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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Student Representation on the SPCSA Board, UPDATE
DATE: June 21, 2024

The SPCSA leadership team would like to propose having student representation on the SPCSA board. This would be a non-voting position. Having a student representative on the State Public Charter School board offers the significant advantage of incorporating a direct, authentic student perspective into our processes. Students—the primary stakeholders in the educational system—provide unique insights into the effectiveness of teaching methodologies, the relevance of curricular content, and the overall school environment. Their firsthand experience can benefit the board, ultimately leading to a more responsive and effective education system.

Additionally, serving on a state charter school authorizing board, the SPCSA board offers numerous advantages to the potential student representative. First, it provides a valuable opportunity for civic engagement and practical education in governance, enhancing their understanding of how educational policies are formulated and implemented. This experience can cultivate leadership skills, critical thinking, and public speaking abilities, which are beneficial for personal and professional development.

The role can also significantly broaden the student's network, connecting them with influential figures in education and government. This can open doors to future opportunities in various fields, including public service and education administration. Board membership adds a distinguished element to a student's resume, showcasing their commitment to community involvement and leadership at a young age.

Finally, this position allows the student to actively contribute to shaping the educational landscape, instilling a sense of accomplishment and empowerment. It fosters a deeper connection

to their community as they directly participate in making decisions that affect their peers and future students.

We are recommending the following, but are, of course, open to suggestions:

- For the first cycle, open the application window in July 2024 with an August 2024, deadline and a September 2024 start date. Subsequent cycles the application will open in the spring, close before school gets out, and have an August start date.
- Applicants must be a junior or a senior attending an SPCSA sponsored charter school in Nevada.
- Applicants must submit a letter of good standing signed by their school principal.
- The SPCSA leadership team and either the board chair or vice chair select the student representative based on the written application.

Application questions to include:

- Name
- Year of Graduation
- School Name
- Provide a resume and personal statement explaining why you want to serve on the SPCSA board.

Possible Motion: Approve moving forward with a student representative on the SPCSA board beginning in the fall of 2024.