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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Authority Board
FROM: Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, SPCSA
SUBJECT: Nevada State High School - Meadowwood – Charter Amendment Request to Reduce Enrollment Cap
DATE: March 7, 2025

Summary of Request and Recommendation

Nevada State High School Meadowwood (NSHS) has submitted an amendment application requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption and approve the school reduce its enrollment cap across all campuses.

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 of 4 this memo.

Background and Overview of the Amendment

NSHS is a college-prep public charter school that serves students in grades 11-12 across eight campuses in Washoe County. NSHS’s mission is to support students in a college environment with personal, academic, and social skills. The core purpose of NSHS is to provide opportunities for students’ success in a real college environment. As of the 2024 Validation Day, NSHS had 12 students enrolled.

According to the amendment application, NSHS is requesting to reduce its approved enrollment cap for the 2024-2025 school year. NSHS requests additional reductions in subsequent years for campuses which are detailed in the table below. If approved, the enrollment caps for the NSHS campuses would be:

School Year	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Total Enrollment	13	30	40	50	60

According to the amendment application, NSHS is seeking to make the requested changes to align to the current and projected enrollment counts, for this year and beyond. NSHS listed several efforts to increase enrollment in the coming years. According to the amendment application, those efforts include:

- In October 2024, the NSHS Governing Body approved a one-time budget investment in brand awareness and marketing for the 2024-2025 school year for a total marketing budget of \$200,000.
- NSHS has implemented incremental improvements in the application process which have resulted in a 15% increase in application conversions.
- NSHS has contracted with a media production company to create high-quality video commercials to be used in a variety of formats and locations, including but not limited to advertisements on online video streaming services and online social media platforms.
- NSHS continues to advertise on social media platforms and search engines, including Facebook, Instagram, Google search and Tik-Tok.
- NSHS has contracted with the RTC to place advertising on buses and in bus shelters across the Las Vegas valley, focusing heavily in neighborhood areas that are traditionally underserved.
- NSHS has campaigns established for digital advertising on electronic billboards.
- NSHS is averaging one grassroots community/marketing event weekly to engage potential students and build brand awareness.
- NSHS installed colorful, engaging window wraps at campuses to increase conversion from foot traffic.

NSHS explained in the application that NSHS does not rely on grants/donations/fundraising to maintain its budget. Budget assumptions are generally based upon 5% YOY. Enrollment is not anticipated to impact staffing as the school bases staffing on actual enrollment and not enrollment caps.

Legal Authority and Requirements Related to Amendment Requests

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. When 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.¹

Analysis and Staff Recommendation

When reviewing an amendment application, SPCSA staff reviews the academic, financial and

¹ NAC 388A.400(8) and NRS 388A.276.

organizational performance of the applicant charter school. In the case of NSHS Meadowwood, SPCSA staff finds the school to be meeting academic, financial and organizational performance expectations. NSHS has maintained strong academic performance as evidenced by the NSPF rating. NSHS Meadowwood a 5-star rating according to the most recent NSPF ratings and was also found to be exceeding standards on the 2023 – 24 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Additionally, the NSHS earned 100 points (out of 100) under the SPCSA Organizational Performance Framework for the 2023 – 24 school year as approved by the Authority on October 7, 2024. As such, SPCSA staff finds the school to be ‘Meeting Standards.’ NSHS has also been found to ‘Meet the Standards’ on the most recent 2023 SPCSA Financial Performance Framework.

SPCSA staff is supportive of the request by NSHS. SPCSA staff does have concern regarding the trajectory of enrollment at the Meadowwood campus and has been in discussion with the school regarding its efforts to increase enrollment in Washoe County. SPCSA staff does note that NSHS has increased marketing efforts to increase enrollment but staff will continue to monitor the Meadowwood campus closely.

Proposed Motion: Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve NSHS Meadowwood’s request to reduce its approved enrollment cap for the for the 2024-2025 school year and to reduce enrollment caps in the remainder of the charter term as detailed in this recommendation memo.

If approved, the enrollment cap for the NSHS Meadowwood campus will be as follows for the remainder of the charter term:

School Year	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Total Enrollment	13	30	40	50	60

The current, approved, enrollment cap for the NSHS Meadowwood is:

School Year	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Grade Levels	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12	11-12
Total Enrollment	50	53	56	59	59

School Demographics change since 2018 – Nevada State High School Meadowwood

Nevada State High School Meadowwood

Year	Enrollment	A	B	C	H	I	M	P	IEP	ELL	FRL
18-19	26	3.8%	0.0%	69.2%	15.3%	0.0%	7.6%	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%	46.1%
19-20	55	3.6%	0.0%	65.4%	21.8%	0.0%	7.2%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	21.8%
20-21	68	10.2%	0.0%	60.2%	11.7%	1.4%	13.2%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	*
21-22	50	6.0%	2.0%	54.0%	18%	2.0%	12.0%	6%	*	0.0%	*
22-23	34	8.8%	0.0%	58.8%	29.4%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	*
23-24	30	6.6%	0.0%	50.0%	40.0%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%
24-25	12	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	33.3%	0.0%	8.4%	8.3%	*	*	*

- A – Asian
- B – Black
- C – Caucasian
- H – Hispanic
- I – American Indian/Alaskan Native
- M – Two or more races
- P – Pacific Islander
- IEP – Individualized Education Plan – A student with a disability/special education student
- ELL – English Language Learner
- FRL – A student who qualifies for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch

Nevada State High School Financial Performance

Year	Rating
2019 – 2020	Meets the Standard
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard
2021 – 2022	Meets the Standard
2022 – 2023	Meets the Standard

Nevada State High School Organizational Performance

Year	Rating
2019 – 2020	Meets the Standard
2020 – 2021	Meets the Standard
2021 – 2022	Meets the Standard
2022 – 2023	Meets the Standard

2023 – 2024	Meets the Standard
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Nevada State High School Academic Performance

School Year	NSPF Rating
2023 – 2024 Star Rating	Meadowwood: 5-stars
2022 – 2023 Star Rating	Meadowwood: 5-stars
2021 – 2022 Index Score	Meadowwood HS: 86.5
2020 – 2021 ²	Not Rated
2019 – 2020 ³	Not Rated
2018 – 2019	Not Rated

Nevada State High School 2023-24 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results

Campus	2023-24 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2023-24 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
NSHS Meadowwood	90	EXCEEDS STANDARD

Nevada State High School 2022-23 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results

Campus	2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2022-23 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
NSHS Meadowwood	89	EXCEEDS STANDARD

Nevada State High School 2021-22 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework Results⁴

Campus	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Score	2021-22 SPCSA Academic Framework Rating
NSHS Meadowwood	86.5	EXCEEDS STANDARD

² Due to COVID-19, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) applied for and was granted a 2020-21 school year waiver from the U.S. Department of Education for certain requirements established by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Nevada statewide assessments were administered in the 2020-21 school year, but the NDE did not calculate new Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) school ratings for the 2020-21 school year.

³ Due to COVID-19, the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) applied for and was granted a 2019 – 20 school year waiver from the US Department of Education for certain assessment, accountability, school identification, and reporting requirements established by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Accordingly, for the 2019 – 20 school year, Nevada statewide assessments were not administered and the NDE did not calculate Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) school ratings

⁴ The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) calculated NSPF index scores for the 2021-22 school year but did not calculate corresponding star ratings (shown as N/A). 2021-22 NSPF details and rules can be found at: <http://nevadareportcard.nv.gov/DI/MoreDownload?filename=Nevada%20School%20Performance%20Framework%20Manual%202021-22%20School%20Year.pdf>