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STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: Nevada State Public Charter School Authority Board
FROM: Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy
DATE: March 4, 2024
CC: Shubham Pandey

Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy Nevada (PTAAN) was approved to operate a charter school at the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority Board Meeting on August 25, 2023. The school planned to open in grades K-8 (257 students) and grow to serve grades K-12 (1478 students). PTAAN is a Clark County charter school with a proposed location in the 89107, 89108, 89030, 89106, 89130, or 89084 zip codes. The mission of PTAAN is to empower and engage students, especially underserved and underrepresented populations, to reach their full potential as global leaders who enhance their communities and the world through an inquiry-based STEM/STEAM curriculum that emphasizes creativity, collaboration, and innovation. The vision of PTAAN is to:

- Become a global leader in STEAM education
- Prepare all students for success in post-secondary education
- Increase the diversity of student earning STEAM degrees and entering STEAM professions
- Increase the diversity of students earning STEAM degrees and entering STEAM professions
- Ensure that all members of our community make positive contributions to the world around them

On February 12, 2024, the PTAAN board of directors voted to defer opening for one year after not being able to find adequate facilities in the desired zip codes. The board voted unanimously to defer opening until the 25-26 school year.

Summary and Recommendation:

SPCSA staff has been in close communication with leadership of PTAAN over the past several months to monitor the identification of a facility. Given the difficulties identifying the appropriate facility and its impact on potential student enrollment, SPCSA staff feels that a deferred opening to the 2025-26 school year is the best option for the viability of the school.

Proposed Motion:

Approve the request of Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy Nevada to defer the school’s opening to the 2025-26 school year, and require the school to complete the pre-opening process and fulfill all outstanding, unique conditions attached to the school’s approval from August 2023.

Outstanding Unique Conditions to be Fulfilled:

- Submit a fully executed lease for a facility that will meet the needs of the school for the 2024-25 school year located in one of the following zip codes: 89107, 89108, 89030, 89106, 89130, or 89084.
- Provide an update regarding the academic, organizational, and financial performance of all other PTAA affiliated schools in September of each year through 2025.
- Provide evidence of partnership with colleges or universities to offer dual credit programs in compliance with NRS 389.310. 5.
- Complete the SPCSA pre-opening process for new charter schools.

If the deferral request is approved, the enrollment caps for Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy Nevada are as follows:

School Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Total Enrollment Cap	655	1108	1254	1382	1478
Grade Levels	K-9	K-10	K-11	K-12	K-12