



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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RECOMMENDATION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board

FROM: Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing
Mike Dang, Manager of Financial and Organizational Performance

SUBJECT: Las Vegas Collegiate Amendment Request

DATE: April 24, 2020

Summary of Request

Las Vegas Collegiate was approved by the State Public Charter School Authority on December 17, 2019 to open in the fall of 2020. Approval was contingent on three conditions:

1. Submit an updated incubation year plan that clarifies how the Board will monitor progress towards key milestones and the available supports to the proposed school leader.
2. Provide either more detail as to how the existing staff will manage the range of administrative responsibilities in year 1 OR an alternative scenario that includes additional contracted support.
3. Work with the local jurisdiction to address traffic flow and pedestrian safety during student arrival and dismissal.

At this time, staff has determined that the school has met the first two conditions above.

Las Vegas Collegiate is requesting the SPCSA Board approve the school's request to occupy a new, permanent facility in the 89106 zip code, or about 1.5 miles from the originally approved location. Additionally, the school is requesting to reduce the approved enrollment cap of the school from 162 students to 135 students in year one only. Finally, the school requests to add transportation services to families.

The school is also requesting a Good Cause Exemption as this amendment came outside of the traditional amendment cycle.

Staff recommends approval of the Good Cause Exemption request, and each of the proposed amendments to the Las Vegas Collegiate charter, with conditions as outlined below, in addition to fulfillment of the remaining original condition:

Background and Request

Las Vegas Collegiate will be operating under a six-year charter contract beginning on July 1, 2020. This charter was approved, with conditions, by the Authority on December 17, 2019.

According to the application, the impact of COVID-19 has resulted in the original proposed facility for Las Vegas Collegiate, the Agassi Boys and Girls Clubs of Southern Nevada, to be no longer being available for year one occupancy. Executive leadership of the Boys and Girls Club continues to support the school but has formally informed school leadership that they are unable to provide occupancy under the Club's current economic duress created by health pandemic, specifically due to their need to make significant staff layoffs and endure other unanticipated challenges managing the facility under current circumstances.

Despite these unexpected times, the school remains committed to the identified community of the 89106 zip code. School leadership and Board have only focused on securing a facility that provides full and proximal access to this immediate community and which is ready for occupancy. The application states that the school has planned and budgeted for free bus access to 89106 families and enrollment outreach efforts remain heavily focused on in this area.

The newly identified facility is still within the 89106 zip code and is located less than two miles away from the originally identified location (the Agassi Boys and Girls Club). The school is seeking to operate within a former church located at 1072 W. Bartlett Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89106. According to the application, occupying this space would prevent the school from a delayed opening, allowing the school to open its doors to students who reside in 89106 whose families have already applied to attend.

Additionally, the application is requesting an amendment to the original enrollment numbers. The school seeks to reduce the number of classrooms to five, equating to an enrollment cap of 135 for the 2020 – 2021 school year. The school intends to have 3 kindergarten classrooms and 2 first grade classrooms. According to the application, this adjustment is necessary in order to occupy the newly proposed facility without completing any construction before opening in in the upcoming academic year. This enrollment reduction will impact the number of staff to be hired, but does not impact the educational model or instructional services to be provided.

Finally, to support the requested adjustments, Las Vegas Collegiate is seeking to include transportation in this amendment request to enhance student recruitment and enrollment. The school plans to provide pick-up and drop-off services to scholars living within a two-mile radius of the facility.

Legal Authority and Requirements Related to Amendment Requests:

The RFA application includes Eligibility Requirements, per NRS 388A.279, that a school must be in good standing in all three domains of the Authority's academic, financial and organizational performance frameworks and it must not be considered a low-performing school or otherwise ineligible

As the school has not opened yet, staff is not aware of any non-compliance. In staff's eyes, the school has fulfilled two of the three original conditions attached to the charter school's approval. Staff expects the third approval to occur over the summer should this amendment be approved.

Recommendation: Approve with Conditions

Based on the findings above staff recommends the Board approve this request, subject to the below additional conditions and submissions to be formalized in a contract amendment to be executed by both parties.

Conditions related to the proposed facility:

- Proof of purchase, facility or rental agreement
- Building inspector report (if purchased)
- Final Inspection of the new facility
- All other materials required by state and federal law and regulation
- Attestation signed by both the lessor and the Board of Las Vegas Collegiate confirming that the facility and landlord will not exercise any control over the educational program of the charter school, pursuant to [NRS 388A.090](#). Additionally, the school will comply with any statutes, regulations or guidelines related to any public school operating out of a religious facility.

Conditions related to transportation:

- Evidence of a successful bus inspection to confirm that the vehicle is mechanically safe and meets the minimum specifications established by the State Board.
- A year-end report of bus evacuation drills completed by students and staff. This will occur annually at the end of each school year, and staff will work with the school to determine the appropriate format of the report.
- An annual statement signed by the head of school verifying that Las Vegas Collegiate plans to abide by all requirements for student transportation as required by the Nevada Department of Education.
- An annual statement signed by the head of school verifying that Las Vegas Collegiate has a current Driver Qualification File for each bus driver.
- Evidence of successful semiannual vehicle inspections by the Nevada Highway Patrol.

Proposed Motion: Accept staff's recommendation to

Approve Las Vegas Collegiate’s Good Cause Exemption request; and

Approve, with the conditions outlined within this memo, Las Vegas Collegiate’s requests to:

- Lease a different facility in the 89106 zip code, specifically located at 1072 W. Bartlett Avenue.*
- Reduce the enrollment cap for the 2020 – 2021 school year to 135 students, down from 162 students. This would not impact the enrollment caps for future years.*
- Provide transportation to students beginning in the 2020 – 2021 school year in accordance with state guidelines, laws and regulations.*

Explore Key Statistics:

I. School Performance (NSPF Star) Ratings:

N/A

II. Total Projected Enrollment:

If approved, the new enrollment cap for the school would be 135 students. This would include 81 Kindergarten seats and 54 1st grade seats in the 2020 – 2021 school year. The enrollment caps for years two and beyond would remain unchanged

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Grade Levels Provided</u>	<u>Students per Grade</u>	<u>Enrollment Cap</u>
2020 – 2021	Kindergarten – 1 st grade	Kindergarten = 81 students 1 st grade = 54 students	135
2021 – 2022	Kindergarten – 2 nd grade	81 students in each grade	243
2022 – 2023	Kindergarten – 3 rd grade	81 students in each grade	324
2023 – 2024	Kindergarten – 4 th grade	81 students in each grade	405
2024 – 2025	Kindergarten – 5 th grade	81 students in each grade	486

III. School Demographics:

N/A