

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Pioneer Technical and Art Academy of Nevada.

After pursuing several alternatives and reviewing many options over the course of an extended period of time, our Leadership team recommended the closure of a North Las Vegas School. This decision was inclusive of numerous factors dating back to 2010.

For the last 10 years, the school has relied heavily upon the Parish as well as the Diocese of Las Vegas for financial support. During this period, it has been necessary for the Parish and the Diocese to subsidize the school's operations in the amount of just over \$3 million. The on-going struggle has taken its toll - creating an unsustainable situation, one that is impossible to continue.

The School has been impacted by several factors, not unlike hundreds of schools across the country that have had to close. The primary factors affecting the school include:

- Shortfalls in enrollment;
- Loss of revenue from Nevada Opportunity Scholarship funds – leaving an even greater budget gap to fill
- Parish and school finances and the resources necessary for sustainability;
- And now the effects of this pandemic on our families

While our first choice would be to find a sustainable way to continue to operate the school without change, there just is no conceivable pathway to allow that to happen. We would be faced with the closure of this school, located in one of the most vulnerable communities. However, we could not have asked for a better alternative. We are incredibly grateful to have been presented with the opportunity to consider this premier Charter School model of education. One that will ensure the long-term viability of the school while providing exceptional programs for the students of this community.

This is a program we believe in and we are incredibly excited to see such a program that will be critical to this community.

PTAA would ensure that underserved children in one of the most economically challenged parts of the valley would still be able to receive an academically superior education, with high standards.

PTAA's Mission Statement speaks greatly to us: "...is to empower and engage students to reach their full potential as global leaders who will enhance their communities and the world through creativity, collaboration, and innovation."

Not only will the school remain operational, but it will also be tuition-free to its students, and the programs offered to our students will be second to none.

PTAA plans to make significant improvements to the existing campus including the establishment of a much needed pre-school. In addition, professional learning opportunities and support for all faculty and staff will be a priority. There are also plans for a fully equipped STEAM lab, and additional programs to include robotics, music, art and foreign language classes. As well as much needed support services for students with learning differences.

On behalf of the Diocese of Las Vegas, thank you for your consideration of PTAA .