



NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

Friday, November 3, 2023
9:00AM

The State Public Charter School Authority board meeting was conducted in-person and virtually.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN-PERSON:

Member Shauntee Rosales
Member Kurt Thigpen
Member Jackson Olsen
Chair Tonia Holmes-Sutton

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Vice Chair Cindi Rivera
Member Victor Salcido
Member Sandra Kinne

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Member Maureen Schafer
Member Lee Farris

AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT IN-PERSON:

Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing

AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Jennifer Bauer, Interim Executive Director
Greg Ott, Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN-PERSON:

Catalina Garcia
Renee Fairless
Ben Salkowe
James Zaw
Alyse Sobosan
Silvia Mendez
Victor Mendoza
Rudy Novanjo
John Haynal
Bruno Epsey
Jason Flowers
Andi Morency
Emma Davis
Rogoberto Naranjo
Cecilia Calderon
Nichole Shaffer
Cynthia Romero
Jill Cribari
Dan Triana
Gabe Shirey
Natalia Nival
Miadora Nelson
Colin Bringhurst
John Haynal
Phil Bateman
Julissa Carabjal Velez
Amy Gronna
Olivia Carbajal
Cecilia Calderoni
Tom Nichols
Carey Roybal-Benson
Sheila Polombo
Marlo Tsuchiyama
Tambre Tondryk

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE VIRTUALLY:

Yolanda Hamilton
Colin Purcell
Karen Tanaka
Melissa Mackedon
Andre Denson
Kristin Serrano
Bryan Rudden
Andre Denson
Frank Williams
Jonathan Valancia
Frank William
Kathy Rudd
Ali Taylor
Yolanda Hamilton
Andre Denson
Bryan Rudden
Kristin Serrano
Janelle Veith
Jackie Working
Danette Olmos-Green
Yvette Simmons
Heather Fernandez
Mindi Palomeque

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance [00:00:30]

Tonia Holmes-Sutton, Chair, of the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA), called the meeting to order at 9:03am and facilitated the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment #1 [00:02:39]

There was no public comment online.

1. Renee Fairless
2. Ben Salkowe
3. Catalina Garcia
4. Emma Davis
5. James Zaw
6. Alyse Sobosan
7. Silvia Mendez
8. Victor Mendoza
9. Rudy Novanjo
10. Rigoberto Naranjo
11. Cecilia Calderon

Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda [00:40:15]

- a. **Approval of October 3, 2023 and October 13, 2023 SPCSA Board Meeting Action Minutes. The Authority will review and possibly approve the action minutes from the October 3, 2023 and October 13, 2023 Authority Board meetings.**
- b. **Transportation Plans and Charter School Contract Amendment Applications.**
 - i. **Mater Academy of Nevada – Bonanza Campus**

Motion:

1. Approve the Mater Academy of Nevada Bonanza Transportation Plan, along with funding to implement the Plan and allow SPCSA staff to work with the school to make budget revisions as long as the total funding does not exceed the average per pupil cost in the local school district.
2. Approve the charter contract amendment request for the school to allow the school to provide student transportation.
3. Require the school to provide SPCSA staff with documentation to demonstrate that the school is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations prior to beginning to transport students.
4. Require the school to provide SPCSA staff with a draft of any transportation service contract prior to contracting with a transportation service provider.

i. Mater Academy of Nevada – East Campus

Motion:

1. Approve the Mater Academy of Nevada East Transportation Plan, along with funding to implement the Plan and allow SPCSA staff to work with the school to make budget revisions as long as the total funding does not exceed the average per pupil cost in the local school district.
2. Approve the charter contract amendment request for Mater Academy of Nevada East to allow the school to provide student transportation to and from school.
3. Require the school to provide SPCSA staff with documentation to demonstrate that the school is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations prior to beginning to transport students.
4. Require the school to provide SPCSA staff with a draft of any transportation service contract prior to contracting with a transportation service provider.

ii. Mater Academy of Nevada – Mountain View Campus

1. Approve the Mater Academy of Nevada Mountain View Transportation Plan, along with funding to implement the Plan and allow SPCSA staff to work with the school to make budget revisions as long as the total funding does not exceed the average per pupil cost in the local school district.
2. Approve the charter contract amendment request for Mater Academy of Nevada Mountain View to allow the school to provide student transportation.

3. Require the school to provide SPCSA staff with documentation to demonstrate that the school is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations prior to beginning to transport students.
4. Require the school to provide SPCSA staff with a draft of any transportation service contract prior to contracting with a transportation service provider.

The October 13, 2023 board meeting action minutes will be approved at the December 8, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Member Thigpen made the motion to approve the consent agenda with the omission of the October 13, 2023 meeting minutes. Member Olsen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – SPCSA Charter School Governing Body Governance Standards [00:42:09]

Member Thigpen provided comment regarding standard 6 of the Charter School Governing Body Governance Standards: Operate in Service of your School Community: Develop and consider school policies and critical decisions transparently and in collaboration with the school community. He believes that is critical to the work they do and to move forward together today with the conversations they are having.

