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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing
Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III
SUBJECT: Transfer of Sponsorship: Delta Academy
DATE: January 24, 2025

Background and Summary

Delta Academy has applied to transfer charter school sponsorship from the Clark County School District (CCSD) to the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA). Delta Academy is a public charter school educating 1450 students in grades 6 – 12 in Clark County. Delta offers three instructional models: traditional, online and hybrid. In 2020, the Delta Academy High School program was approved by CCSD and NDE to be rated on the Alternative Performance Framework (APF).

The mission of the school is to provide a safe and nurturing instructional environment in which students from various backgrounds expand their knowledge base to fulfill academic and personal goals through differentiated instruction and reinforcement of positive character traits.

On September 30, 2024, Clark County School District approved Delta Academy’s request to change sponsorship to the SPCSA. On October 29, 2024, Delta submitted their Letter of Intent to apply for transfer, and the completed application was submitted to the SPCSA on November 24, 2024.

After a thorough review of the historical data and the Charter School Sponsorship Transfer Application, staff recommend that the Authority approve the charter sponsorship transfer of Delta Academy, and that the school be given a 3-year charter contract.

The Process Related to Charter School Sponsorship Transfer Application and the Standards Under Which an Application for Sponsorship Transfer Will be Granted

SPCSA staff began meeting with Clark County School District representatives and their charter schools in the spring of 2024 to discuss the transfer process and timelines. Schools were granted access to Epicenter to make operational decisions and determine if additional staffing was required to transfer to the SPCSA

successfully. The Authority approved the Charter School Sponsorship Application on August 23, 2024, and that information was shared with the CCSD Charter Schools. SPCSA staff met with Infinite Campus on September 3, 2024, to outline the necessary procedures to transfer the CCSD charter schools from the CCSD Infinite Campus to the SPCSA Infinite Campus. It was determined that if CCSD charter schools were going to transfer sponsorship in time for the 2025 –2026 school year, they would need to submit their applications by November 2024.

At least fourteen days before submitting their application, each charter school notified SPCSA staff of its intent to apply and identified a liaison. Schools submitted their board-approved application by November 24, 2024. Those applications included detailed narratives about the school's academic program and any achievement gaps in student outcomes, financial data, student demographics, family engagement, and the governing board. If the school contracts with a CMO or EMO, that information was also included. SPCSA staff gathered and reviewed each school's CCSD Performance Framework and site evaluation reports.

Final recommendations to the Authority are based on [R073-23](#), including evidence that the school is in sound financial condition and is meeting standards on the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) or that the request for change in sponsorship has been approved by the current sponsor. When determining charter school contract length, the following guidelines were used:

Term Length	Description
3-5 years	Inconsistently meets performance expectations
6 years	Consistently meets performance expectations
7-10 years	Exceeds performance expectations

The Authority Board may approve a charter contract for a term of three (3) to ten (10) years or deny the request for sponsorship transfer.

Analysis

Academics

Delta Academy offers instruction in 6th through 12th grade. The following table outlines the school's performance on the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF).

School Year	Middle School Index Score and Rating	High School Index Score and Rating
2018 – 2019	36.0 / 2-star	13.5 / 1-star
2019 – 2020	N/A	N/A
2020 – 2021	N/A	N/A
2021 – 2022	23.5 / Not Rated	19.5 / Not Rated
2022 – 2023	24.0 / 1-star	19.0 / 1-star
2023 – 2024	25.5 / 1-star	24.5 / 1-star

As the Authority is aware, due to COVID-19, NSPF school ratings and accountability for the 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021 school years were carried over from the 2018 – 2019 reporting year. Additionally, star ratings were not calculated for the 2021 – 2022 school year, but the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) published index scores. The NDE resumed calculating star ratings in the 2022 – 2023 school year.

Starting in the 2021-22 school year, Delta Academy was approved by the Nevada State Board of Education to be additionally rated on the Nevada Alternative Performance Framework, receiving the following ratings.

