



*Dr. Joyce Brooks, Principal
Mr. Mike Taack, Assistant Principal*

Students, Parents, and GEMS Families:

On April 24, 2023, the Girls Empowerment Middle School ("GEMS") Board of Directors voted to close the school when the 2022-2023 school year ends on May 19, 2023.

While it has been a point of pride that GEMS has had wonderfully small classes which allowed teachers, students, and staff to build trusting relationships and create a uniquely girl-focused, empowering educational environment, it has also been no secret that GEMS enrollment numbers have fallen far below what can be financially sustained beyond this academic year.

The Board and staff have worked tirelessly throughout the school year to attract and enroll new students. Unfortunately, none of their efforts have resulted in sufficient enrollment gains. Consequently, GEMS is facing an insurmountable financial crisis, making continued operation of the school impossible.

Pursuant to NRS 388A.306, Assistant Principal Michael Taack has been appointed by the GEMS Board to act as a Trustee for the school, subject to the approval of the State Public Charter School Authority Board. Dr. Joyce Brooks has been appointed first alternate Trustee. GEMS attorney Jason D. Guinasso, Esq., of the law firm Hutchison & Steffen, is the second alternate Trustee and will be providing legal guidance and support to the school and the Trustee during the entirety of the closure process.

Mr. Taack can be reached at:

4220 S. Maryland Parkway, Building B
Las Vegas, NV 89119
702-672-6386
mtaack@gemslv.org

Mr. Guinasso can be reached at:

Peccole Professional Park
10080 West Alta Drive, Suite 200
Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
(702) 385-2500
jguinasso@hutchlegal.com

GEMS staff have already been in discussions with students on transitioning to other appropriate schools options. A school choice fair will be hosted by GEMS on May 4, 2023. The Clark County School District will be invited to attend, as well as every charter school serving middle school students within a five mile radius of GEMS.

Additionally, GEMS staff has been working with the State Public Charter School Authority and in turn the State Public Charter School Authority has been working with the Clark County School District to ensure that students currently enrolled at GEMS have information and resources to access other education opportunities. Students and families can contact Mr. Taack regarding other school options and information regarding how to enroll at other charter schools or at schools within the Clark County School District. GEMS, the State Public Charter School Authority, and the Clark County School District are committed to ensuring that any current GEMS students and families have access to, and information related to other education opportunities.

Please call or write if you have questions.

Jason D. Guinasso, Esq.
GEMS General Counsel

Michael Taack
GEMS Assistant Principal and Trustee