

# STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY



## **RFA: Reduce in Enrollment in Existing Grade Levels**

The SPCSA considers reductions to an approved enrollment cap to be a material change of the charter contract and require approval by the State Public Charter School Authority Board.

### **Executive Summary**

Provide a brief overview of your school, including:

1. Identification of the school, its location(s), enrollment(s)(most recent ADE quarter), brief history, brief description of its board members and key leadership team members

Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas (“CASLV”) is a STEM-focused, college-prep public charter school that allows students in grades K–12 to achieve their full potential. The mission of CASLV is to provide a safe, rigorous college preparatory environment that promotes social responsibility and a culturally diverse community dedicated to becoming lifelong learners bound for success. CASLV currently serves more than 5300 students across the valley, with more than 5000 students on its waitlist.

CASLV’s stellar reputation speaks for itself and has only grown in magnitude since its inception. Having started as a replication model of Coral Academy of Science-Reno (CAS), a renowned school in Northern Nevada, CASLV has raised the bar even higher by adding more components to its already rigorous education programs. CASLV is accredited by the leading accreditation institution, Cognia.

CASLV’s faculty and staff are dedicated to challenging all students academically, instilling college awareness at all grade levels, and motivating them towards STEM careers by providing the necessary tools to help develop 21st-century and leadership skills.

Seven campuses currently make up CASLV:

**Tamarus** (K-4), founded in 2007 – 8185 Tamarus St., Las Vegas, NV 89183

**Windmill** (5-7), founded in 2010 – 2150 Windmill Pkwy Henderson, NV 89074

**Sandy Ridge** (8-12), founded in 2010 – 1051 Sandy Ridge Henderson, NV 89052

**Centennial Hills** (K-8), founded in 2016 – 7951 Deer Springs, Las Vegas, NV 89131

**Nellis AFB** (Pre-K-8), founded in 2016 – 107 Stafford Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89131

**Eastgate** (K-5), founded in 2018 – 7777 Eastgate Rd. Henderson, NV 89011

**Cadence** (K-9), founded in 2022 – 10 Cadence Crest Ave., Henderson, NV 89011

Some of the highlights of our team’s qualifications to provide services for this project are as follows:

- CASLV has received the top Nevada Department of Education designations “High Achieving,” “5-Star School,” “Quality School,” “Governor-designated STEM School,” and “Reward School” for each school year it has been operational.
- CASLV is the #1 high school in Nevada and #72 in the nation, according to the Washington Post’s “America’s Most Challenging High Schools” list of 2014.
- CASLV has been consistently nationally ranked as a top charter school, elementary school, middle school, and high school by U.S. News & World Report annually.

CASLV is headed by Mr. Ercan Aydogdu, Executive Director of CASLV, who was responsible for CASLV achieving the highest rating for the school in the State of Nevada. He is committed to making all resources available for the success of all seven campuses, and he will make it his priority to make CASLV one of the top charter networks in the State of Nevada.

The CASLV Executive Team consists of:

- Ercan Aydogdu, Executive Director
- Nick Sarasahin, Chief Financial Officer
- Mustafa Gunozu, Chief Academic Officer
- Bridget Johnson-Peevy, Chief People Officer
- Selimhan Tanyeri, Chief Operating Officer

Board members consist of:

- Ann Diggins, President
- Brin Gibson, Esq., Vice President
- Beth Kazelskis, Secretary
- Chan Lengsavath, CPA, Treasurer
- Dr. Carryn Bellomo Warren, Member
- Feyzi Tandogan, Member
- Arlene Hayman, Member

## 2. Statement and overview of the mission and vision

CASLV’s mission is to provide a safe, rigorous college preparatory environment that promotes social responsibility and a culturally diverse community dedicated to becoming lifelong learners bound for success. At CASLV, we recognize that educational success will be realized only when the essential underlying triad of student, teacher, parent/guardian is in harmony.

We, as educators, will create a partnership among this triad that will provide our youth with the support necessary to reach their highest potential—intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically. The educational vision and innovation crucial to accomplishing this mission are organized under two main headings: specific elements and whole-school design. The specific design elements fall into five categories:

1. rigorous curricula, instruction, and assessment;

2. leadership, governance, and staffing;
3. parent and community involvement;
4. technology; and
5. financing.

Whole school design involves a comprehensive and continuing effort to realize these five essential elements in an integrated manner.

It is our belief that each child has an inherent curiosity and love of learning and that each child has a unique intelligence, level of capability, and learning style. With this in mind, we will motivate our students and expect them to strive toward their highest levels of capability while addressing their individual learning styles, thus fostering a life-long love of learning within them.

Continuous improvement, persistent innovation, a positive response to change, and a commitment to continuous growth will be expected of all the people and programs at CASLV. The public's resources and those of the Board of Directors must be effectively committed to meeting these expectations. Then, and only then, will our tested educational vision, infused with the energy of local innovation, harmonize the triad of student-teacher-parent/guardian support to accomplish our mission, that of to provide each student with the motivation and resources to reach his or her highest potential and realize his or her greatest aspirations.

It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors, in alliance with the community, to guide the school in upholding its mission. To this end, the Board of Directors will provide the school with the support that will ensure optimal conditions for each student's achievement and continuing growth and development.

3. A summary explanation of the reasons that the charter school is seeking to make this specific requested change.

CASLV requests to reduce its enrollment cap for the Cadence Campus from 1850 students to 1600 students for the 2023–2024 school year.