School Year	Alternative Performance Framework Ratings
2021 – 2022	Improving or Maintaining in 9 of 13 categories
2022 – 2023	Improving or Maintaining in 8 of 12 categories
2023 – 2024	Improving or Maintaining in 11 of 14 categories

Delta Academy received the following CCSD Academic Performance Framework ratings.

School Year	Academic Performance Ratings
2018 – 2019	Falls Far Below
2019 – 2020	N/A
2020 – 2021	N/A
2021 – 2022	Falls Far Below
2022 – 2023	Falls Far Below
2023 – 2024	Falls Far Below

Organizational

Delta Academy received the following CCSD Organizational Performance Framework ratings.

School Year	Organizational Performance Ratings
2018 – 2019	Meets Standard
2019 – 2020	Meets Standard
2020 – 2021	Does Not Meet Standard
2021 – 2022	Meets Standard
2022 – 2023	Meets Standard
2023 – 2024	Meets Standard

Financial

Delta Academy received the following CCSD Financial Performance Framework ratings.

School Year	Financial Performance Ratings
2018 – 2019	Meets Standard
2019 – 2020	Does Not Meet Standard
2020 – 2021	Does Not Meet Standard
2021 – 2022	Meets Standard
2022 – 2023	Meets Standard
2023 – 2024	Meets Standard

Site Evaluations

Clark County School District conducted a three-year charter school site evaluation during the 2019 – 2020 school year and a five-year charter school site evaluation during the 2021 – 2022 school year.

In the three-year charter school site evaluation report, the Delta Academy was found to have deficiencies in the academic component, per the agreed upon Clark County School District Charter School Performance Framework, during the 2017 – 2018 and 2018 – 2019 school years. Per the Sponsorship Guide, and the Clark County School District Charter School Performance Contract, the Clark County

School District Board of Trustees voted in 2019 to reconstitute the governing body of The Delta Academy charter school per Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 388A.330. Clark County School District worked closely with the Delta Academy Governing Board members to assist the school in academic achievement in the Charter School Performance Framework. On a monthly basis, Clark County School District staff met with school leadership to examine progress on the School Performance Plan and provide guidance and support.

In the five-year charter school site evaluation report, Delta Academy was found to have deficiencies in the academic, financial, and organizational components, per the agreed upon Charter School Performance Framework, during the 2017 – 2018, 2018 – 2019, 2019 – 2020, and 2020 – 2021 school years. The reconstitution stipulated that the school would improve its academic performance during the remainder of the charter contract. In 2018 – 2019, the school did improve its middle school performance from a 1-star to a 2-star rating on the NSPF. In 2020, the high school applied for, and was granted, placement on the Nevada Department of Education’s Alternative Performance Framework (APF). The Delta Academy was found to have deficiencies in their financial performance for the 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021 school years. The school was issued a Notice of Concern and a Notice of Breach per the Charter School Sponsorship Guide and the Charter Contract. The Delta Academy Governing Body submitted a Corrective Action Plan and continued to address financial deficiencies. The Delta Academy was found to have deficiencies in their Organizational performance for the 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021 school years. The school was issued a Notice of Concern and a Notice of Breach per the Charter School Sponsorship Guide and the Charter Contract. The Delta Academy Governing Body submitted a Corrective Action Plan and continued to address organizational deficiencies.

Governing Board

As part of the review of the application, SPCSA staff reviewed the make-up of Delta Academy’s governing board. The board currently has five members and is in compliance with the board membership requirements outlined in [NRS 388A.320](#). A board member roster has been included with the supporting documents posted with this agenda item.

Proposed Motion

Approve the Delta Academy application to transfer charter school sponsorship from Clark County School District to the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority with a 3-year charter contract with the following condition and enrollment caps:

- 1. Delta Academy will work with SPCSA staff to review student enrollment as it pertains to eligibility for the Alternative Performance Framework.*

School Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Grade Levels	6-12	6-12	6-12
Enrollment	1460	1460	1460