Governance Standards assignments for the upcoming meetings:

- December: Member Olsen
- January: Member Shauntee Rosales
- March: Member Salcido

Agenda Item 5 – SPCSA Executive Director [00:43:20]

Chair Holmes-Sutton shared that Melissa Mackedon has been selected and appointed as the new Executive Director for the SPCSA and will start November 13, 2023.

Agenda Item 6 – SPCSA Executive Director’s Report [00:44:17]

- a. Delinquent schools PERS contributions
- b. Pre-Opening Process for Schools Opening in 2024
- c. Growth Management Plan
- d. 2024 Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment

Jennifer Bauer, Interim Executive Director, provided an update on the above items. There was brief discussion between the Authority and Interim Executive Director Bauer.

Agenda Item 7 – Girls Empowerment Middle School [00:58:46]

Interim Director Bauer provided the update regarding Girls Empowerment Middle School.

Agenda Item 8 – Revisions to the New Charter School Application Template and Rubric updates [01:01:36]

Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing, discussed the revisions to the new charter school application template and rubric for the 2024 application cycle. She provided the proposed changes which can be found in the presentation within the supporting materials. There was brief discussion between the Authority and Director Broughton.

A 5-minute convenience break was taken.

Agenda Item 9 –Charter School Contract Amendment Applications [01:15:11]

- a. **Nevada Prep** – Addition of Grade Levels (no impact to approved enrollment cap)

Nevada Prep Charter School (NV Prep) has submitted an amendment application requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) approve the school’s request to add grades K – 2 beginning in the 2024-2025 school year. SPCSA staff has reviewed the application and recommends that the Authority approve the amendment request. More details can be found in SPCSA staff’s recommendation memo and the charter school’s amendment application.

Motion: Member Olsen made the motion to approve Nevada Prep Charter School’s request to add grades kindergarten through 2nd beginning in the 2024-25 school year. Member Salcido seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

School Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Grade Levels	3-8	K-8	K-8
Enrollment	480	540	540

Agenda Item 10 – Academic Performance Ratings

- a. Overview of 2022-23 Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) scores and star ratings as issued by the Nevada Department of Education.**
- b. Overview of 2022-23 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework ratings**

Selcuk Ozdemir, Education Programs Supervisor and Brandon Gayton, Education Programs Professional provided the update regarding the 2022-23 Academic Performance Ratings. The presentation with the SPCSA’s data can be found within the supporting materials. SPCSA staff’s recommended action is to adopt the 2022-23 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework results.

Agenda Item 11 – Academic Performance Recommendations [02:00:35]

Director Broughton provided the Authority’s oversight of academic performance pursuant to NRS 388A.150. She spoke to the prior Authority’s action regarding academic underperformance.

- a. Removal of Prior Notices for Academic Performance.**
 - i. Nevada Prep Charter School – elementary school (3-star and Meets Standard).**

Director Broughton said SPCSA staff recommends the Notice of Concern be removed from Nevada Prep Charter School due to the school achieving a 3-star or higher NSPF rating and a Meets or Exceeds Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework

Motion: Member Thigpen made the motion to approve SPCSA staff’s recommendation to issue a Notice of Return to Good Standing to the Nevada Prep Charter School – elementary school due to their improved academic performance. Member Olsen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A convenience break was taken.

- b. Issuance of Notices of Concern for Academic Performance [02:22:50]**

Director Broughton said SPCSA staff recommends Notices of Concern be issued to the specified charter schools due to the school receiving a one- or two-star NSPF rating and a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating in the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework. School presentations under this item will be limited to a maximum of 10 minutes each.

- i. Battle Born Academy – elementary school (1-star and Does Not Meet Standard);**

Director Broughton provided the update regarding the academic performance for Battle Born Academy – elementary school. Kathy Rudd, Principal, Battle Born Academy, provided the school’s presentation regarding the school’s academic performance. There was further discussion between the Authority and Ms. Rudd. There was discussion between Member Salcido Mr. Ott related to the statutory requirements around maintaining performance and issuing notices.

Motion: Member Olsen made the motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to issue a Notice of Concern to Battle Born Academy – elementary school. Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. Member Salcido opposed. Member Kinne abstained. The motion carried.

ii. CIVICA Academy – elementary school (2-star and Does Not Meet Standard) and middle school (2-star and Does Not Meet Standard);

Director Broughton provided the update regarding the academic performance for CIVICA Academy – elementary school. Bruno Epsey, Principal, and Jason Flowers, Board Chair, CIVICA Academy, provided the school’s presentation regarding the school’s academic performance.

There was further discussion between the Authority and SPCSA staff regarding issuing Notices of Concern.

Motion: Member Thigpen made the motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to issue a Notice of Concern to CIVICA Nevada Career and Collegiate Academy-Elementary and Middle. Member Salcido seconded the motion. Member Shauntee Rosales and Member Olsen opposed the motion. Member Kinne abstained from the motion. The motion carried.

iii. Explore Academy – middle school (1-star and Below Standard);

Director Broughton provided the update regarding the academic performance for Explore Academy – middle school. Ali Taylor, Principal, Explore Academy provided the school’s presentation regarding the school’s academic performance.

