

Good morning members of the State Public Charter School Authority,

My name is Dr. Terry Scott, and I am a homeowner and taxpayer from the town of Henderson, Nevada. I am here today as a very concerned citizen. I was personally present at the Nevada State High School board meeting that took place on October 20th, 2022, and was extremely upset and quite frankly stunned at what I was witness to at that event. As a business owner and employer for over 30 years, the public comments brought forth by present and past employees of NSHS were, and still are, incomprehensible to me. You will hear today many firsthand accounts explaining in detail those abuses described at that meeting and, from my understanding, were brought before you over one year ago outlining the toxic environment that existed and still exists at Nevada State High School. My reason for being here today is to describe to you what I gathered from that meeting about the financial standing of NSHS and how that is affecting the staff and students there.

First, some stats:

NSHS saw a 187% increase in Federal funding from 2021 to 2022 of roughly 600,000 dollars due mostly to COVID relief funds

NSHS saw a 6% decrease in State funding from 2021 to 2022 of roughly 500,000 dollars due to what they describe as a decrease in student enrollment

NSHS saw a 100% increase in outside funding from 2021 to 2022 of roughly 82,000 dollars. This shows that in 2021 they reported not one dollar in outside funding. Not one dollar.

Overall, according to their reporting, NSHS had an 8% increase in expenses and a 2% increase in revenue, all the revenue increase from outside resources. They further reported that they realized a 384,000 dollar net revenue increase due primarily to higher enrollment than projected even though on a previous page they stated that state funding was lower than the previous year due to lower enrollment numbers. No one on the board asked how this was possible. The report also attributes some of the 384,000 dollar net revenue increase from the previous year to open staff positions not filled. However, no one addressed or seemed concerned with the number of staff leaving or being "separated" from NSHS by the administration. The State Public Charter School Authority has stated this as a concern to the Nevada State High School for years. Obviously, this is still a big problem, but not from a financial standpoint for NSHS.

Second, the biggest take home I got from the October 20th meeting was how proud the governing board and the administration are of the "rainy day fund" they have accumulated. Currently, there is over 4.5 million dollars in this fund, which brought smiles to the faces of everyone sitting around the table that day. As reported by NSHS, 3.4 million of that is cash. That number will grow by 597,000 this year, or a 22% increase from 2021, again according to their reports. However, I have heard of staff being threatened with pay cuts if goals are not reached. They talked about a 120,000 dollar grant they received to reimburse students for summer courses in 2022, of which only 60,000 or so was dispersed. No one asked where the remaining funds went. When asked if that was something that could be repeated next year, the administration stated that the grant was no longer being offered so absolutely not. PERS matching was discussed again as an agenda item to incentivize staff retention at NSHS, but one departing staff member said no amount of money thrown at them would keep them working at Nevada State High School. The matching PERS incentive vote was postponed again. A former

5 years
at NSHS
to be eligible

only 3 current staff persons are
eligible for the incentive
15 years only 3
are eligible

Administrator who spoke publicly at the board hearing talked about the fact that there are absolutely no security measures implemented at any of the student campuses except at Central Services where the administration is housed. She was told that any measures, if approved, would be taken out of individual campus budgets, directly impacting resources available to students and faculty. Why not use some of the rainy-day funds to protect the students and staff? Even if 5000 dollars per campus was spent, that would only be 1% of the fund used with 4,455,000 dollars left over. Unfortunately, the threat is real and does not discriminate between public, private, or charter schools.

My hope today is that you as the persons put in charge of protecting the physical, emotional, and fiscal well-being of the students, faculty, and staff at Nevada State High School will take to heart all that you hear today and in the immediate future and correct the egregious behaviors occurring at NSHS and take the steps necessary to ensure no one has to ever suffer again. Thank you for listening.