CASLV is also requesting that the Cadence Campus' enrollment cap be reduced from 1850 students to 1700 students for the 2024–2025 and 2025–2026 school years.

These requests are reflected in the Operations and Enrollment section's enrollment table in #3.

4. Specifically identify the key reasons associated with this reduction in your enrollment cap.
  - **Constant Construction:** There is always construction happening in the Cadence neighborhood, and it is currently focused on nearby parcels close to the campus.
  - **Difficult to Navigate:** Many families took into consideration how undeveloped the nearby roads were, which made accessing the school difficult. There is no direct access to the campus from Pabco Road (the closest major road); there is only an exit from the campus. The City of Henderson set this up, and CASLV has no control over it..
  - **Cadence Community Growth:** Not as many families have moved into the Cadence neighborhood as quickly as anticipated. Also, the local home builders have not built as quickly as anticipated.
  - **Overvalued Pittman Neighborhood Demographics:** The Pittman neighborhood is adjacent to the Cadence Campus on the other side of Pabco Road. It was initially thought

that there were more young families in the community. However, many homes belonged to empty nesters or parents of adult-age children.

**Operations and Enrollment**

1. Describe the steps the school is taking to respond to the enrollment challenges. Examples may be increased marketing, hiring of personnel dedicated to outreach, or other measures the school is implementing to address under enrollment.

- **Referral Program** – CASLV will create a referral program for current families to help recruit new families. This will help drive word-of-mouth and help build community.
- **Informational Sessions** – CASLV will host frequent informational meetings at public venues, churches, and community centers in the target neighborhoods, scheduled at a variety of evening and weekend hours to enable working parents/guardians to easily participate.
- **Brand Awareness via Media and Advertising** – Use of traditional marketing vehicles like social media, newspaper, billboard, and radio advertising. Community-based newsletters/websites, language-specific newspapers, local television news, and other media will be leveraged for marketing for the school.
- **Direct Mail** – With the growing community of Cadence, CASLV could utilize direct mail households within a two-mile radius of the school site that will inform families about the school’s learning model, that the school continues to accept applications for open enrollment, how to apply, and the process for enrollment.
- **Areas of Public Access** – CASLV will post flyers in local public facilities such as the post office, community centers, libraries and other locations of public access; will hold tables at local malls, community events, and religious organizations; and will post a banner at the school facility for community members to easily see as they pass by.
- **Addition of 10<sup>th</sup> Grade** – The Cadence Campus will be expanding to 10<sup>th</sup> grade starting next school. From each year thereafter, the Cadence Campus will grow by a grade to become K-12. The Cadence Campus high school will replicate the program at CASLV’s Sandy Ridge Campus, which is a 5-star school with a strong waitlist.

2. If the reduction in enrollment will impact staffing, please complete the staffing chart on the budget workbook. If the reduction in the cap will not impact staffing, please write no impact below.

Staffing was not impacted by the enrollment reduction.

3. Please complete the enrollment charter with the proposed enrollment changes for the remainder of the charter term. Please feel free to add rows for grades and change columns to fit the charter term.

As mentioned previously, along with reducing the enrollment cap to 1600 students for SY 2023-24, CASLV would like to change the planned enrollment for SY 2024-25 and SY 2025-26 to 1700 students for each year. Please see below.

Grade Level	Number of Students				
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
K	180	180	180	190	190
1	180	180	170	170	170
2	180	180	170	170	170

3	170	180	170	170	170
4	170	170	170	170	170
5	170	170	150	170	170
6	160	160	150	150	150
7	160	160	150	150	150
8	150	160	150	150	150
9	80	80	80	90	90
10	-	80	80	90	90
11	-	-	80	90	90
12	-	-	-	90	90
Total	1600	1700	1700	1850	1850

## Financial

1. Please complete the amendment budget workbook and include as part of your amendment application submission or provide an updated budget in a workbook of your choosing.

The completed amendment budget workbook is attached as Amendment D.

2. Provide a budget narrative including a detailed description of assumptions and revenue estimates, including but not limited to the basis for revenue projections, staffing levels, and costs. The narrative should specifically address the degree to which the school budget will rely on variable income (e.g., grants, donations, fundraising, etc.). There is no page limit for the budget narrative. Include the following: A detailed discussion of Per-Pupil Revenue: Use the figures provided in developing your budget assumptions.

The budget created for CASLV-Cadence Campus includes a per-pupil revenue assumption of \$8,966 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year operation. CASLV-Cadence Campus is a Title I school and provides NSLP. Title I AND NSLP revenues were added to the current and five-year financial budget. CASLV-Cadence has presented a fiscally conservative budget for the five-year operation. S&P Global Ratings assigned its” BBB-“rating to Public Finance Authority, Wis’ series 2021 education revenue bonds issued for CASLV. At the same time, S&P Global Ratings affirmed its “BBB-“rating on the authority’s existing bonds issued for CASLV. The outlook of all ratings is stable. S&P assessed CASLV’s enterprise profile as strong, characterized by its solid demand with a robust waitlist, growing enrollment, excellent academics, and a stable management team. According to the S&P report, CASLV’s financial performance can be characterized by a consistently positive operating margin and a sufficient Pro-forma, lease-adjusted MADS coverage. The school also budgets each year conservatively, often stressing expenses and understanding revenue to generate positive operations at fiscal year-end.

3. Given current the current enrollment of your school, discuss in detail the school’s plans to address the loss of revenues. Please reference the submitted budget as may be appropriate.

