



## NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

**March 4, 2022**

The State Public Charter School Authority Board Meeting was conducted virtually and at the following physical location:

Nevada Department of Education  
2080 East Flamingo Road  
Board Room  
Las Vegas, Nevada

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN-PERSON:**

Member Erica Mosca  
Member Lee Farris  
Member Tamika Shauntee Rosales  
Member Mallory Cyr  
Vice Chair Sheila Moulton

#### **AUTHORITY STAFF IN-PERSON:**

Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director  
Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:**

Chair Melissa Mackedon  
Member Tonia Holmes-Sutton

#### **AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT VIRTUALLY:**

Ryan Herrick, General Counsel

#### **AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN-PERSON:**

David Blodgett  
Johntay Mooney  
Ercan Aydogdu  
Emrullah Eraslan  
Anthony Vu  
Janelly Corona  
Alexis Lynch  
Cara Tamlinson  
Beth Kazalskis  
Whitney McIntosh  
Nick Sarrah

*\*See also attached sign-in sheet.*

#### **AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE VIRTUALLY:**

Ann Diggins  
Tammy Malich  
Jaime Gonzales  
Gun Ruder  
Miriam Benitez  
Chris McBride  
Christine Dzarnoski  
Karli Casto  
Lorna James Cervantes  
Sandra Kinne  
Katie Krackhardt  
Kathy Rudd  
Chantae Readye  
Jacob Allen  
Jennifer Braster  
Miriam Benitez  
Sarah Boldin

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance [00:00:33]**

Melissa Mackedon, State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA), Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03am and Member Moulton facilitated the pledge of allegiance. Member Cyr joined the meeting.

**Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment #1 [00:02:34]**

There was no public comment.

**Agenda Item 3 – Approval of January 28, 2022 and February 15, 2022 SPCSA Board Meeting Action Minutes [00:03:08]**

**MOTION:** *Vice Chair Moulton made the motion to approve. Member Farris seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Agenda Item 4 – SPCSA Charter School Governing Body Governance Standards [00:03:56]**

Chair Mackedon spoke to number 4 of the SPCSA Charter School Governing Body Governance Standards: Commit to Long-Term Success, to establish board committees to further the strategic plan and school's goals. As a charter school, they had a board member who took some training and pushed heavily to start using board committees. She would encourage any charter school out there to consider that as an option, as it has really streamlined their main board meetings and has led to better discussion and better outcomes and allowed them to further their strategic plan in a more efficient way.

The next couple items on the agenda were taken out of order to accommodate scheduling.

**Agenda Item 6 – Focus on Schools [00:05:34]**

Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director, said the last several months the Authority has been discussing transportation particularly as it relates to removing barriers for enrollment and attendance for students. Few of their charter schools provide transportation for students and so today staff thought it would be appropriate to hear from their school with the most comprehensive transportation program.

David Blodgett, Executive Director at Nevada Prep, said he is joined with Johntay Mooney, Operations Manager at Nevada Prep. Mr. Blodgett provided the presentation which can be found in the supporting materials. There was further conversation between the Authority, staff, and Nevada Prep representatives.

**Agenda Item 8 – Update on approved new charter school campuses for Fall 2022. [00:37:45]**

**a. Coral Academy of Las Vegas – Cadence Campus**

Member Farris recused himself from this agenda item.

Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing, said this item will serve as an update from the Coral Academy of Las Vegas Cadence Campus and is a follow up to their presentation at the special meeting in February.

Ercan Aydogdu, Executive Director, Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas, joined by Ann Diggins, Board Chair, Janelly Corona, Community Outreach Coordinator, as well as other school representatives. The school provided the presentation which can be found in the supporting materials. There was further conversation between the Authority, staff, and Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas representatives.

**Agenda Item 5 – Executive Director's Report. [00:56:28]**

**a. Initiatives Related to Serving All Students Equitably**

Executive Director Feiden said there are two update items this month that tie directly to this work. As the Authority heard earlier, they had a focus on schools item regarding Nevada Prep charter school and their transportation plan and she believes that connects very closely towards conversations about equitable access. Additionally, today they will be discussing an item related to potentially requiring certain schools to develop a

recruitment and enrollment plan in order to serve a representative population. This is aimed at adding another tool to their list of existing tools for helping strive towards their strategic goals.

