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**Charter Schools Division (CSD) Analysis of
San Diego Riverside Charter School (SDRCS) Renewal Condition Compliance
July 18, 2025, Public Education Commission (PEC) Meeting**

SDRCS received a memorandum from the CSD on April 17, 2025, outlining areas for improvement by the end of the school year. The PEC approved a compliance site visit at their April 25, 2025, meeting.

On June 23, 2025, Interim Director Dr. Brigitte Russell and Authorizing Administrator Lucy Valenzuela conducted the visit and reviewed each item with the school's head administrator, Joe Dan Lovato.

Proficiency or growth on interim assessment: The goal set in the renewal condition was 70% of students meeting proficiency or growth from beginning of year (BOY) to end of year (EOY) but because the previous administrator did not administer BOY, the PEC approved a target of 50% for middle of year (MOY) to EOY for the 2024-25 school year. SDRCS met that target, with 60.4% of students meeting the target in math and 52.8% meeting in reading. Students received significant math interventions after Mr. Lovato began his tenure. He has identified language as an ongoing challenge, which the school addressed by offering PED's Summer Literacy Program, with 20 SDRCS students participating.

Outcomes from strategic planning with PCSNM mentors: Mr. Lovato and the governing council have been working with two mentors from Public Charter Schools of New Mexico (PCSNM), Theresa Archuleta and Dr. Diego Gallegos. They have helped Mr. Lovato focus on compliance, school culture, internal systems, and building relationships with other charter leaders. SDRCS plans to continue the mentoring and strategic planning work with Ms. Archuleta and Dr. Gallegos in 2025-26.

LETRS training: The LETRS training has been most effective and supportive for the elementary teachers; the grade 2-3 teachers find this training effective as it gives them a different perspective on teaching. The downside to these trainings is that they are provided every Friday which is difficult because that is when the school holds PD for all staff. Mr. Lovato plans to attend specific training sessions offered for school leaders.

CLR Deep Dive Institute: Two teachers attended; this will be an ongoing practice for the school moving forward. For their first in-service day the two teachers that attended the training will train the rest of the school staff. The NMPED's Indian Education Division offered to do a cultural sensitivity training either during beginning of year PD or on one of their in-service dates.

Special Education Academy (winter & spring): The Special Education teacher attended the academy in the winter; she was unable to attend the spring session. Dr. Jenn Peña will be working SDRCS to provide additional support and training in 2025-26.

Charter School Testing Service data analysis: School staff and leader will continue to have strategic planning based on data.

Observations at identified high-performing charter schools: The proposed schools to visit were Solare Collegiate Charter School and Rio Grande Academy of Fine Arts (RioGAFA); due to logistical issues, Albuquerque Collegiate Charter School was substituted for RioGAFA. The Solare visit was highly successful, allowing SDR staff to observe classes and interact with teachers and students. However, the Albuquerque Collegiate visit proved challenging due to its unfamiliar school structure. The SDRCS team debriefed following the visits. Mr. Lovato intends to conduct monthly school visits in 2025-26, focusing on arts-integrated and bilingual schools.

Tutoring: Tutorfly provided tutoring on Tuesdays and Thursdays, one day was math focused and the other reading. The tutors were virtual and it was a 1:4 ratio. Tutorfly also piloted out of school tutoring with AI and this was successful. Especially for those introverted kids, they started communicating more. Mr. Lovato plans to use Tutorfly again this upcoming school year. The school was also awarded \$30,246 ([NMPED out of school time grant](#)). This funding will support Tutorfly as well as math, arts, and robotics.

English Learner support with Dr. Ayanna Cooper: Dr. Cooper has been a great help to SDR, training staff on interpreting ACCESS scores, suggesting student grouping strategies, reviewing student cumulative files (and identifying misreporting), and offering guidance on student exit procedures. SDRCS will continue its collaboration with Dr. Cooper in 2025-26.

Friday Staff PLCs: All are on record and the visiting team saw sign-in sheets which are also on file. For the upcoming school year Mr. Lovato plans to have calendared professional development days.

Teacher evaluation and feedback: Mr. Lovato has evaluated all teachers, and all have PDPs. He has been working with NM Elevate Liaison Monica Nuñez to resolve ongoing issues with the system. He may submit a waiver to use an in-house teacher evaluation system.

Recommendation: The CSD recommends continued annual reporting of interim assessment data for the remainder of the contract term. The school has fulfilled all requirements for the other items on the April 17, 2025, memo and CSD recommends those conditions be deemed satisfied with no further reporting required beyond CSD's annual performance reports.