CASLV already had a conservative budget to planned to start the school year. With the reduction in enrollment, it was fairly easy to amend the budget to accommodate the loss in revenue. CASLV had projected this enrollment downfall early in the school year, and it operated carefully to reflect an even more conservative budget to be safe.

**In addition to the information above, please submit**

1. The agenda and approved/draft minutes of the meeting in which the governing board of the charter school approved the Request for Amendment.

The agenda and the minutes of the 1/17/24 CASLV Board meeting are attached as:

Attachment A – 1.17.24 Board Meeting Agenda

Attachment B – 1.17.24 Board Meeting Minutes

2. A board approved and board chair signed Good Cause Exemption letter along with the amendment application.

The board approved (from the 1/17/24 CASLV Board meeting) Good Cause Exemption letter is signed and attached as Attachment C.



## CORAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE LAS VEGAS

To: Nevada State Public Charter School Authority

From: Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas

Date: January 17, 2024

Re: Good Cause Exemption for Cadence Campus

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Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas (CASLV) respectfully requests a good cause exemption from the current amendment schedule to amend their charter contract with the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) in order to reduce its Cadence Campus' enrollment cap to 1600 students from its prior approved enrollment of 1850 students for the 2023-2024 school year.

The CASLV Governing Board has approved both the proposed amendment as well as this request to seek a good cause exemption from the current amendment schedule prior to this submission. This proposed change will permit the school to continue focusing on the educational excellence and development of the students currently registered in grades K-9. This also permits additional marketing efforts to promote CASLV's unique educational program to prospective students both in the targeted communities and targeted grade levels.

We appreciate the support of SPCSA staff and are asking that a good cause exemption be granted, and that the request for amendment be approved.

Sincerely,

Ann Diggins  
Board President



## Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas

### Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas Board Meeting

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#### **Date and Time**

Wednesday January 17, 2024 at 4:30 PM PST

#### **Location**

8985 S. Eastern Ave #375  
Las Vegas, NV 89123

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**Posting of Agenda:** This agenda has been posted at the following locations:

Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas (“CASLV”) Central Office, CASLV website at [www.caslv.org](http://www.caslv.org), and Nevada Public Notice website at <http://notice.nv.gov>.

**Format / Procedures / Rules:** This is a notice of a public meeting held pursuant to NRS Chapter 241. Members of the public are invited to be present.

Certain items may be removed from open/public consideration if permitted or required by Nevada law. The Board may also (i) take agenda items out of order; (ii) combine two or more items for consideration; (iii) separate one item into multiple items; (iv) table an agenda item to a future meeting; and/or (v) remove an agenda item.

Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate persons with physical disabilities desiring to attend the meeting. Please contact Ms. Shepard at [ashepard@coralacademylv.org](mailto:ashepard@coralacademylv.org) at least 48 hours before the time of the meeting, if possible, so that reasonable arrangements may conveniently be made.

Please also contact Ms. Shepard if you would like a copy of the agenda and any public reference materials relating to agenda items. Those materials will also be available at the meeting location. Those materials would provide you with greater context and clarity as to the matters under discussion.

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By law, no one may willfully disrupt the meeting to the extent that its orderly conduct becomes impractical.

All items are action or possible action items if denoted as such.

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## Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<b>I. Opening Items</b>			<b>4:30 PM</b>
<b>A. Call the Meeting to Order</b>		Ann Diggins	5 m
Call to order			
Roll Call			
Pledge of Allegiance			
<b>B. Public Comment</b>			10 m
<p>Comments from the public are welcome at this time. You may present your comment during the meeting or beforehand, by contacting Ms. Shepard and relaying the comment to her. No person may sign up for another person, nor yield his/her time to another person. The Board may not deliberate on, or take any action regarding, a matter raised during the public comments sessions, unless the matter itself has already been specifically included on the agenda as an "Action" Item (and then, only at the time such Item is heard). The Board President will limit public comment to 3 to 5 minutes per person to ensure that all participants may speak and the Agenda is not unduly delayed, subject to any brief extension granted by the Board President in his/her sole discretion. No restrictions apply based on the speaker's viewpoints. If the Board hears public comments which exceed, in total, 20 minutes, the Board may postpone the remainder of the public comments to the same agenda item at the end of the meeting. The Board President may, in her discretion, forego Items I (B) and second-to-last item and instead solicit Public Comments during each individual action item below, as permitted by NRS 241.020(3)(d)(3); or alternatively keep Items I (B) and VII but still permit Public Comments during certain (but not necessarily all) individual action items below. The information above applies to all Public Comment periods.</p>			
<b>II. Consent Agenda</b>			<b>4:45 PM</b>
<p>Information concerning the following consent agenda items has been provided to Board members for study prior to the meeting. The Executive Director recommends the passage of all Consent Agenda items in one motion. The Board may vote upon these items in one motion, unless a Board member requests that an item be taken separately.</p>			

