

# Sage Collegiate Public Charter School

Our Mission: Driven by excellence for all in a supportive, rigorous, and ambitious school community, Sage Collegiate Public Charter School educates K-8 students for academic achievement, college success, and a life of opportunity.

TO: Melissa Mackedon, SPCSA Board Chair

Rebecca Feiden, SPCSA Executive Director

Mark Modrcin, SPCSA Director of Authorizing

FROM: Jennifer Braster, Board Chair, Sage Collegiate

Sandra Kinne, Executive Director, Sage Collegiate

**RE**: April Board Meeting Update

DATE: Thursday, April 7, 2022

We share these general updates with the SPCSA board and staff.

#### FACILITIES

Fencing has gone up on the site, and we have begun demolition. Based on recent conversations between Sage Collegiate, the SPCSA, and Red Hook (our facility partners), we are working towards meeting the expectations and deadlines outlined in the authority's 'Pre-Opening Checklist'. We will continue to maintain close communication to ensure alignment and transparency.

We are also working on contingency plans in the event there is an unexpected delay or challenge with the ontime delivery of Certificate of Occupancy. Our Executive Director continues to work closely with the school's Board and authority to ensure a strong start to our founding school year.

#### STUDENT ENROLLMENT

As of **04.03.2022**, we have more than 50% of our seats filled. Our current enrollment is as follows:

	Seats Available	Fully enrolled by all standards	Enrolled, audit- ready*	Partially- enrolled#	Accepted, has not begun the process	Waitlist	Declined seat^
Kinder	23	34	3	6	5	0	3
1 <sup>st</sup>	37	17	6	3	1	0	0
2 <sup>nd</sup>	6	20	4	2	4	0	0
3 <sup>rd</sup>	11	19	0	4	3	0	0
4 <sup>th</sup>	16	11	3	1	0	0	1
5th	17	11	2	1	0	0	1
Total	110	112	18	17	13	0	5

<sup>\*</sup>Indicates we're waiting on non-audit docs

#Indicates we're waiting on audit-required docs

Based on the families that have taken our enrollment survey, **80 percent of students qualify for free/reduced lunch, a proxy for socioeconomic status**. This is an increase since our last report and tracks with our
anticipated FRL population given the community demographics and FRL population of district schools within our
authorized zip codes. Also, based on anecdotal feedback from families and provided IEPs, **currently 16 percent of our enrolled founding students are categorized as students in Special Education**. We are working closely

A Seats were declined for a variety of reasons including plans to move out of the region, staying at current school, accepted via another school's lottery



with our Special Education Services partner to ensure we are prepared to best serve all students. (Please see note in hiring update, below.)

## Family and Community Engagement

We have had several community events to engage with founding and prospective families. Since our last update, we've hosted "Books & Basketball" at the Heinrich YMCA and "Sledgehammer for Sage Collegiate", which was a family-fun event and small fundraiser on our campus. We sponsored a table at the Touch-A-Truck sponsored by the Family-to-Family organization and at the Foster Family Resource Fair sponsored by the Department of Family Services. Our participation at these events is aimed at recruitment and enrollment; it's helpful to share resources and information about our new school with families across the region. We have also hosted a number of office hours in our school community and participated in Acelero Community Partner meetings. We are grateful for partner support, including HELP of Southern Nevada, Leaders in Training, Spread the Word Nevada, UNLV Early Outreach, the Heinrich Y, Springs Preserve, and the Las Vegas Aces, which donated some items for one of our events.

In the next few weeks, we are participating in the Y's Easter Egg Hunt, Springs Preserve's Earth Day, the national 'Take Your Family to the Playground Day', and book distributions at a long-term residential hotel where a few incoming students reside. Also in the coming weeks, we have marketing materials going up at Meadows Mall and on RTC buses on the routes near our school campus. We are especially excited for the billboard that will go up *on* our campus this month. We expect this will garner attention and support student recruitment. We also will begin canvassing within our community in May to support recruitment and enrollment efforts.

Additionally, we are continuing, at least through April, with social media ad campaign with our partner, Mattlerlab; we have consistent presence and updates on our social media.

Lastly, in response to family feedback and the presentation last month by David Blodgett at Nevada Prep, we are pursuing options for purchasing a bus and providing transportation to students. The Board should expect an amendment related to transportation in the next few months. We won't be able to provide transportation immediately at the start of school, but we aim to provide it some point this fall.

### **Staff Hiring**

Our current Year I organization chart is provided, below, for context of our update. Sage Collegiate participated in the UNLV Career Fair last month, and we continue to share our openings with networks and online recruitment sites.

We received a generous, unrestricted grant from a local foundation, and last month the Board voted to approve "Founders Bonuses" and small stipends for staff wellness and development. In recognition of the leap of faith staff are making to join a brand new, independent school, we will offer a \$1000 Founders Bonus to founding staff. In support our intentional efforts related to staff wellness, and in partnership with our community neighbor the Heinrich YMCA, we will provide gym membership

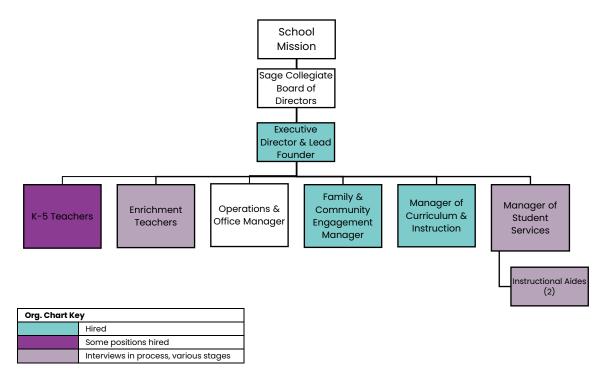
The work of education is always hard, and the last two years have made it considerably harder for many in the work. The local district currently has 1490 instructional/licensed positions posted, and the local exodus from the profession has been felt through the recruitment and hiring process. Given this, staff recruitment has been a challenge.



To try to leverage some of those leaving the local district, who may be interested in staying in the work but who are also interested in other options, Sage Collegiate has partnered with seven other schools authorized by the Authority for 'Great Schools Now: A Career Fair' on Saturday, April 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Discovery Children's Museum. It's our hope that there is strength in numbers when it comes to recruiting. Those of us participating recognize there may be an overlap in candidates applying to various schools as we're all swimming in the same talent pool. However, the collective benefits of collaboration within our charter community are greater than not and have embodied the notion of 'together we can do so little; together we can do so much.'

That said, we have hired for some key roles, including Manager of Curriculum and Instruction (MCI) and a few teacher positions. (Our Family & Community Engagement Manager started in the role in January and has been incredibly helpful and has had a strong sense of urgency and focus for recruitment and enrollment, while supporting some of the operations tasks.)

Given our anticipated population of students in Special Education, we've prioritized through outreach and recruitment, the position of Manager of Student Services. This position will oversee our Special Education services, as well as support ELL, GATE, and RTI programs. We hope to hire for that role by the end of the month.



We look forward to answering questions at the April 15<sup>th</sup> SPCSA Board meeting and hope this meets with the staff and board's approval.

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