

NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

February 16, 2018

**Nevada Legislature
401 South Carson St.
Room 2135
Carson City, Nevada**

**Grant Sawyer Building
555 East Washington
Room 4412
Las Vegas Nevada**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Nora Luna
Sheila Moulton
Jason Guinasso
Melissa Mackedon
David Gardner
Stavan Corbett

In Carson City:

None

Teleconference:

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Jeff Hinton

AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Brian Scroggins, Deputy Director
Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing
Patrick Gavin, Executive Director

In Carson City:

Jennifer Bauer, Director of Finance and Operations
Danny Peltier, Management Analyst I
Tanya Osborne, Administrative Assistant III

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

In Carson City

In Las Vegas

Ryan Herrick, General Counsel, State Public Charter School Authority
Greg Ott, Deputy Attorney General
Robert Whitney

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Las Vegas:

Brenda Navas
Claudra Montes
Iaiuva Avendano
Jonathon Hinley
Michael Muehle
Danette Olmos-Green
Ronald Fick
Heather Fisher
AB Denson
Elizabeth Mordon
Deana Villei
Gayle Jefferson
Chad Hinze
Carlos Ramirez
Nathan Rizzo
Michael Conrunza
Carey Preston/Roberts
Ben Salkowe
Shatika Henry
Renee Fairless
Brook Howard
Terry Brianna

In Carson City:

Chris McBride
Jeremy Nork
Patrick Crow
Jay Schuler
Linda Lord

CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order, Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance**Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment**

Chris McBride and Jeremy Nork spoke about Nevada Connections Academy about the notice of breach. Both spoke about a notice of concern that was addressed by State Public Charter School Authority.

Carlos Ramirez spoke about Equipo and how much he is appreciating the school. Nathan Rizzo is agreement with how the school is run. Michael Conrunza is a senior at Equipo Academy and hopes he can continue at this school. Linda Crow spoke about how much they their children exceled in Nevada Virtual. Jay Schuler spoke about Nevada Virtual, about how the school works for most families.

Patrick Crow is in support of Nevada Virtual and doesn't understand why the school is in jeopardy for closure. Claudia Montez spoke in favor of Equipo. Brenda Navas and Rosa Garcia spoke in favor of Equipo Academy. Linda Lord spoke in behalf of Nevada Virtual. Carey Roberts, the chair of Equipo Academy, spoke in behalf of the school. Ben Salkowe from Equipo Academy spoke in favor of how well the students are doing. Shatika Henry spoke for Nevada Virtual Academy. Renee Fairless spoke in favor for Mater Academy. Brook Howard spoke in favor of Quest. Terry Brianna learning coach for Nevada Virtual Academy spoke in behalf of the charter school. Ronald Fick, spoke in behalf of Founders Academy. Shannon Berry a learning coach for Nevada Virtual Academy spoke in behalf of the school. Heather Fisher speaking on behalf of Nevada Virtual Academy. Christina Kline representing Nevada Virtual. Rose Hase a parent and a learning coach spoke in favor of all online schools today. Rebecca Madamadams spoke in support of online schools.

Agenda Item 3 - Approval of the January 26, 2018 Action Minutes. The Authority will review and possibly approve the meeting minutes from the January 26, 2018 Board meeting.

Member Moulton made a motion to approve the January 26, 2018 action minutes. Member Corbett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 - SPCSA Staff Report. Staff will provide an update regarding the following:

- **Primavera Preparatory Academy. Staff will provide an update regarding Primavera Preparatory Academy's previously-submitted charter school application.**
- **Nevada State Performance Framework (Star Ratings). Recognition of high performing SPCSA-sponsored charter schools, and update regarding upcoming changes to the Nevada School Performance Framework.**
- **Staffing Update. New information on filling of Agency Staff vacancies.**

Mark Modrcin also discussed applications received for new charters. Director Gavin discussed the State Public Charter School Authority staff report.

Agenda Item 5 - Nevada Virtual Academy. The Authority will review and discuss Staff's report and recommendation, and review, discuss and possibly take action, in regard to Staff's recommendation to issue a Notice of Intent to Terminate Nevada's Virtual Academy's charter school contract.

Counsel Ryan Herrick spoke about Nevada Virtual Academy and how the framework works. The school must meet thresholds remain open. The focus is the elementary K-5. Staff is recommending Notice of Intent to Terminate Nevada Virtual Academy's Charter. Counsel Herrick gives an explanation on how the termination will work. Yolanda Hamilton spoke on behalf of the elementary program for Nevada Virtual Academy. Dr. Andre Denson gave information on the schools behalf and Benjamin Gearheart talks about the schools performance framework and data. Kara Hendricks counsel for Nevada Virtual Academy gave information on the reasons why staff should not give a notice of intent to close.