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<b>A.</b> Approval of the October 30, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)	Vote	Beth Kazelskis	5 m
<b>B.</b> Report of Purchases and Expenses Between \$10,000 and \$25,000 (Information)	FYI	Ercan Aydogdu	5 m
<b>C.</b> Tamarus Campus Desktop Purchase (For Possible Action)	Vote	Nick S.	5 m
<b>D.</b> Approval of the Work-Based Learning Program Application (For Possible Action)	Vote	Mr. Gunozu / Mr. Adem	5 m
<b>III. Discussion &amp; Possible Action Items- Contracts, Purchases, and Procurements</b>			<b>5:05 PM</b>
<b>A.</b> Amendment to the Cadence Campus Northern Border Wall Cost Participation (For Possible Action)	Vote	Selim Tanyeri	5 m
<b>B.</b> Henderson Chamber of Commerce Membership and Sponsorship (For Possible Action)	Vote	Ercan Aydogdu	5 m
<b>C.</b> Charter Amendment Request-Reduction of the Cadence Campus Enrollment Cap (For Possible Action)	Vote	Selim Tanyeri	
<b>D.</b> Charter Amendment Request-Increase of the Nellis Campus Enrollment Cap (For Possible Action)	Vote	Selim Tanyeri	5 m
<b>E.</b> CSAN Membership and Conference Fees (For Possible Action)	Vote	Ercan Aydogdu	5 m
<b>F.</b> Approval of PERS Critical Labor Shortage in Compliance with NRS 286.523 under PERS policy 10.34 for School Psychologist and SPED Manager/Director/Administrator (For Possible Action)	Vote	Bridget Johnson-Peevy	5 m
<b>G.</b> Approval of Architect Fees for Drawings for Multiple Campuses' Front Office Improvements (For Possible Action)	Vote	Selim Tanyeri	5 m
<b>H.</b> Addition of a Classroom at the Cadence Campus (For Possible Action)	Vote	Selim Tanyeri	5 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<b>I.</b> United Testing Services Agreement Amendment (For Possible Action)	Vote	Mustafa Gunozu	5 m
<b>J.</b> Nevada Painting Company Additional Payment (For Possible Action)	Vote	Selim Tanyeri	5 m
<b>K.</b> Update on a Facility Opportunity for a Potential Future Expansion (For Possible Action)	Vote	Ercan Aydogdu	5 m
<b>IV. Discussion/Possible Action Items-Governance/Policies/Finance</b>			<b>5:55 PM</b>
<b>A.</b> Background Check Policy for Non-Licensed Personnel (For Possible Action)	Vote	Bridget Johnson-Peevy	5 m
<b>B.</b> Legal Counsel's Hourly Rate Amendment (For Possible Action)	Vote	Ercan Aydogdu	5 m
<b>C.</b> Executive Director and CEO Annual Evaluation (For Possible Action)	Vote	Ann Diggins	5 m
<b>V. Information/Discussion Items</b>			<b>6:10 PM</b>
<b>A.</b> Afton Partners Presentation (Information)	FYI	Nick S./Afton Partners Rep,	5 m
<b>B.</b> Update on Academic Progress of Cadence and Nellis Elementary Schools (Information)	FYI	Mustafa Gunozu	10 m
<b>C.</b> Cadence Campus Update (Information)	FYI	Emrullah Eraslan	5 m
<b>D.</b> Tamarus Campus Update (Information)	FYI	Andrea Katatokis	5 m
<b>E.</b> Quarterly Discipline Report (Information)	FYI	Amber Nhan	5 m
<b>F.</b> Campus Safety and Security Update (Information)	Discuss	Selim Tanyeri	5 m
<b>G.</b> Financial Update (Information)	Discuss	Nick S. and/or DMS rep.	5 m
<b>H.</b> S&P Report (information)	FYI	Nick S.	5 m
<b>I.</b> Investment Update (information)	FYI	Nick S.	5 m
<b>J.</b> Executive Director's Progress Report (Information)	FYI	Ercan Aydogdu	5 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time	
<p>This typically consists of brief updates and notices from the Executive Director regarding general school matters (i.e., items of general interest) not already covered in this meeting, including, for example, campus and school news, test results, school awards/accolades, sports results, club events, staff and teacher trainings, special events, graduation ceremonies, etc.</p>				
<b>K.</b>	Schedule of Board Subcommittee Meetings (Information)	FYI	Ercan Aydogdu	5 m
<p><b>Academic Subcommittee Meeting:</b> Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 4:30 pm at Central Office</p>				
<p><b>Governance Subcommittee Meeting:</b> Wednesday, February 13, 2024, at 4:00 pm at Central Office</p>				
<p><b>Facility &amp; Finance Subcommittee Meeting:</b> Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 4:30 at Central Office</p>				
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Closed Session-Privileged &amp; Confidential</b>			<b>7:10 PM</b>
<p>Closed Sessions (i.e., non-public meetings that are statutorily exempt from the OML) pursuant to NRS 241.016(3) and 388.261, with respect to item (A).</p>				
<b>A.</b>	Attorney/Client Conference	FYI	Mark Gardberg	20 m
<b>VII.</b>	<b>Potential Action(s) (For Possible Action)</b>			
<p>If any, re. the legal matters heard during the Closed Session Note: this may consist, for example, of a decision to submit a written demand on a potential litigant (e.g., a cease-and-desist letter), to authorize litigation, to conduct further legal research, to propose a settlement to a litigant, or to tender a matter to insurance.</p>				
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>Public Comments (Information)</b>			
<p>Please see the procedures and rules in item I(B) above.</p>				
<b>IX.</b>	<b>Closing Items</b>			
<b>A.</b>	Adjourn Meeting (For Action)	Vote		



## Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas

### Minutes

#### Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas Board Meeting

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**Date and Time**

Wednesday January 17, 2024 at 4:30 PM

**Location**

8985 S. Eastern Ave #375  
Las Vegas, NV 89123

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### **Directors Present**

Ann Diggins, Arlene Hayman (remote), Brin Gibson (remote), Chan Lengsavath (remote), Dr. Carryn Warren, Elizabeth Kazelskis, Feyzi Tandogan

