

**From:** [Teresa Benitez](#)  
**To:** [SPCSA Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item #4  
**Date:** Thursday, August 13, 2020 7:43:12 PM

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Dear SPCSA Board Members,

First, I thank you for your service to our state's charter schools.

I am a board member of Mater Academy in Northern Nevada. Our most recent board meeting was the evening of Wednesday, August 12, 2020.

Our board met and considered multiple opening plans, taking into consideration parent and teacher desires and ensuring all of our plans meet or exceed the standards set in the Department of Education's Path Forward Plan. Our Principal Gia and Mater Teachers have been conducting dry runs of student drop off/ pickups, rearranging classrooms, lunch room spacing, contracting additional custodial services....every aspect of the school day has been accounted for in terms of safety.

The best laid plans can not overcome a precarious pandemic. However, I believe individual charter school boards should be able to open didactically if they adhere to the guidelines set by the Department of Education and have their plans reviewed by their District Health Dept. At Mater, our students are our priority. It is critical for our student population to have a safe place to come to school, to learn, receive meals as well as the services and connection they need.

Thank you,  
Teresa Benitez-Thompson  
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