Member Corbett moved to motion staffs recommendation to issue a Notice of Intent to terminate Nevada's Virtual Academy's charter school contract. Member Moulton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 8 - Mater Academy, Equipo Academy, Silver Sands Montessori, Founders Academy, and Nevada Connections Academy. The Authority will review and discuss Staff's report and recommendation, and review, discuss and possibly take action, in regard to Staff's recommendation to either issue Notices of Concern, Notices of Breach, or other action (not including initiating termination of charter school contracts proceedings).

Counsel Herrick, gave information on the schools in question for this agenda item. Director Gavin also spoke about the issues concerning the schools for agenda item 8. Jeremy Nork represents Nevada Connections Academy spoke about notice of concern and notice of breach. Counsel for Nevada Connections states there is no breach currently. Renee Fairless principal from Mater Academy would love to have staff and the board members come to the school to visit. Ben Salkowe principal for Equipo Academy would like to have future discussions if issues are going on with the school. The school is going to focus on graduation rates. Director Gavin stated staff is concerned about the star rating for the middle school. Ronald Fick from Founders Academy spoke about metrics and getting the students to grade level. The school is working on the curriculum.

Member Moulton made a motion to follow staff to give Nevada Connections a Notice of Breach. Member Gardner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Moulton made a motion to accept staff recommendations of notices of concern to the following schools; Mater Academy, Equipo Academy, Silver Sands Montessori and Founders Academy. Member Gardner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Corbett left the meeting at lunch.

Agenda Item 6 - Quest Preparatory Academy. The Authority will review and discuss Staff's report and recommendation, and review, discuss and possibly take action, in regard to Staff's recommendation to issue a Notice of Intent to Terminate Quest Preparatory Academy's charter school contract.

Member Gardner recused himself, out of an abundance of caution from consideration of this agenda item.

Counsel Herrick spoke in regard to issuing a Notice of Intent to terminate Quest Preparatory Academy charter contract.

Member Mackedon moved to issue a notice of intent to terminate the charter contract of Quest Academy. Member Moulton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 7 - Quest Preparatory Academy Receiver Update and Staff Recommendation. In addition to receiving a report from Joshua Kern, Receiver over Quest Preparatory Academy, the Authority will review and discuss Staff's report and recommendation, and review, discuss and possibly take action, including approving (or possible conditional approval) or denial of the Receiver's request to amend its charter contract allowing Mr. Kern to implement a new, structured school turn-around plan. The Authority may also consider Mr. Kern's amendment application as Mr. Kern's proposal to correct the deficiencies identified as part of the prior agenda item.

Director Modrcin spoke staff approving or denying the receivers request to amend its charter contract to implement a new structured school turn-around plan. Josh Kern, receiver for Quest gave some information on the structuring on Quest Preparatory Academy.

Member Moulton made a motion to approve the amendment application to amend the contract. Member Luna seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Moulton made a motion to have the Authority determine that Quest's amended charter contract corrected the deficiencies identified in the Notice of Intent to Terminate Quest's charter contract.

Agenda Item 9 - Beacon Academy, Argent Preparatory Academy, and Discovery Charter School. The Authority will review and discuss Staff's report and recommendation, and review, discuss and possibly take action, in regard to Staff's recommendation to either issue notices related to performance obligations, or other action (not including Notices of Concern, Notices of Breach, or initiating termination of charter school contracts proceedings).

Director Gavin gave information on the schools listed above and what the plan will be to give school notices related to the school's performance obligation.

Member Mackedon moved to approve staff recommendation, to issue performance obligation notices to Beacon Academy, Argent Preparatory Academy, and Discovery Charter School. Member Luna seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 10 - Somerset Academy of Las Vegas Amendment Request – Facilities Acquisition (Stephanie and Losee Campuses). The Authority will review and discuss Staff’s report and recommendation, and review, discuss and possibly take action, including approving (or possible conditional approval) or denial of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas’s request to amend its charter contract allowing it to acquire and/or restructure the financing related to its Stephanie and Losee campuses through the Department of Business and Industry’s bond financing program.

Director Modrcin talked about the above amendment request. C.J. Manthe Director of Business and Industry talks about a program that helps issue bonds for charter schools. Gayle Jefferson the Director for Somerset and Trevor Goodsell would like to thank State Public Charter School Authority to possible do an amendment request for the school.

Member Moulton made a motion to follow recommendation of staff approve a change the lease following conditions stated, submission of revised lease payment amount, Business and Industry bond requirements. Member Gardner seconded the motion. The motion carries unanimously.

Agenda Item 11 - Long-Range Board Calendar. The Board will review and discuss its Long-Range Calendar.

Chair Guinasso discussed the long-range board calendar. Member Corbett requested that staff present information related to the demographics of State Public Charter School Authority sponsored charter schools at a future meeting.

Agenda Item 12 – Public Comment

None

Agenda Item 13– Adjournment at 3:45