### **Directors Absent**

*None*

### **Guests Present**

Amber Nhan, CASLV Climate & Culture Coordinator, Andrea Katotakis, CASLV Tamarus Principal, Andrea Shepard, CASLV Executive Assistant, Annette Martin, CASLV Cadence Assistant Principal, Anthony Vu, CASLV Director of Facilities, Bridget Johnson-Peevy, CASLV Chief People Officer, Ercan Aydogdu, CASLV Executive Director & CEO, Fulton Breen, Afton Partners (remote), Ismail Kocabiyik, CASLV Windmill Principal, Jessica Paquin, CASLV Cadence Assistant Principal, Josh Devon, Afton Partners (remote), Kathryn Palmer, CASLV Cadence PTO President, Mark Gardberg, CASLV Legal Counsel, Mark Hendrie, DMS (remote), Mia Nelson, CASLV Nellis AFB Principal, Mustafa Gunozu, CASLV Chief Academic Officer, Nick Sarisahin, CASLV Chief Financial Officer, Omer Arikan, Director of Information Systems, Selim Tanyeri, CASLV Chief Operating Officer

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## **I. Opening Items**

### **A. Call the Meeting to Order**

Ann Diggins called a meeting of the board of directors of Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas to order on Wednesday Jan 17, 2024 at 4:36 PM.

Mr. Gibson joined the meeting at 4:44 p.m. and left at 6:50 p.m.

Mr. Lengsavath joined the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

A break was held from 6:43 p.m. - 6:57 p.m.

### **B. Public Comment**

Two public comments were read on behalf of Tom Resnick. The public comment is regarding an unauthorized presentation by a student. Ms. Diggins explained this was

brought to the attention of the Board Chair at the time, and added it is not on today's agenda but the board will look into it.

## II. Consent Agenda

### A. Approval of the October 30, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)

Elizabeth Kazelskis made a motion to approve the minutes from Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas Board Meeting on 10-30-23.

Feyzi Tandogan seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### B. Report of Purchases and Expenses Between \$10,000 and \$25,000 (Information)

### C. Tamarus Campus Desktop Purchase (For Possible Action)

This is within our budget and we are using ESSER grant funds for it.

### D. Approval of the Work-Based Learning Program Application (For Possible Action)

This was previously approved at the last board meeting. Due to the application date, we are bringing it back before the board.

Elizabeth Kazelskis made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Feyzi Tandogan seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## III. Discussion & Possible Action Items- Contracts, Purchases, and Procurements

### A. Amendment to the Cadence Campus Northern Border Wall Cost Participation (For Possible Action)

It was discussed that this was previously approved by the board up to \$40,000 based on the estimated amount from a third party, however with extra costs the new amount we are responsible for paying is \$75,137.00. The total amount is \$117,315.00 and CASLV is committed to paying 50%. With extra costs, it's \$75,137.00 total for CASLV.

Arlene Hayman made a motion to approve the amendment to the Cadence campus northern border wall cost participation for \$75,137.00.

Feyzi Tandogan seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### B. Henderson Chamber of Commerce Membership and Sponsorship (For Possible Action)

Mr. Ercan explained this is an annual membership and sponsorship. This year we would like to upgrade from Silver to Gold sponsorship based on the increase in the number of

campuses. The cost is similar to the Silver sponsorship, however the Gold sponsorship offers more benefits.

Arlene Hayman made a motion to approve the Henderson Chamber of Commerce Membership and Gold Sponsorship in the amount of \$7,000.

Elizabeth Kazelskis seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**C. Charter Amendment Request-Reduction of the Cadence Campus Enrollment Cap (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Selim said this is aligned with our amended budget. We need to amend the charter as it is required by the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) whenever a campus' enrollment dips over or under 10% from its capacity, even temporarily. This year's enrollment will go down to 1600, the next 2 years will be 1710, and for the 26/27 school year and following years, the enrollment number will go back to 1850. Mr. Selim answered questions from the board regarding the enrollment numbers.

Ann Diggins made a motion to approve the Charter Amendment Request-Reduction of the Cadence Campus Enrollment Cap.

Feyzi Tandogan seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**D. Charter Amendment Request-Increase of the Nellis Campus Enrollment Cap (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Selim and Mr. Ercan gave an overview of the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation opportunity. Mr Ercan explained he sees the grant dollars as an opportunity to serve more students. It was discussed that there are 4 acres of unused land to the West of the campus. It was also discussed that we would put a field, gym, state-of-the-art labs, art and music classes, and additional classrooms there. The current AFB leadership also supports this growth.

Ms. Diggins expressed she is worried about student demand for high school grades since Nellis AFB students might travel elsewhere. She wants zero detractors from improving the 2-star rating. Mr. Ercan explained that this will be an enrollment expansion within K-8. Dr. Warren indicated she is worried the current design doesn't have enough classroom space. Mr. Ercan and Mr. Nick pointed out that the facility is two stories so it will be larger than the existing building. Mr. Tandogan added the increased enrollment will increase the per-pupil funding which we can put into improvements like teacher salaries at the school.

Feyzi Tandogan made a motion to approve the charter amendment request-increase of the Nellis Campus enrollment cap to 1600 gradually.

Arlene Hayman seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**E. CSAN Membership and Conference Fees (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Ercan indicated that we have not received the CSAN conference participation invoice yet so he recommended to table it for the next meeting. The board requested more information about the membership fees for the next meeting. This item was tabled.

