

Teresa Potter

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Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 8:17 PM
To: SPCSA Public Comment
Subject: NECCA Academy

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My name is Tailor Cardenas and I am writing in support of Necca Academy.

I've lived in North Las Vegas most of my life. I am probably not the type of person you expect to hear from for a new charter school, and to be honest, this is hard to write.

I am 25 years old and never earned my high school diploma. I really regret it. Not having that diploma sets me back from things I want to do now. But at the time, I didn't know any better and was just trying to survive. I grew up in a one-parent household with my dad and he was constantly working and we were constantly moving. I didn't have anyone to support me or show me the importance of school. And school certainly wasn't something I looked forward to or considered fun... especially in the neighborhood where I lived. The older I got, the more anxiety I had to go to school. Eventually I fell too far behind and just dropped out.

When I heard about Necca Academy, and this idea that they don't give up on kids and they meet them where they're at - and that they help kids figure out confidence and their own path - I thought - I wished this was around when I was in high school. I've talked with one of the team members a LOT about the program and its goals and potential challenges. I think it's really amazing what they are trying to do. I just wish it was done a long time ago. I know I'm smart and I know I'm capable. At that time in my life though, I just needed somebody who didn't give up on me.

When I first heard of the school... I just wanted to help. I volunteered as part of the "Feet on the Street" team who talked to families and got enrollment forms from family members. I met a few other Necca team members at places like Craig Ranch Park, Lorenzi Park and area shopping centers and just talk with families. We wore shirts that said "Petition for Better Education" and people would literally flock to us. I think only 100 signatures were needed and we got over 300. Families in our neighborhood NEED options. It's not that we aren't capable - we just get lost in the shuffle.

I hope that you will consider Necca Academy for approval. Our community deserves it.

Tailor Cardenes
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