name locally as one of the town's favorite construction workers who works with other Rotarians in Pahrump, many weekends, building ramps for those in the community who need ramp access in their homes, but cannot afford to pay for the required labor and materials. A few weeks ago, she even represented the community of Pahrump in a Rotary sponsored house building project in Mexico. In the following years, she will continue to serve Pahrump Valley with the passion, zeal, and commitment to mastery and excellence that are her trademarks.

The proposed Principal, Eddie Williams, is a resident of Pahrump. He is a home owner, retired veteran, a member of the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, several academic, social, and philanthropic clubs and a local parish in the community. He proudly served in the US Army and looks forward to inspiring young people to become more capable servants of their communities through empowerment accessible through a college education.

The proposed office manager, Ms. Kay Lapointe, is another resident of Pahrump and an active member of the community. She serves on one of Nye County's committees as the Committee's Vice Chairperson and Web-Master. Ms. Lapointe, whose professional experience includes serving as an after school administrator in Southern California, will be leaving a staff position at the Nye County, in order to join the PVA team professionally.

The PVA Board of Directors boasts of a membership, whose individual members either through their residential or professional choices are strongly tied to either the community of Pahrump or the greater community of education. Dr. Justin Curnutt is a partner, pharmacist and director of Pahrump Wellness Center and a resident of the community, as well as, a hopeful and proud PVA dad. He is bilingual in English and Spanish, a member of several academic, social, and philanthropic associations, as well as, a local parish, and looks forward to supporting the diversity in the community. Dr. Curnutt is one of the best known and loved younger members of the Pahrump community and a local authority on health and wellness. Dr. Tom Waters is the host of Nye County TV and a local resident. He is a member of the Community Outreach Commission, the Great Basin College Steering Committee, the Nevada Center of Public Policy Dialogue, the Pahrump Valley Rotary Club, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) and the American Legion. Dr. Waters is locally known as



a highly respected father figure in Pahrump. Dr. Maria Jerinic is an Associate Professor in Residence at UNLV Honor's College and is invested in the academic communities throughout the Southern Nevada region. She wants to play a role in encouraging high school graduates in rural communities to consider attending UNLV's Honor College in the future. Jonathan Kevin (J. K.) Nelson developed his private practice of law in Las Vegas and Pahrump. He recognizes that there is a substantial need for a high-quality law firm with reasonable prices and a dedication to customer service in rural America. He is licensed in Nevada, Michigan and the Federal Courts for the District of Nevada. He serves as the Official Legal Counsel of the Pahrump Valley Chamber of Commerce, was named Top 40 Under 40 by the National Trial Lawyers, Legal Elite in 2017 and *myVegas'* Top 100 Lawyers in 2018. J. K. Nelson is known locally in Pahrump as THE PAHRUMP LAWYER. Ken Johnson is also a Pahrump resident who is very active in the community having formerly served as a former Valley Electric Alliance and recently supporting a community group supporting fair electricity prices for Pahrump residents. As a former educator with collegial experience, he looks forward to supporting PVA in his own community. Michael Hines is yet another Pahrump resident who is very well known and loved, as well as, respected for his opinions on financial and banking matters. Michael who is the manager of the Pahrump branch of Nevada State bank was in the course of his service to the bank promoted to the office of Vice President of Nevada State bank. He is known locally for his financial knowledge and expertise, and for annual blood drives and teddy bear drives, which he sponsors at the bank, engaging the entire town.

The strategies implemented in learning from and engaging the community begin with having the PVA Leadership team, faculty, staff and Board of Directors selected from among individuals invested in the betterment of Pahrump Community and of the greater community of education. The ties and connections of PVA to Pahrump are imbedded directly in the PVA team members' already established ties and connections to Pahrump's community. The said ties and connections are then enhanced by the PVA team members' belief and conviction in the significance of education in the betterment of the human condition.

In order to fully engage the parents and families, businesses and not for profits, and all other contributing sectors and entities of Pahrump community, PVA has assumed, and continues to assume an active and joyous presence in community events like the Pahrump Chili Cook Off, Pahrump Home and Biz Expo, Pahrump Fall festival, Pahrump Balloon Festival, Pahrump Grape Stomp, Pahrump Wellness Fair, Pahrump Education Fair, and more. Of course, the proposed charter school will continue to utilize technology platforms like Facebook, the Charter School Website, and LinkedIn, not to mention cable television, radio announcements and newspaper articles. But, given Pahrump is a small community, the presence of educational leaders in local events allows the weaving of the educational organization they represent, PVA, to weave naturally into the culture of the town.

(6) Identify any organizations, agencies, or consultants that are partners in planning and establishing the school, along with a brief description of their current and planned role and any resources they have contributed or plan to contribute to the school's development. If the group is new to Nevada, describe how your previous work has prepared you to establish relationships and supports in this new community.

Pahrump Valley Academy recognizes the importance of the collaborations and partnerships that help strengthen and grow any entity. It recognizes the importance of quality of the associated products and the urgency of the reliability of the relevant services. Pahrump Valley Academy has chosen to seek out those vendors with proven track records of delivering the best products and services as required to carry out the vision and mission of the academy. Some examples include:



- **Campus Suite** is a nationally established social media design and management company that designs websites for schools and school districts across the country.
 - PVA has contracted Campus Suite to design their website.
 - As a part of their contract, Campus Suite has comprehensively trained the PVA leadership and web-master on the utilization of their website, and will continue to train the PVA leadership on the role of social media in marketing schools, and relevant best practices including but not limited to practices as they pertain to security, at no additional expense to the proposed school.
- **Back Office Support Provider** with a proven track record to charter schools in Nevada.
 - PVA has contracted with a back office service provider to provide payroll and bookkeeping services.
- **Copies**
 - The Les Olson Company is a print and technology provider to various businesses and not for profits with a proven track record in Nevada that includes service to all Academics schools.
- **Infinite Campus** is the Nevada recognized student management system.
 - Ms. Marandi and Mr. Williams have been trained on the use of Infinite Campus, as will other team members who will be using it.
- **NWEA MAP** is a research-based, not-for-profit organization that supports schools on assessments that measure growth and provide data to drive instruction.
- **Pearson Curriculum** is known for its higher quality curriculum offerings and for its teacher friendly usage. Ms. Marandi and Mr. Williams have already been trained on the Pearson Products and teachers will be trained in the future.
- **Renaissance Learning** is an organization with a solid history of helping schools accelerate achievement in Reading through Accelerated Reader and Mathematics through Accelerated Math. In addition, Renaissance provides relevant professional development opportunities to train teachers to use a variety of instructional strategies to support high achieving and low achieving students, each according to their own needs.
 - Ms. Marandi and Mr. Williams have already been trained on the use of all Renaissance products, as will other team members who will be using it
- **Charter Schools Association of Nevada, CSAN**
 - As a CSAN member, PVA is also participating in events provided by the Charter Schools Association of Nevada, CSAN, as means to learn of all the best practices incorporated by other successful charter schools and for purposes of developing greater understanding of operations and high expectations for Charter Schools in Nevada.
 - Attending National Charter School Conference, 2019
 - Attending all Nevada Charter Schools Association of Nevada Conferences, including 2019

Pahrump Valley Academy is currently interviewing third party service providers, both local and nationally recognized, to secure before and after school, Saturday school service providers, and food services. Also, the academy is speaking with several accredited colleges and universities to reach an agreement relevant to paid internships extended to the college's students in the positions of tutors and paraprofessionals, as well as, office clerk positions at the academy.