**b. COVID-19 update [00:57:43]**

Executive Director Feiden said as discussed a few weeks ago, there were some recent changes under Emergency Directive 052. This directive removed the mask mandate for schools, though it does require the school to allow face coverings at the school level if they so choose. She noted most of their schools were operating with masks as optional with the exception of outbreaks and when an individual is required to mask due to recently having had COVID-19 or having recently been exposed. There are a few schools that are still requiring masks for all students and staff, with the exception of when there are health reasons that prevent the use of a face covering. In addition to addressing face coverings, the directive required schools to submit a COVID-19 mitigation plan to their local health authority for approval. The SPCSA has distributed guidance and is in the process of collecting the plans and transmitting the plans to the local health authority for review. She noted that the CDC updated a lot of their guidance as well and this included some of their metrics they use and some of the recommendations regarding face coverings, so they anticipate more changes forthcoming. There was further discussion regarding the schools that are still requiring masks and current cases at schools.

**c. Legislative Update: Interim Committees [01:04:02]**

Executive Director Feiden said last month she presented to the Interim Finance Committees Subcommittee on Emergency Funding regarding the emergency funds at charter schools. She also presented to the Committee on Education, they had requested an item regarding management organizations, specifically EMOs and CMOs. This month she will be presenting to the Committee on Education regarding the impacts of COVID-19.

**d. Letters of Intent received for the April 2022 application cycle [01:06:36]**

Executive Director Feiden said the next and only application cycle for 2022 is coming up this April. Because of the recent changes in regulations, they had 14 letters of intent that were submitted in September for what would have been the January cycle, all 14 of those are being carried over to the upcoming cycle and in addition they accepted letters of intent in the month January up until January 30 and received an additional 9 letters of intent. In total they have 23 letters of intent for the April cycle and those are posted with today's materials. She reiterated the process of the new timeline.

**Agenda Item 7 – Nevada Connections Academy [01:11:42]**

Director Mordcin said this item is a quarterly update from Nevada Connections Academy. Chris McBride, Superintendent, Nevada Connections Academy, said he is joined by their Principal, Christine Dzarnowski. Dr. Harrington, Board President, was not able to attend. The school representatives shared their presentation which included updates regarding their predicted NSPF performance, academic achievement, graduation rate, college and career readiness and student engagement.

A 5-minute convenience break was taken.

**Agenda Item 9 – Update on approved new charter schools for Fall 2022. [01:38:04]**

**a. Battle Born Academy**

Director Modrcin provided brief remarks before turning it over to the school to provide their update. Kathy Rudd, Co-Founder, Battle Born Academy, said she is joined by Katie Krackhardt, Assistant Principal and Chantae Readye, Board President, Battle Born Academy. School representatives provided the updates with regard to hiring, additional grant funding, professional development, partnership developments, enrollment and their facility. There was brief discussion between the Authority and school representatives.

**b. Sage Collegiate [01:48:12]**

Member Cyr recused herself from this agenda item.

Director Modrcin provided brief remarks before turning it over to the school to provide their update. Sandra Kinne, Founder of Sage Collegiate, said she is joined by Jennifer Braster, Board Chair of Sage Collegiate. Ms. Kinne provided the update and a written update can also be found in the supporting materials.

**c. PilotED – Cactus Park Elementary [01:56:03]**

Director Modrcin provided brief remarks before turning it over to the school to provide their update. Jacob Allen, CEO of the PilotED Foundation, said he is joined by Karli Casto, Principal, PilotED Cactus Park Elementary. Mr. Allen covered the areas of the update related to the facilities, finance, and talent strategy before turning it over to Ms. Casto. Ms. Casto provided the updates relate to talent, enrollment, and community partnerships. There was brief discussion between the Authority and school representatives.