Motion: Member Olsen made the motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to issue a Notice of Concern to Explore Academy—Middle. Vice Chair Rivera seconded the motion. Member Kinne abstained from the motion. The motion carried.

iv. Honors Academy – elementary school (1-star and Below Standard);

Director Broughton provided the update regarding the academic performance for Honors Academy – elementary school. Andi Morency, Principal and Executive Director, provided the school’s presentation regarding the school’s academic performance.

Motion: Member Olsen made the motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to issue a Notice of Concern to Honors Academy of Literature—Elementary. Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. Member Kinne abstained from the motion. The motion carried.

v. Imagine Schools at Mountain View – elementary school (1-star and Does Not Meet Standard);

Director Broughton provided the update regarding the academic performance for Imagine Schools at Mountain View – elementary school. Nichole Shaffer, Principal, and April Blatzheim, Regional Director, provided the school’s presentation regarding the school’s academic performance.

Motion: Member Olsen made the motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to issue a Notice of Concern to Imagine Schools at Mountain View—Elementary. Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. Member Kinne abstained from the motion. The motion carried.

vi. Nevada Virtual Charter School – middle school (2-star and Does Not Meet Standard);

Director Broughton provided the update regarding the academic performance for Nevada Virtual Charter School – middle school. Yolanda Hamilton, Executive Director and Andre Denson, Principal, provided the school’s presentation regarding the school’s academic performance.

Motion: Member Olsen made the motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to issue a Notice of Concern to Nevada Virtual Charter School-Middle. Member Thigpen seconded the motion. Member Olsen and Member Shauntee Rosales opposed the motion. Member Kinne abstained from the motion. The motion carried.

vii. Pinecrest Academy of Nevada – Virtual middle school (2-star and Does Not Meet Standard);

Director Broughton provided the update regarding the academic performance for Pinecrest Academy of Nevada – Virtual Middle School. Bryan Rudden, Principal and Kristin Serrano, Director, provided the school’s presentation regarding the school’s academic performance.

Motion: Member Thigpen made the motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to issue a Notice of Concern to the Virtual middle school program at Pinecrest Academy of Nevada. Member Olsen and Member Shauntee Rosales opposed the motion. Member Salcido seconded the motion. Member Kinne abstained from the motion. The motion carried.

viii. Quest Academy – Northwest elementary school (1-star and Does Not Meet Standard);

Director Broughton provided the update regarding the academic performance for Quest Academy – Northwest elementary school. Janelle Veith, Principal and Jackie Working, Student Support Director, provided the school’s presentation regarding the school’s academic performance.

Member Kinne left the meeting.

Motion: Member Olsen made the motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to issue a Notice of Concern to Quest Academy Northwest Charter School—Elementary. Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ix. Silver Sands Montessori Charter School– elementary school (1-star and Below Standard);

Director Broughton provided the update regarding the academic performance for SLAM Nevada – elementary school. Marlo Tsuchiyama, Head of School, Sheila Palombo, Principal, and Dannette Olmos-Greens, Director of Operations, provided the school’s presentation regarding the school’s academic performance.

Motion: Member Thigpen made the motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to issue a Notice of Concern to Silver Sands Montessori Charter School—Elementary. Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried.

x. SLAM Nevada – elementary school (1-star and Does Not Meet Standard);

Director Broughton provided the update regarding the academic performance for SLAM Nevada – elementary school. Jill Cribari, Principal, Dan Triana, Leader Principal, and Phil Bateman, Board Chair, provided the school’s presentation regarding the school’s academic performance.

Motion: Member Shauntee Rosales made the motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to issue a Notice of Concern to Sports Leadership & Management Academy of Nevada—Elementary. Vice Chair Rivera seconded the motion. The motion carried.

xi. Somerset Academy of Las Vegas – North Las Vegas elementary school (1-star and Does Not Meet Standard);

Director Broughton provided the update regarding the academic performance for Somerset Academy of Las Vegas – North Las Vegas elementary school. Yvette Simmons, Assistant Principal, Heather Fernandez, Assistant Principal, and Mindi Palomeque, Principal, provided the school’s presentation regarding the school’s academic performance.

Motion: Member Thigpen made the motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to issue a Notice of Concern to the elementary school program at the North Las Vegas campus of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas. Member Olsen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- xii. TEACH Las Vegas – elementary school (1-star and Below Standard) and middle school (1-star and Does Not Meet Standard)**

The Authority approved the request to move TEACH Las Vegas – elementary school’s item to the December 8, 2023 board meeting agenda.

- c. No Action.**

- i. Beacon Academy of Nevada (1-star and Below Standard) [05:41:09];**

Director Broughton SPCSA staff recommends no action be taken regarding specified underperforming schools.

Agenda Item 12 – Long-Range Calendar [05:44:16]

Interim Executive Director Jennifer Bauer walked through the long-range calendar.

Agenda Item 13 – Public Comment #2 [05:54:16]

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 14 – Adjournment [05:58:16]

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56PM.