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To: Interim Finance Committee
Through: Tiffany Greenameyer, Executive Branch Budget Officer II, Governor's Finance Office
From: Jason Guinasso, Chair, State Public Charter School Authority
Brian Scroggins, Acting Executive Director, State Public Charter School Authority
Subject: 2017 Legislative Session Letter of Intent – Progress of New Authorizer Unit
Date: February 1, 2019

In response to the Letter of Intent resulting from testimony during the 2017 Legislative Session, the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) reports the following for the period of July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018:

1. Eliminating the backlog in reviewing charter applications –

As previously reported, the SPCSA has eliminated the backlog of reviewing charter applications.

2. Conducting required site visits –

Staff on the School Support team have completed supportive site visits for all SPCSA-sponsored charter schools.

The site evaluation protocol and schedule for site evaluations was presented to the State Public Charter School Authority at the November 30, 2018 Board meeting. Since that time, SPCSA staff has participated in approximately 15 hours of training and has conducted four site evaluations. SPCSA staff remains on schedule to conduct site evaluations for over half of the SPCSA portfolio by the end of April 2019.

3. Revising the academic and organizational framework –

SPCSA staff continues to work diligently to revise the academic and organizational components of the SPCSA performance framework. SPCSA staff presented an initial update regarding the organizational framework at the December 14, 2018 Authority Board meeting and is working to incorporate a compliance checklist. The academic performance framework currently relies on dated measures, state testing and duplicative data that is already captured in the current Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF), which is issued annually by the Nevada Department of Education.

More updates for each component will be provided at upcoming Authority Board meetings. SPCSA staff remains on schedule to bring recommendations to the Authority regarding revised organizational and academic components of the SPCSA performance framework before the end of the fiscal year. This would allow the Authority to have a fully-functioning framework that includes clear expectations for all schools heading into the 2019 – 2020 school year.

The Authority Board did approve a new, modified financial component of the performance framework at the January 18, 2019 Authority Board meeting.

4. Eliminating the backlog in written correspondence to applicants recommended for denial –

As previously reported, the SPCSA has eliminated the backlog of reviewing charter applications.

5. Completing reviews to ensure consistent enforcement of applicable laws, regulations and policies –

The Staff Attorney and Education Programs Director have continued work to implement consistent, equitable review processes of applicable laws, regulations and policies. Progress includes the work described above in item #3, refined charter contracts for renewed schools, and the consistent oversight and enforcement of regulations through document reviews.

cc: Jaimarie Ortega, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analyst Division