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**ACTION MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** SPCSA Authority Board  
**FROM:** Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, SPCSA  
**SUBJECT:** Vegas Vista Academy – Charter Amendment Request to Relocate Facility  
**DATE:** November 15, 2024

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**Summary of Request and Recommendation**

Vegas Vista Academy (VVA) has submitted an amendment application requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption and approve the request to relocate its facility.

SPCSA staff has reviewed the application and recommends that the Authority grant the Good Cause Exemption and approve the amendment request. A proposed motion along with conditions can be found on page 4 of this memo.

**Background and Overview of the Amendment**

VVA is a public dual language charter school currently located at 5355 Madre Mesa Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89108. As of the 2024 Validation Day, VVA had 121 students in grades K – 3. According to the amendment application, VVA is seeking relocation because the new location, 4660 North Rancho Drive, will be the permanent facility for the school. VVA is currently leasing space at the Águilas CFC Church, 5355 Madre Mesa Drive at a rate of \$26,000/month. VVA plans on eventually growing to serve grades K-12 and the current facility is too small to accommodate the future needs of the school. Additionally, according to amendment application, the new facility, having previously housed a charter school, will be able to fully accommodate the full campus.

With the proposed move to the new facility, VVA does not contemplate an expansion in its currently approved enrollment cap. VVA also does not contemplate any changes to the school's mission, vision, or academic program. According to the amendment application, making this move will allow VVA to grow into, and fully develop, its academic model. The new campus will also allow VVA to further develop the experiential education component by providing

expanded space to build out facilities in conjunction with the school's needs. These include an expanded outdoor experiential garden, outdoor play and exploration space, a maker lab, an onsite gear closet, and others.

VVA also notes in their amendment application that the relocation to the new facility will not change the target communities and the school will continue serving families in the 89106, 89107, and 89108 zip codes. The new location will also allow VVA to directly serve the 89130 zip code. Additionally, VVA will work with VVA Family Organization (VVAFO) to spearhead a parent initiative to assist in beautification, repair, and cleaning of the new facility. VVAFO also indicated readiness to help engage the community through canvassing, tabling at events, and marketing to get the word out to the other zip codes about the school. Furthermore, according to the amendment, the VVA Board has been directly involved throughout the entire process including the Purchase Sale Agreement and Due Diligence to ensure the relocation can be implemented successfully in terms of operations and finances.

Finally, the relocation's timeline is still tentative at this point. According to VVA, they are hopeful the school will be able to move into the new facility by January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025. However, they are still working with their current landlord regarding the terms of the existing lease at 5355 Madre Mesa Drive and the outcome of those discussions may mean the school will remain at the 5355 Madre Mesa Drive through the end of the school year and the relocation would take place during the summer of 2025.

### **Legal Authority**

Existing charter schools that are sponsored by the SPCSA may submit a charter school contract amendment application to the SPCSA – which is reviewed by SPCSA staff and presented for SPCSA Board action – in order to, among other things, increase enrollment, add grade levels above and beyond what the charter school is approved to serve, or add a new campus. determining whether to approve an amendment request, the sponsor considers the charter school's compliance with applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations and evidence relating to the academics, finance and organization of the charter school. (See NAC 388A.400(8) and NRS 388A.276).

### **Analysis and Staff Recommendation**

When reviewing an amendment application for RFA eligibility, SPCSA staff reviews the academic, financial and organizational performance of the applicant charter school. VVA is in its first year of operation and has not been rated under the Academic, Organizational, or Financial frameworks but SPCSA staff has not identified any significant concerns that would prevent an recommendation for approval of this request.

SPCSA staff recommends the SPCSA board approve the request by VVA to relocate its facility to 4660 North Rancho Drive. VVA identifying and relocating to a permanent facility will allow the school to create stability for students, families, and staff members. Additionally, as noted above, the new facility will allow the school to continue to build upon its unique educational program and provide space for activities outside the classroom setting. The school provided a

budget that was reasonable and according to the school’s most recent board meeting, where the amendment request was approved, the school has also received both grant money and donations which will ensure financial viability as the school relocates to the new facility. SPCSA staff will continue to work with the school regarding the timeline of the move and adjust our pre-opening requirements in the event VVA remains at the current location through the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

**Proposed Motion: Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve Vegas Vista Academy’s request to relocate its facility to 4660 North Rancho Drive with the following conditions:**

- **That Vegas Vista Academy provides SPCSA staff with Certificate of Occupancy or Temporary Certificate of Occupancy demonstrating compliance with NRS 388A.360, which requires a school facility to be inspected at least 30 days prior to occupancy.**
- **That Vegas Vista Academy work with SPCSA staff to identify and complete pre-opening requirements that pertain to the occupation of the 4660 North Rancho Drive facility.**

The approved VVA’s enrollment cap for its charter is:

<b>School Year</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>	<b>2028-29</b>	<b>2029-30</b>
Grade Levels	K-3	K-5	K-8	K-9	K-10	K-11
Total Enrollment	200	300	450	500	550	600

- School Demographics** – N/A First Year of Operation
- Financial Performance** – N/A First Year of Operation
- Organizational Performance** – N/A First Year of Operation
- Academic Performance** – N/A First Year of Operation