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**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY**

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To: Interim Finance Committee  
Through: Tiffany Greenameyer, Executive Branch Budget Officer, Governor's Finance Office  
From: Patrick Gavin, Executive Director  
Subject: 2017 Legislative Session Letter of Intent – Progress of New Authorizer Unit  
Date: February 1, 2018

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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, 2017 to December 31, 2017:

1. Eliminating the backlog in reviewing charter applications –

The SPCSA has completed vital first steps in hiring the newly approved Staff Attorney and Education Programs Director (start dates were October 13, 2017 and November 13, 2017, respectively). Both incumbents reviewed and assisted SPCSA staff in providing final recommendations at the December meeting of the Authority Board. Additionally, both the Staff Attorney and Education Programs Director reviewed all outstanding charter school amendment applications that were received during the fall 2017 amendment cycle and all good cause amendment applications that were submitted outside of deadlines set forth in regulation. Staff recommendations were presented at the January 2018 meeting of the Authority Board.

The SPCSA is also consulting with applicants who submitted Notices of Intent but did not submit applications based on concerns from the SPCSA. The agency's focus on clearing the previous backlog resulted in less availability of resources to conduct applicant trainings and provide technical assistance during the application development period.

Given this progress, the Authority has effectively eliminated the backlog of reviewing charter applications.

2. Conducting required site visits –

The newly approved Management Analyst IV started January 8, 2018. SPCSA staff is currently in the hiring process for the newly approved Education Programs Supervisor position, with selection of a candidate anticipated by the end of February. Because the Management Analyst

IV and Education Programs Supervisor positions are vital to the development and implementation of the site visit process, this work is still in its infancy.

3. Revising the academic and organizational framework –

Deficiencies in the Financial Performance Framework were corrected with approval of revisions at the October meeting of the Authority Board. Given the start dates of the newly approved Management Analyst IV and Education Programs Supervisor, revisions to the academic and organizational framework were not completed during this reporting period. Additionally, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) made substantial revisions to existing regulations related to financial audits and organizational performance with the adoption of R131-16AP, which was approved by the Legislative Commission on December 21, 2017. These changes will substantially impact the upcoming revisions to the Organizational Framework. It is important to note that anticipated changes in NDE's Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) for high schools may not be finalized and approved by the United States Department of Education during the January 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018 period. This critical path item may delay the revisions to the SPCSA's Academic Performance Framework. Nevertheless, the Education Programs Director has commenced work with other staff and NDE personnel to identify and prioritize changes within the framework.

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

The SPCSA denied one backlogged public charter school application at the Authority Board meeting on December 8, 2017. The SPCSA approved one backlogged application at the October 23, 2017 meeting and another backlogged application at the December 8, 2017 meeting. The review of all amendment applications received during the fall amendment cycle was substantially completed by December 31, 2017; staff recommendations were presented for consideration at the January 26, 2018 meeting. Written correspondence was sent to the lead contacts of each school on December 19 and 20, 2017. SPCSA staff has developed internal protocols to ensure that timely communication to all applicants recommended for denial occurs shortly after a Board meeting wherein the Board voted deny the application.

Regarding the backlog in providing written correspondence to charter applicants, six (6) applicants have yet to receive written correspondence. The remainder of the applications which were part of the reported counts during the 2017 Legislative Session were closed out to the mutual satisfaction of both parties.

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

The Staff Attorney and Education Programs Director have collaborated to begin implementation of consistent, equitable review processes. Measurable progress will not commence until the newly approved Management Analyst IV and Education Programs Supervisor positions are trained and educated on the laws, regulations, and policies.