**F. Approval of PERS Critical Labor Shortage in Compliance with NRS 286.523 under PERS policy 10.34 for School Psychologist and SPED Manager/Director/Administrator (For Possible Action)**

Ms. Peevey explained the need to approve this for SPED positions that need to be filled. Dr. Carryn Warren made a motion to approve (1) the designation of the SPED positions set forth in the PERS form provided by the Administration as having a “critical shortage,” based on the findings of fact set forth in that form (which the Board expressly adopts), for a period of 2 years, and (2) the submission of that form to PERS.

Elizabeth Kazelskis seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**G. Approval of Architect Fees for Drawings for Multiple Campuses' Front Office Improvements (For Possible Action)**

This is to improve the front offices' safety per the Homeland Security visits creating an extra layer to help protect the front offices.

Dr. Carryn Warren made a motion to approve the Knit architect fees for schematic drawings for multiple campuses' front office improvements, in the amount of \$30,000.

Ann Diggins seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**H. Addition of a Classroom at the Cadence Campus (For Possible Action)**

This item was tabled.

**I. United Testing Services Agreement Amendment (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Gunozu explained this is for an hourly rate increase for behavioral specialists.

Ann Diggins made a motion to approve the United Testing Services Amendment Agreement.

Feyzi Tandogan seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**J. Nevada Painting Company Additional Payment (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Selim indicated the painting job for the Centennial Hills campus was previously approved however later we received additional costs for the labor for wallpaper removal.

Mr. Selim explained legal counsel has been involved and is recommending we settle the fees instead of litigate. Mr. Ercan and Mr. Selim worked the figure down to a negotiated rate of \$20,000.

Ann Diggins made a motion to approve the Nevada Painting Company Additional \$20,000 Payment.

Arlene Hayman seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**K. Update on a Facility Opportunity for a Potential Future Expansion (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Ercan explained the reason this has come to CASLV and that he is continuing to work on this potential opportunity.

**IV. Discussion/Possible Action Items-Governance/Policies/Finance**

**A. Background Check Policy for Non-Licensed Personnel (For Possible Action)**

Ms. Peevy provided an overview informing the board that licensed teachers and admins are background-checked through their licensing process. For other staff members like our central office, lunch porters, and all non-licensed staff, we would like to have a policy in place to have all non-licensed staff background checked every 5 years per the NRS recommendation.

Ann Diggins made a motion to approve the background check policy for Non-Licensed Personnel, subject to further input from counsel.

Dr. Carryn Warren seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**B. Legal Counsel's Hourly Rate Amendment (For Possible Action)**

Mr. Ercan presented this and indicated the legal counsel's hourly rate has not been raised since 2017. Even now, the proposed increase is only an extra \$5/hour.

Dr. Carryn Warren made a motion to approve the increase of legal counsel's hourly rate to \$398 per hour.

Ann Diggins seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**C. Executive Director and CEO Annual Evaluation (For Possible Action)**

Ms. Diggins explained Mr. Ercan's evaluation is separate from his contract renewal and reviewed the timelines. The board used BoardOnTrack's evaluation tool this year which is a better tool than what was used previously. All of the feedback received was very positive and aligned with Mr. Ercan's self-evaluation. Ms. Diggins indicated she would get it anonymized and then provide the feedback to Mr. Ercan. It was discussed that this will continue to the next board meeting.

**V. Information/Discussion Items**

**A.**

### **Afton Partners Presentation (Information)**

Mr. Nick explained the Charter School Growth Fund (CSGF) grant supported this as financial capacity review and support on top of their \$3 million cash investment for growth. Fulton and Josh gave an introduction and discussed their work while answering questions from the board.

Afton Partners is the nationwide leader in charter school financial planning services. They have worked on over 70 charter school fiscal initiatives with school networks of all sizes around the country. Their work with charter schools improves school resource allocation decision-making, informs school facility and growth planning, and strengthens leadership and governance on fiscal matters. This partnership will not have a fee for CASLV.

### **B. Update on Academic Progress of Cadence and Nellis Elementary Schools (Information)**

Mr. Gunozu explained the performance of the Nellis and Cadence campus elementary schools for the previous year, focusing on the 2-star rating they received in the elementary category according to the Nevada School Performance Report Card. This rating was primarily attributed to challenges in achievement on SBAC tests and chronic absenteeism. To address these specific issues, administrators from both campuses outlined the strategies currently being implemented.

Regarding academics, Cadence has implemented several key initiatives. These include the provision of 1:1 technology for students, the establishment of a mentorship program to support new teachers, and an increase in community involvement, including inviting guest speakers from community partners. Additionally, the Cadence campus has introduced Saturday school sessions during both the first and second semesters, aimed at providing academic support and enrichment opportunities. During the meeting, the team presented an overview of their professional development plans, designed to enhance the teaching skills and capabilities of teachers. MAP results will later be shared at the academic subcommittee meeting.

Nellis implements regular assessments and progress monitoring to track test scores and identify areas that require intervention. Through a dedicated instructional coach on site, it offers ongoing training and development opportunities for teachers to enhance their skills in addressing achievement and growth gaps. Administrators and teachers analyze student performance data to identify areas for improvement and adjust instructional strategies accordingly. This year (from August 2023 to January 2024), the Nellis campus has made significant progress in reducing chronic absenteeism, which has decreased by half compared to the previous year. This improvement is a result of the dedicated outreach efforts and support from the base community. During the discussion, Ms. Nelson highlighted both the challenges the campus has faced and the strategies they have

implemented to address them. Additionally, winter NWEA MAP test results have shown a significant improvement compared to the previous year.

