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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing
Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III
SUBJECT: Transfer of Sponsorship: Innovations International Charter School
DATE: January 24, 2025

Background and Summary

Innovations International Charter School of Nevada (IICSN) has applied to transfer charter school sponsorship from the Clark County School District (CCSD) to the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA). IICSN is a brick-and-mortar public charter school that currently serves 652 students in kindergarten through 12th grade in Clark County.

The mission of the school is “Innovations Internation Charter School of Nevada provides a safe learning community, empowering responsible citizens for life”. The school fulfills its mission by “educating for life”. This concept integrates the school’s inclusive model of learning, acknowledging that education encompasses skill development, character building, and differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all students and educators regardless of cultural backgrounds, family structures, learning abilities, financial stability, and language differences.

On September 26, 2024, Clark County School District approved Innovations International Charter School of Nevada’s request to change sponsorship to the SPCSA. On November 6, 2024, IICSN submitted their Letter of Intent to apply for transfer, and the completed application was submitted to the SPCSA on November 20, 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 Innovations International Charter School of Nevada, 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

Innovations International Charter School of Nevada offers instruction in kindergarten through 12th grade. The following table outlines the school's performance on the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF).

School Year	Elementary School Index Score and Rating	Middle School Index Score and Rating	High School Index Score and Rating
2018 – 2019	54.0 / 3-star	51.5 / 3-star	58.5 / 3-star
2019 – 2020	N/A	N/A	N/A
2020 – 2021	N/A	N/A	N/A
2021 – 2022	22.5 / Not Rated	15.0 / Not Rated	55.0 / Not Rated
2022 – 2023	27.0 / 2-star	39.0 / 2-star	56.0 / 3-star
2023 – 2024	24.0 / 1-star	23.0 / 1-star	60.5 / 3-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.

Innovations International Charter School of Nevada received the following CCSD Academic Performance Framework ratings.

School Year	Academic Performance Ratings
2018 – 2019	Meets Standards
2019 – 2020	Meets Standards
2020 – 2021	Does Not Meet Standards
2021 – 2022	N/A
2022 – 2023	Does Not Meet Standards
2023 – 2024	Falls Below Standards

Organizational

Innovations International Charter School of Nevada received the following CCSD Organizational Performance Framework ratings.

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

Financial

Innovations International Charter School of Nevada received the following CCSD Financial Performance Framework ratings.

School Year	Financial Performance Ratings
2018 – 2019	Falls Below Standards
2019 – 2020	Falls Below Standards
2020 – 2021	Falls Below Standards
2021 – 2022	Does Not Meet Standards
2022 – 2023	Does Not Meet Standards
2023 – 2024	Does Not Meet Standards

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, Innovations International Charter School of Nevada was found to have deficiencies in the financial performance framework. This deficiency was due to miscalculations in the state funding revenue formula which adversely affected the school’s ability to maintain a balanced budget. The school took action to remedy the situation and was on an upward trajectory toward financial stability. Additionally, the school did not meet standard on the academic

component for the 2017 – 2018 school year and was issued a Notice of Concern; although, the school did improve academic performance in the 2018 – 2019 school year. CCSD indicated that they continued to monitor the school’s financial plan and work with the school to maintain and improve student achievement.

In the five-year charter school site evaluation report, Innovations International Charter School of Nevada was found to have deficiencies in the academic, financial, and organizational components of the performance framework. This report also acknowledged the 2-star rating received by the school during the 2017 – 2018 school year and noted the improvement to 3-star during the 2018 – 2019 school year. Deficiencies in the financial and organizational performance frameworks were noted but no detail was provided. The report indicated that CCSD continued to work closely with the school’s governing board members to assist the school in improving all areas of the performance framework.

Governing Board

As part of the review of the application, SPCSA staff reviewed the make-up of Innovations International Charter School of Nevada’s governing board. The board currently has eight 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 Innovations International Charter School of Nevada 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 enrollment caps:

School Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Grade Levels	K-12	K-12	K-12
Enrollment	665	665	665