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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Authority Board
FROM: Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, SPCSA
SUBJECT: **Vegas Vista Academy – Charter Amendment Request to Relocate Facility**
DATE: January 24, 2025

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 reduce the enrollment cap and modify the grade level growth for its first charter term.

SPCSA staff has reviewed the application and recommends that the Authority grant the Good Cause Exemption and approve the amendment request. A proposed motion can be found on page 3 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 to make this change because the initial targeted grade levels were not fully met in Year 1. Since that time, VVA has continued to have a better understanding of the community and continues to work to enroll students through marketing and community outreach. Based on this better understanding of the community the school serves, VVA is also requesting to modify its grade level growth to a slower more intentional addition of grade levels over a longer period of time. This slower grade level growth will allow the school to build out the lower grade levels with more robust enrollment which will allow the school to be better positioned for the high school grades in future years.

VVA was approved to purchase a permanent facility at the November 2024 Authority Board meeting and plans to begin operations in that facility at the start of the 2025-26 school year. The financing for the purchase of the new facility was done through a Bond process and requirements of the bond were that VVA adjust targeted enrollment caps to align to best

projections as well as with the approved zoning and permitting of the facility. The changes VVA are requesting have already been approved as part of the Bond, and VVA is requesting to adjust its charter contract to match the new projections.

Additionally, according to the budget narrative provided, as part of the amended budget, VVA notes that despite falling short of their enrollment target for the year, the school has been able to adequately earmark the resources at its disposal to ensure that it is able to carry out its duties and meet the needs of its student body. One-time funding (including both the CSP Grant and the funds received at bond financing closing) have provided a significant boost to the financial health of the school in its first year.

Finally, according to the amendment application, VVA continues to actively engage its community. The VVA Family Organization has assisted and is helping to run engagement events and recruit for the school.

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 reduce its enrollment cap for the 2024-25 school year and for future school years as well and to modify grade level growth in future school years. As noted previously, the school continues to engage its community through events and marketing and has been able to utilize both CSP funds and bond financing to ensure the school stays true to its mission and model. Additionally, the school will be moving into its permanent facility beginning next school year and SPCSA staff would note that when schools are able to operate out of their permanent facility, the stability that creates goes a long way in helping meet enrollment projections.

Finally, in regard to the modification of the grade level growth. VVA originally intended to add multiple grade levels for each year of their charter term. VVA noted in their amendment application that after they have gained a better understanding of their community, the proposed

grade level expansion they proposed as part of their initial charter application would not be the most optimal way to build enrollment that would be both achievable or realistic. The modification to the grade level increase to add a single grade each year after the 2025-26 school year will allow the school to use matriculation of students each year to meet their enrollment projections in a more realistic manner and SPCSA staff finds this plan to be more reasonable and attainable. Thus, SPCSA staff is in support of this modification as well.

Proposed Motion: Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve Vegas Vista Academy’s request to reduce its enrollment cap for the 2024-25 school year and future school years and to modify grade level increase as detailed in the amendment application.

If approved, VVA’s enrollment cap for its charter will be:

School Year	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Grade Levels	K-3	K-5	K-6	K-7	K-8	K-9
Total Enrollment	120	314	444	510	576	642

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

School Year	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Grade Levels	K-3	K-5	K-8	K-9	K-10	K-11
Total Enrollment	240	360	540	600	660	720

- 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