### **C. Cadence Campus Update (Information)**

Principal Eraslan, Ms. Pauquin, Ms. Martin, and Ms. Palmer provided an informative update about the campus. They covered various aspects, including details about their homerooms, student enrollment figures, staff numbers, and notable staff and student changes for the current school year. Moreover, they delved into the specifics of their school culture and disciplinary framework. The Cadence campus team also showcased their progress, highlighting significant developments. This year, they welcomed 30 additional staff members and increased the presence of traffic monitors. Notably, they reported a significant decrease in suspensions and expulsions. Additionally, they have established sports teams, and their FLL Robotics team has successfully qualified for the state competition

Ms. Palmer indicated the PTO has been busy planning monthly fundraisers at local businesses, and they have a strong merchandising program. They have raised \$23,500 YTD for the 23/24 school year. Images from recent events were shared with the board.

### **D. Tamarus Campus Update (Information)**

Ms. Katotakis presented the Tamarus campus update giving an overview of enrollment, demographics, section numbers in each grade level, course and club offerings, interventions, tutoring, academic focuses, and more. Images of recent campus events were shared as well as images of recent campus facility improvements including a new shade structure and cement tables for the outdoor lunch area, new turf for the entire playground area, a new paver walkway to the walkers' gate, security cameras, and perimeter fence gates. The CASLV Tamarus campus has a 5-star rating! Less than 10% of Nevada Schools accomplished this.

### **E. Quarterly Discipline Report (Information)**

Ms. Nhan presented the quarterly discipline report and indicated the campuses have met together and reviewed best practices. There's been one expulsion with no appeal to the board filed. It was reported that there are fewer discipline issues year over year. Dr. Warren asked about the number of days for suspensions and how that is determined. Ms. Nhan said it depends on the circumstances and the offense, and that she will be studying trends.

### **F. Campus Safety and Security Update (Information)**

Mr. Vu informed the board they do not want to disclose publicly all measures. They will be emailed to the board. They have visited each campus regarding the Department of Homeland Security report. They are working on implementing major changes and have

already implemented minor changes. Ms. Diggins said if there are too many priorities that the school can't afford, she would like the board to help decide which priorities to serve, and they could potentially provide more funding. It was discussed the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee should review this in a closed session.

#### **G. Financial Update (Information)**

Mark Hendrie with DMS reviewed the financial update through December. The overall cash is close to the previous levels, and restricted cash is down. There are 187 days of cash on hand. They reviewed the budget and month-by-month actuals. Overall, everything is aligned with the budget and going according to plan this fiscal year. They also reviewed the balance sheet in detail.

#### **H. S&P Report (information)**

Mr. Nick presented the Standard and Poor Rating Report. S&P Global Ratings affirmed its "BBB-" rating on the authority's existing bonds issued for CASLV, which is de facto the highest rating possible nationwide for a non-State-guaranteed charter. The outlook of all ratings is stable. S&P assessed a solid enterprise profile, with excellent academic performance, a large enrollment base, and a healthy waitlist; Improved lease adjusted MADS burden of 11.1% of fiscal 2023 operating revenues; Experienced and stable management team; and good relationship with its authorizer, which characterizes CASLV as a high-performing charter school.

#### **I. Investment Update (information)**

Mr. Nick provided an update on the investment report during the board meeting. He reported that CASLV earned \$143,300 from a 4 million unrestricted cash investment and an additional \$72,241 from restricted bond reserve funds in one year.

#### **J. Executive Director's Progress Report (Information)**

Mr. Ercan discussed CASLV's accomplishments and important information regarding students and school clubs with the board.

- The Best of Las Vegas (BOLV) voting results were released. CASLV received gold in all four categories: Best Elementary School, Best Middle School, Best Charter School, and Best High School.
- 4-Year graduation rates highlights were reviewed for CASLV Sandy Ridge campus. Mr. Ercan explained the cohort graduation rates and indicated for the 22/23 school year the graduation rate for Sandy Ridge is 100%.
- Enrollment, application, and open seat numbers were reviewed in detail.
- Mr. Ercan shared the Organizational Performance Framework Results from the SPCSA.
- Open House dates for the 24/25 school year were presented.

