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June 3, 2020

Mr. Nick Johnson  
City of Bloomington  
1800 West Old Shakopee Road  
Bloomington, MN 55431-3027

**Via Email at  
[nmjohnson@bloomingtonmn.gov](mailto:nmjohnson@bloomingtonmn.gov)**

Re: Success Academy – DRC Submittal – Hybrid Learning Expansion

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This firm represents Success Academy Charter School (“Success Academy”), located at 8201 Park Avenue (“Campus”) in the City of Bloomington (“City”). Success Academy is seeking to amend its existing conditional use permit for 130 students to increase enrollment by an additional 50 hybrid middle school (“Hybrid Program”) students, in addition to constructing a 692 square-foot greenhouse addition on the south end of the school building. Please accept the enclosed documents as submittal for the City’s Development Review Committee (DRC).

The Hybrid Program is a curriculum authorized under Minnesota Statutes Section 124D.095, subd. 4 that will implement a 4 days on-campus/1 day off-campus education model. Hybrid Program students will attend Campus Monday-Thursday from 7:15 AM-2:30 PM. On Fridays, Hybrid Program students will attend virtual classes online from 7:15 AM to 11:30AM, resulting in no increase in students on Fridays, when traffic on-site is highest.

The enclosed narrative provides additional details regarding the Hybrid Program. Please contact me with any questions about this letter or the enclosed materials.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Steen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jacob W. Steen, for  
Larkin Hoffman

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cc: Magdy Rabeaa, Success Academy

**CASE #PL2020-94**  
**Success Academy Charter School**

8201 Park Avenue  
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420



**Success Academy – Proposed Middle School Hybrid Learning Expansion (2020-2021)**

**Success Academy Charter School mission:** The Mission of Success Academy is to prepare students to become excellent questioners, scientific thinkers and responsible citizens. Students will work respectfully and collaboratively applying scientific, technological, and mathematical concepts to develop a strong work ethic and critical thinking skills needed to solve problems in the real world and to prepare them for future academic success.

**Success Academy Charter School vision:** The vision of Success Academy Charter School is to embrace multidisciplinary and blended curriculum with an emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics to provide a challenging learning environment that values creativity, diversity, and multiculturalism to prepare its students for life-long learning, collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving.

**Background and Overview:** Success Academy will start its fifth year of operations in August 2020. The school is located at 8201 Park Ave. S. in Bloomington. The school started in its current location with an initial approved student enrollment of 60 students and has increased enrollment to 80 students and then to 130 students for the 2019-2020 school year.

Success Academy is conscious of the concerns about traffic on the residential streets where the school is located. The school has added several mitigation measures to reduce impacts, including an entrance to the parking lot, a one-way directional traffic system within the parking lot; and a dedicated individual directing traffic in the lot on Fridays when there is increased traffic due to worship activities at the Mosque on-site.

Since it relocated to the property, Success Academy has been receiving requests from the community to change the grade levels that the school serves from K-6 to K-8. In order to accommodate the demand for increased enrollment, in 2018 we received approval from the City to allow up to 130 students. For the 2019-2020 school year the enrollment was consistently between 125 and 130.

The school is seeking to amend its CUP and expand the school to middle school grades, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, with an increased enrollment of an additional 50 students. In order to accommodate the increased enrollment without causing traffic congestion, school leadership has developed a hybrid learning plan that will result in no increase in the number of students in the building on Friday, the busiest day for traffic each week.

**Success Academy Hybrid Middle School Format:**

In accordance with Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) hybrid education guidelines, Success Academy proposes a hybrid middle school model for the school year, with a minimum of 50 hybrid middle school students grades 6-8, for a total of 180 students school-wide. Hybrid students will have a traditional school day Monday – Thursday with class from 7:15 AM–2:30 PM. On Fridays, middle school teachers will deliver hybrid education in online virtual classes from 7:15 AM–11:30 AM. Attendances

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will be taken as normal Monday – Friday in accordance with state guidelines, with hybrid attendance based on student participation in online sessions and assignment completion.

A virtual class is defined as a distance learning program in which students work at home on assigned classwork. Teachers connect with students throughout the morning via ZOOM or Google Meets to check in, present lessons, and to assist students as needed. As with traditional learning, attendance is taken and students are responsible to return work to their teacher virtually or on the following Monday. In addition, students will be assigned work in an online learning program that can be self-paced, allowing for them to advance at their own rate.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Success Academy was forced to develop and implement a distance learning model that met the needs of students. Success Academy has determined that a distance learning hybrid model can be beneficial to middle school students without the need to attend campus five days a week. It is important to note that the hybrid middle school learning proposed is a permanent curriculum at the school that will continue beyond the COVID-19 pandemic even after Success Academy returns to a traditional school schedule.

### **Are other schools using a hybrid model?**

The hybrid model as described above is used in schools across the United States, especially at the middle and high school level. Some districts use the model to save the cost of transportation of students, reducing busses down to three or four days a week. Other districts use the hybrid model to encourage middle and high school students to take initiative for their own learning and for them to pursue learning at their own pace. In all situations, however, this model is supported by a teacher working from school or home to motivate and assist students.

Locally, Cybervillage Academy Charter School uses a hybrid model. Their K – 5 program operates on a 3 days in-school and 2 days online program. Cybervillage approaches this model from the perspective of serving all students in ways that they are comfortable, allowing them to pursue their individual interests in learning.

As a result of successes experienced during the recent distance learning necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, other districts are considering moving to this model as part of their student calendar year with either a three – two or two – three model.

**Curriculum:** Success Academy teachers in middle school grades will be using some or all of these online programs to assist with the Friday online program: ZOOM or Google Meet, iXL, Homeroom, Flipgrid, Newsela, Reading A to Z and others to be determined.

The school's English Language Learner instructor works in collaboration with the classroom teacher to review lessons for vocabulary instruction as well as other consultations. Special Education students in middle school grades will receive intervention services as written into the student's Individual Education Plan. Students who need support from contracted service providers will receive that support virtually.

Success Academy teachers use a Minnesota standards-based curriculum. For math, teachers use a combination of Go Math!, Eureka math and teacher made curriculum to help guide students. For language arts, Success Academy teachers use Journeys for comprehension, vocabulary and prosody. For writing the school uses Writable, a writing curriculum for grades 3 and up.

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**Access:** Students in middle school grades will be allowed to take home their laptops for the weekend to ensure access to our teachers on Fridays. The parent liaison already works with families to support their getting internet access if they do not already have it.

**How will we determine student success?** Success Academy teachers use daily formative assessment strategies to learn more about student progress to direct teaching. The content that is covered during the four “in school” days works hand in hand with the content covered during the hybrid learning days.