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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing
Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III
SUBJECT: Transfer of Sponsorship: Rainbow Dreams Early Learning Academy Charter School
DATE: January 24, 2025

Background and Summary

Rainbow Dreams Early Learning Academy (RDELA) has applied to transfer charter school sponsorship from the Clark County School District (CCSD) to the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA). REDELA is a brick-and-mortar public charter school that currently serves 231 students in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten in Clark County.

The mission of the school is “to provide a firm educational foundation while encouraging diversity, equity, and cultural appreciation.” The primary focus of the RDELA is to work with the at-risk and underserved early learning population of Las Vegas. The school’s innovative practices ensure a high-quality, inclusive educational experience for young learners, emphasizing collaboration between educators, families, and the broader community to foster success.

On November 10, 2024, RDELA 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 Rainbow Dreams Early Learning 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

Rainbow Dreams Early Learning Academy offers instruction in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten. Prior to the 2019 – 2020 school year, they offered instruction in kindergarten through 8th 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
2018 – 2019	24.4 / 1-star	22.2 / 1-star
2019 – 2020	N/A	Closed
2020 – 2021	N/A	
2021 – 2022	0.0 / Not Rated	
2022 – 2023	0.0 / Not Rated	
2023 – 2024	10.0 / Not Rated	

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.

Rainbow Dreams Early Learning Academy received the following CCSD Academic Performance Framework ratings.

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

Organizational

Rainbow Dreams Early Learning Academy received the following CCSD Organizational Performance Framework ratings.

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

Financial

Rainbow Dreams Early Learning Academy received the following CCSD Financial Performance Framework ratings.

School Year	Financial Performance Ratings
2018 – 2019	Does Not Meet Standards
2019 – 2020	Does Not Meet Standards
2020 – 2021	Falls Below Standards
2021 – 2022	Falls Below 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, Rainbow Dreams Early Learning Academy was found to have deficiencies in the academic, financial, and organizational and operational components of the performance framework. The school was placed on a Notice of Breach and required to create a plan to remedy the deficiencies. The plan included hiring a new school principal to assist in improving all three performance areas. Additionally, the governing board renegotiated financial agreements to improve the

area of school finance. CCSD indicated that they would continue to meet with school leadership to examine progress and provide guidance and support.

In the five-year charter school site evaluation report, Rainbow Dreams Early Learning Academy was found to have deficiencies in the academic, financial, and organizational components of the performance framework. The school was placed on a mandated remediation plan and requested to eliminate services to 1st through 8th grade. They changed the mission of the school to only serve pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students. For the 2020 – 2021 school year, Rainbow Dreams Early Learning Academy was issued a Notice of Breach for a financial deficiency based upon the school owing an outstanding debt to the Nevada Department of Education for \$163,235. The school also had deficiencies in their organizational performance, but no additional detail was provided. CCSD indicated that they planned to continue working closely with the members of the school’s governing body to assist in improving in all areas of the performance framework.

Governing Board

As part of the review of the application, SPCSA staff reviewed the make-up of Rainbow Dream Academy’s governing board. The board currently has nine 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 Rainbow Dreams Early Learning 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. Rainbow Dreams Early Learning Academy will work with SPCSA staff on developing metrics on which to measure and analyze the school’s academic performance.*

School Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Grade Levels	K	K	K
Enrollment	80	80	80

*The school has a contract with the Clark County Board of Commissioners to provide pre-kindergarten for up to 220 students.