- CASLV Job Fair details were shared. The job fair is taking place on Tuesday, January 23 from 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at CASLV Sandy Ridge campus.
- The Great Debate, Florida's National Civics Debate Championship: Jonathan A. showcased exceptional talent at The Great Debate, Florida's National Civics and Debate Championship. Among 67 winners in both middle school and high school divisions, Jonathan secured an impressive 3rd place in the overall - High School Division.
- Virgin Island MLK Invitational Basketball Championship: Coral Academy is the first stateside girls basketball team to play in the Martin Luther King Jr. Invitational since 2016 and won the championship.
- Achievement Award given by the Lions Club: We are proud to announce that Elsie has received an achievement award given by the Lions Club for her artwork in the Peace Poster contest this year.
- Soccer Teams, CASLV Windmill & Sandy Ridge Campuses: Both Coral teams won semi-final matches against WOI and Foothills before winning two hard-fought championship games 2-0 and 2-1 against American Heritage securing a regular season and playoff championship trophies for the Falcons.
- NCSAA Championship Game, Nellis AFB campus: Congratulations to our Nellis AFB Elementary Flag football team on winning the NCSAA Championship game.
- College Board's Female Diversity Award: CASLV Sandy Ridge campus has achieved the AP Computer Science A Female Diversity Award through the College board. We are the only high school in Las Vegas to achieve this award in AP Computer Science A.
- Gold medal from the Congressional Award: Momoka U., Tamara, and Lorelani have recently been honored with a Gold medal from the Congressional Award which is the U.S. Congress' highest youth honor! Total Medal Count in 2023 Silver Medal: 6 Gold Medal: 4.
- Elio Academy's Genetics Summer Program: Ryan showcased exceptional talent in the Elio Academy's Genetics summer program, shining brightly in his advanced Biology project. His project, titled "Assessing Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) Susceptibility Among Varying Regions: A Review," has earned a well-deserved spot among the select few published from a pool of competitive projects.
- VEX IQ Robotics teams, Windmill campus: Windmill VEX IQ Robotics teams have been invited to compete at the DISCOVERY Children's Museum on Jan 6, 2024. Skills: 3rd place Fearless Falcons, 9th place Falcon Force, 15 place Falcon Fury. Teamwork: 3rd place Fearless Falcons, 13th place Falcon Fury, 24th place Falcon Force. Awards: Create Award (VIQRC) Falcon Force, CASLV-Windmill.
- VEX IQ Robotics teams, Centennial Hills campus: Centennial Hills VEX IQ Robotics teams have been invited to compete at the DISCOVERY Children's Museum on Jan 6, 2024. Team A and Team B, both teams finished in the top twenty in overall competition. Team A also received the Judges Award, the school's first elementary-level robotics award.

- First Lego League Robotics Team, Eastgate campus: They secured the First Place Rising Star award in the FLL Masterpiece challenge on December 1st.
- First Lego League Robotics Team, Cadence campus: Cadence campus Engineers First Lego League Robotics Team, securing second place in the Core Values Award at the Southern Nevada FLL Qualifier, they soared above 220 teams on Dec 2nd, 9th, and 16th. Cadence fielded 3 VEX IQ teams; two middle schools and one elementary school. They just competed in two tournaments in December and they are scheduled to compete in two more tournaments in January. (Eagle IQ): 2nd place, (Mecha Eagles): 3rd place, (AI Eagles): 4th place.
- Veterans Day Assembly at Nellis AFB campus: Col. Joshua Demotts, and his wife retired Air Force Veteran Patti Demotts shared their memorable and detailed war experiences with students.
- Book Club, Sandy Ridge campus: From October 30th to November 3rd, under the dedicated guidance of their teacher, Barbara Daley, members of the Sandy Ridge Book Club embarked on a mission to collect books for Spread the Word Nevada, a phenomenal nonprofit dedicated to advancing early childhood literacy by making sure children can access books in Nevada's low-income communities.
- Blood Donation Campaign at Centennial Hills campus: The campus will be a sponsor for an American Red Cross Blood Drive at their campus.
- HCC and CASLV will host "I Can Be" (Career Fair): Collaboration between Coral Academy Sandy Ridge and the Henderson Chamber of Commerce for our upcoming Career Fair on March 22, 2024.
- Super Kids-Super Sharing, Sandy Ridge campus: Sandy Ridge campus is taking part in the Super Bowl project, "Super Kids-Super Sharing," dedicated to helping local kids in need. This fantastic initiative is in collaboration with the National Football League, the Las Vegas Raiders, the Las Vegas Super Bowl LVIII Host Committee, the Clark County Pearson Community Center, and Verizon.
- Vegas Culture Fest at Sandy Ridge campus held in November: International cuisines, accompanied by an enticing lineup of performances, interactive activities, and diverse vendors. Popular food trucks joined like Nogkes Kitchen, Food Therapy, Ole Manny's Tacos, Kalimera Greek Bakery, Mochi Aculelei, and more ...!
- CMLP Fall Bonding Trip, Sandy Ridge campus: The CMLP Fall Bonding Trip unfolded over two unforgettable days, brimming with laughter, personal growth, and community building. The group embarked on a scenic hike through Red Rock Canyon to Calico Basin, engaged in spirited Monopoly matches and marveled at the stars from the majestic peaks of Mount Charleston.

- The Pastry with Parents event was a sweet success at CASLV Windmill campus. Mr. Ercan shared images from the event.
- Cowboy Christmas and Classic Car Show at Floyd Lamb Park, Centennial Hills campus: Our students performed at the Cowboy Christmas and Classic Car Show at Floyd Lamb Park. Great musical acts from our students led by our music teacher, Mr. Borders.
- Veterans Day Parade: Coral Academy Nellis AFB students were honored to take part in the Veterans Day Parade hosted by the City of Las Vegas.
- Next Meeting: The next Regular meeting will be on March 6th, 2024 at the Sandy Ridge campus. The Academic Subcommittee meeting on Jan. 31st, 2024 at the Central Office. The Governance Subcommittee meeting on Feb. 13th, 2024 at the Central Office.

#### **K. Schedule of Board Subcommittee Meetings (Information)**

The schedule of Board Subcommittee Meetings was provided.

### **VI. Closed Session-Privileged & Confidential**

#### **A. Attorney/Client Conference**

The attorney/client conference was held between 8:30 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.

### **VII. Potential Action(s) (For Possible Action)**

#### **A. Potential Action(s) (For Possible Action)**

There were no actions.

### **VIII. Public Comments (Information)**

#### **A. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **IX. Closing Items**

#### **A. Adjourn Meeting**

Ann Diggins made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Elizabeth Kazelskis seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Andrea Shepard, CASLV Executive Assistant