

## Teresa Potter

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**From:** Meyers, Richard (EXTERNAL) <Richard.Meyers@nissan-usa.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 22, 2024 7:02 PM  
**To:** SPCSA Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public Response to SPCSA Application - Necca Academy

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Dear Members of the Board of Trustees,

My name is Rick Meyers, I am a Manufacturing Network and Infrastructures Project Manager for Nissan North Americas. I recently moved to Las Vegas from Nashville, TN, where early college programs (9th - 12th grade) are integrated into our education system in various forms and serving various students populations. Throughout Nashville and surrounding areas, it doesn't matter if students are located in a lower income community or an affluent one, these programs are consistently in the news and other media outlets for having higher academic achievement over their districts.

I am writing in support of Necca Academy, and have had recent discussions surrounding the potential denial of the proposed Necca Academy Dual Enrollment Charter High School. While the team is definitely disappointed by this recommendation, I am impressed at how eager this team is to try and dive into the feedback, understand it, and make the necessary changes to meet the high standards set by the charter authority.

The educational challenges in Las Vegas are well known, and coupled with inflation and higher costs of living, North Las Vegas has become a larger focal point for new comers and looks more and more appealing. However, education will continue to be a major holdup for families considering relocating due to lack of resources for their students. The two 5-star charter schools statistically account for perhaps 5% of the area high schools and are at capacity. I have had the great opportunity to see and visit with firsthand, the team responsible for this school, and see them come together and really develop an idea into what will be an incredible opportunity and reality. I truly believe Necca Academy is a much needed option for the surrounding community. I'm looking forward to seeing continued collaboration between Necca Academy and the charter authority to bring a much-needed, new option for high school to North Las Vegas.

Personally, I have had the privilege of serving on the Necca Academy volunteer team over the past year, which has primarily been centered around community outreach, business networking and even door knocking. Simply wearing a shirt that says "Petition for Better Education" - you wouldn't believe the number of families that would flock to us. We had opportunities to hear their stories, their frustrations and their needs. As part of boots-on-the-ground with community outreach, I was very caught of guard by the overall want, not just need, by the community to have a program that Necca Academy's foundation is built around. Students of all ethnicities, backgrounds, and grade levels were more than inquisitive about the potential offerings that Necca Academy will provide. Parents were in shock and were grateful that someone, or a group of people, saw the needs and wanted to improve their students' outcomes and futures with these offerings. Knowing this team, that feedback will continue to inspire their mission and enlighten their program.

At the request of Necca Academy's, given my professional area of expertise, I was willing to review the facility to which Necca Academy has secured. I have reviewed the internal infrastructure that was previously installed by the former tenants. The current infrastructure will require almost zero changes, and is able to be operational within hours of supporting equipment install. This applies to all communications, fire, and electrical infrastructure. Outside of the these infrastructures, the facility in is great shape and consistent with initial renderings for the ideal facility layout.

While I hold no position on the committees, or proposed board for Necca Academy, the team that has been brought together for this school and its community have great respect for, and knowledge of its surrounding area, to which they all currently serve or are entrenched in. The community demand and need are clear, more choices for quality high schools in the surrounding area Necca Academy will serve. The team that serves it, will be nothing short of everything this community demands and requires - both professionally and with a deep and genuine care for these students.

I thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your response and hope to work together to find a solution that serves the best interests of these students and the community.

Sincerely,  
Rick Meyers