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STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Patrick Gavin, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 5: Argent Preparatory Academy Staff Recommendation
DATE: March 23, 2018

As the Authority is aware, Argent Preparatory Academy, formerly Silver State Charter High School, is a hybrid program model that combines online, distance learning and a brick-and-mortar school with on-site staff. Silver State suffered fiscal management issues and, by agreement with the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA), was placed into Receivership under Mr. Josh Kern on July 1, 2016.

On December 8, 2017, Mr. Kern presented a report to the SPCSA outlining four possible paths forward for Argent, two of which merited serious consideration: school closure or investigating “an aggressive retooling” of the school. After further investigation, Mr. Kern has concluded that the best option for Argent students is to close Argent Preparatory Academy at the conclusion of the 2017 – 2018 school year as detailed in the Receiver’s report submitted on March 14, 2018.

It is worth noting that the Receiver has experience in closing public charter schools. Additionally, as allowable under Nevada statute, SPCSA staff intends to work closely with the receiver as recommended by several leading experts in this area of authorizing, including the [Colorado Charter School Institute](#) and the [National Association of Charter School Authorizers](#) (NACSA).

Recommendation: *Staff recommends that the SPCSA Board accept the report and recommendation of the receiver of Argent Preparatory Academy, Mr. Josh Kern, to close the school at the end of the 2018 – 2019 school year. This recommendation is due, in large part, to the high student transiency rate, declining enrollment, a curriculum that fails to engage students while also adequately preparing them for success, and fundamental challenges of a distance learning model.*