**d. Young Women’s Leadership Academy [02:08:42]**

Director Modrcin provided brief remarks before turning it over to the school to provide their update. Whitney McIntosh, Founding Principal, Young Women’s Leadership Academy, said she is joined by Sarah Boldin, Student Leadership Network. Their Board President Gunlek was not able to attend. Ms. McIntosh provided the updates related to enrollment, facilities, and their pre-opening checklist.

**e. Strong Start Academy [02:12:38]**

Director Modrcin provided brief remarks before turning it over to the school to provide their update. Lorna James-Cervantes, Board Member, Strong Start Academy provided the updates related to the board. Miriam Benitez, Principal, Strong Start Academy, provided the updates related to the hiring of staff and their lottery policy. Dr. Tammy Malich, Youth Development & Social Innovation Director, City of Las Vegas, provided the updates related to the enrollment and facilities.

**Agenda Item 10 – Charter School Recruitment and Enrollment Plans. [02:24:02]**

Executive Director Feiden provided the update for the charter school recruitment and enrollment plans and a written update can also be found in the supporting materials. In 2019, the SPCSA adopted a five-year strategic plan that centers on a vision of Equitable access to diverse, innovative, and high-quality public charter school for every Nevada student. With regard to the 3 goal: Increase the diversity of students served by SPCSA schools, new schools opened in the last two years are more reflective of state demographics, particularly with regard to the population of students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch. Additionally, many SPCSA-sponsored schools have made efforts to serve a more representative population, and data from annual enrollment counts shows that several schools saw increases of 25% or more in certain student groups. Despite significant progress, as of October 1, 2021, the SPCSA overall continues to serve a disproportionately low percentage of students in three student groups: students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch (FRL), students with disabilities (IEP), and students identified as English Learners (ELL). Executive Director Feiden spoke to the several strategies adopted for addressing the discrepancies and while these strategies have been impactful, requiring certain schools to develop and submit a recruitment and enrollment plan presents an additional tool that can be used to accomplish this goal. After looking at the Statutory and Regulatory Authority along with additional considerations, she discussed the possible approaches for identifying schools that would be required to develop and submit a recruitment and enrollment plan. There was further discussion between staff and the Authority.

**Agenda Item 11 – Federal Emergency Grant Funding. [02:58:05]**

Executive Director Feiden said as the Authority is aware there have been three federal stimulus packages which staff has provided updates on at the April 23, 2021 meeting and the October 1, 2021 meeting. Today, they provided further updates regarding the three federal stimulus packages: the CARES Act, the CRRSA Act, and the ARP Act. The specific and technical details can be found in the written update with the supporting materials. There was further discussion between Executive Director Feiden, Jennifer Bauer, Director of Finances & Operations, and the Authority.

Member Mosca left for the remainder of the meeting at 12:30pm.

**Agenda Item 12 – SPCSA Growth Management Plan.** [03:28:14]

Executive Director Feiden, as the Authority knows the SPCSA is required to develop and update at least every two years a growth management plan. She discussed the background and context, the current growth management plan, and the input for the 2022 growth management plan. The presentation can be found in the supporting materials with further information. There was further discussion between Executive Director Feiden and the Authority regarding additional input to consider when revising the growth management plan.

**Agenda Item 13 – Long-Range Calendar.** [03:50:13]

Executive Director Feiden said looking ahead there are some items they have begun discussing already and they anticipate seeing their new schools on the agenda for the next several meetings. They also anticipate new school applications at the August meeting and staff has filled in the back half of the year for some of their common items to do with data, framework reviews and other items. She noted that they will add Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas to the agenda for the springtime. They also may see a special education item in the future.

**Agenda Item 14 – Public Comment #2** [03:51:47]

There was no public comment on the line or in the board room.

**Agenda Item 15 – Adjournment** [03:52:16]

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55pm.

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# State Public Charter School Authority

## March 4, 2022 Board Meeting

### Las Vegas

Name	Representing	Agenda Item #
Anthony Vu	CASLV	
Janelly Corona	CASLV	
Alexis Lynch	CASLV	
Cara Tomlinson	CASLV	
Beth Karelakis	CASLV	8
Erica Ardey	CASLV	
Emallah Erroler	CASLV	
Whitney McIntosh	YWLA-LV	9
Alec Sarsche	CASLV	