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STATE OF NEVADA

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STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Authority Board
FROM: Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Approval of Opening Requirements for Schools Deferred Until 2024-2025
DATE: August 23, 2024

Background:

As the Authority is aware, three schools that were previously approved to open for the 2024 – 2025 school year voted to defer their opening until the 2025 – 2026 school year: Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy Nevada (PTAAN), Rooted School Las Vegas (Rooted), and Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence (DBAE). In order to ensure that each charter school’s governing board and the SPCSA board have timely information relevant to the successful opening of each school in 2025, SPCSA staff is recommending the Authority board adopt enrollment and facility targets each school must meet in order to open. If a school is unable to meet any one of these targets by the deadline, the charter school will not be approved to open and must submit another charter application and be approved again by the SPCSA board. Information regarding each of the three schools can be found below.

a. Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy Nevada:

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 to the 2025 –2026 school year due to difficulty in identifying an adequate facility in the desired zip codes. Their board unanimously approved the deferral. On April 12, 2024, the SPCSA board voted to approve the deferral.

Proposed Motion:

Require the following conditions for Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy Nevada to open in the 2025 – 2026 school year:

- **By June 1, 2025, provide evidence that PTAAN has 100 or more students fully enrolled for the 2025 –2026 school year.**
- **By June 1, 2025, submit a fully executed lease for a facility that will meet the needs of the school for the 2025 – 2026 school year located in one of the following zip codes: 89107, 89108, 89030, 89106, 89130, or 89084.**
- **By June 8, 2025, submit a board approved Final Budget that includes revenue based upon the confirmed enrollment and expenses that incorporate the cost of the identified facility.**
- **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.**

b. Rooted School Las Vegas:

Rooted School Las Vegas (Rooted) was approved on resubmission by the SPCSA Board at the November 18, 2022, board meeting to open in the fall of 2023. The school planned to open in grades 9-10 (180 students) and grow to serve grades 9-12 (360 students). Rooted is a Clark County charter school proposing to serve students in the 89115, 89110, 89156, and 89101 zip codes. The mission of Rooted is to rapidly reduce America’s wealth gap by connecting underserved and talented teenagers with career and financial pathways. At the SPCSA board meeting on June 23, 2023, Rooted requested to defer opening to the 2024 – 2025 school year due to low enrollment, challenges in building community partnerships, and a shorter planning year

after being approved on resubmission. At the SPCSA board meeting on July 26, 2024, Rooted requested to defer opening to the 2025 – 2026 school year due to low enrollment, staff turnover, and ongoing facility construction.

Proposed Motion:

Require the following conditions for Rooted School Las Vegas to open in the 2025 – 2026 school year:

- **By June 1, 2025, provide evidence that Rooted has 90 or more students fully enrolled for the 2025 –2026 school year.**
- **By June 1, 2025, submit a fully executed lease for a facility that will meet the needs of the school for the 2025 – 2026 school year located in one of the following zip codes: 89115, 89030, 89110, 89156, or 89101.**
- **By June 8, 2025, submit a board approved Final Budget that includes revenue based upon the confirmed enrollment and expenses that incorporate the cost of the identified facility.**
- **Complete the SPCSA pre-opening process for new charter schools.**

c. Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence (DBAE)

Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence (DBAE) 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-2 and 5 (280 students) and grow to serve K-8 (630 students). DBAE is a Clark County charter school with a proposed location in the 89030, 89031, 89032, or 89081 zip codes. The mission of DBAE is to give students a space to cultivate creativity, become change-makers, achieve academic excellence, and broaden their perspectives through providing quality performing arts and arts-integrated education for K-8 grade students in North Las Vegas. The vision of DBAE is for students at the Do & Be School of Excellence to create the world they envision. At the SPCSA board meeting on July 26, 2024, DBAE requested to defer opening to the 2025 – 2026 school year due to low enrollment and ongoing struggles to identify and occupy an appropriate facility.

Proposed Motion:

Require the following conditions for Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence to open in the 2025 – 2026 school year:

- **By June 1, 2025, provide evidence that DBAE has 60 or more students fully enrolled for the 2025 –2026 school year.**
- **By June 1, 2025, submit a fully executed lease for a facility that will meet the needs of the school for the 2025 – 2026 school year located in one of the following zip codes: 89030, 89031, 89032, or 89081.**
- **By June 8, 2025, submit a board approved Final Budget that includes revenue based upon the confirmed enrollment and expenses that incorporate the cost of the identified facility.**
- **Complete the SPCSA pre-opening process for new charter schools.**

