



## NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

Friday, October 13, 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 Tamika Shauntee Rosales  
Member Kurt Thigpen  
Member Sandra Kinne  
Vice Chair Cindi Rivera  
Chair Tonia Holmes-Sutton

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

Member Jackson Olsen  
Member Salcido  
Member Lee Farris

#### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Member Maureen Schafer

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

Jennifer Bauer, Interim Executive Director  
Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing  
Jennifer King, Administrative Assistant IV

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

Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III  
Michael Dang, Management Analyst IV  
Selcuk Ozdemir, Manager of Academic Performance  
Brandon Gayton, Education Programs Professional

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

Jesse Welsh  
Dennis Holmes  
Melissa Mackedon  
Patrick Carter

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

Jessica Hoban  
Stephanie Snyder

**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 9:00am and facilitated the pledge of allegiance.

**Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment #1 [00:03:05]**

There was no public comment.

**Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda [00:03:24]**

- a. Approval of August 25, 2023, September 11, 2023, and October 3, 2023 SPCSA Board Meeting Action Minutes. The Authority will review and possibly approve the action minutes from the August 25, 2023, September 11, 2023 and October 3, 2023 Authority Board meetings.
- b. Transportation Plans and Charter School Contract Amendment Applications.
  - i. **EIAA**

**Motion:**

1. Approve the EIAA Transportation Plan, along with eligible 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 EIAA 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.

- ii. **Explore Academy**

**Motion:**

1. Approve the Explore Academy Las Vegas 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 Explore Academy Las Vegas 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.

- iii. **Founders Classical Academy of Las Vegas**

**Motion:**

1. Approve the Founders Classical Academy of Las Vegas Transportation Plan, along with funding to implement the Plan and allow SPCSA staff to work with the school to make 4 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 Founders Classical Academy of Las Vegas 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.

- iv. **Honors Academy of Literature**

**Motion:**

1. Approve the Honors 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 Honors 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.

**v. Legacy Traditional Schools**

**Motion:**

1. Approve the Legacy Traditional Schools Cadence Campus 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 Legacy Traditional Schools Cadence Campus 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.

**vi. Nevada Rise**

**Motion:**

1. Approve the Nevada Rise Academy 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 Nevada Rise Academy 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.

**vii. Quest**

**Motion:**

1. Approve the Quest Academy 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 Quest Academy 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.

The August 25, 2023 board meeting action minutes were approved. The September 11, 2023 and October 3, 2023 board meeting action minutes will be approved at the November meeting.

**Motion:** Member Thigpen made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item 4 – SPCSA Executive Director’s Report [00:04:39]**

- a. Staffing
- b. Transportation Funding

Jennifer Bauer, Interim Executive Director, provided the update regarding the staffing report and transportation funding. There was brief discussion between Ms. Bauer and the Authority.

**Agenda Item 5 – Charter School Amendment Applications [00:14:33]**

- a. Doral Academy of Northern Nevada – Enter into an affiliation agreement with the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education, on behalf of the University of Nevada Reno’s Early Head Start Program; Change Lottery Policy Preferences

Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, said Doral Academy of Northern Nevada (DANN) is requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption request and approve the school to

adopt an updated enrollment lottery priority in accordance with an affiliation agreement with the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education, on behalf of the University of Nevada Reno's (UNR) Early Head Start Program. SPCSA staff has reviewed the application and recommends that the Authority grant the Good Cause Exemption and approve the amendment request. More information can be found in staff's recommendation memo and the charter school's amendment application within the supporting materials.

**Motion:** Member Kinne made the motion to grant Doral Academy of Northern Nevada a Good Cause Exemption and approve the request adopt an updated enrollment lottery priority to include any child who is currently enrolled in the UNR Head Start Program or has been enrolled in the program at any time in the past. Vice Chair Rivera seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**b. Nevada State High School – Relocate a Facility (no impact on enrollment) [00:15:31]**

Mr. Peltier said Nevada State High School Flagship (NSHS) has submitted an amendment application requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption and approve the school to relocate the Las Vegas Summerlin campus. SPCSA staff has reviewed the application and recommends that the Authority grant the Good Cause Exemption and approve the amendment request. More information can be found in staff's recommendation memo and the charter school's amendment application within the supporting materials.

**Motion:** Member Thigpen made the motion to grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve NSHS Flagship's request to relocate the Summerlin campus to 250 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 150, Las Vegas, NV 89146 with the following conditions:

1. That by January 15, 2024, Nevada State High School provide a fully executed lease;
2. That NSHS provides SPCSA staff with Certificate of Occupancy or Temporary Certificate of Occupancy demonstrating compliance with NRS 388A.360, which requires a school facility to be inspected at least 30 days prior to occupancy.
3. That NSHS work with SPCSA staff to identify and complete pre-opening requirements that pertain to the occupation of the 6250 West Charleston Boulevard facility

Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item 6 – Academic Performance Discussion [00:21:40]**

Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing, provided the update as it relates to identifying the threshold to issuing notices related to academic performance that will be presented at the November meeting including information about which schools will receive notice based upon the threshold chosen today.

Selcuk Ozdemir, Manager of Academic Performance, started with outlining the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) and then outlined the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework and then dove into details regarding star-ratings. Ms. Broughton shared the details regarding formal notices should school demonstrate underperformance (as defined in NAC 388A.350, NRS 388A.300, and NRS 388A.330. The presentation can be found within the supporting materials. She talked through the memo issued by the Nevada Department of Education that was issued after this year's NSPF results were published. Brandon Gayton, Education Programs Professional and Ms. Broughton provided the options for issuing academic notices recommended by SPCSA staff. Staff's memo and presentation can be found within the supporting materials. There was further discussion between the Authority and SPCSA staff. Chair Holmes-Sutton requested that the Authority table this agenda item to the end of the agenda today in order to obtain more information. A 5-minute break was taken.

**Agenda Item 7 – SPCSA Executive Director Search and Recruitment [01:15:07]**

Interviews were conducted by the Authority with the following applicants:

1. Jessica Hoban
2. Dennis Holmes
3. Melissa Mackedon
4. Patrick Carter

The candidate Sione Thompson was not present and therefore not interviewed for the Executive Director position. The Authority was in alignment with submitting the first two names to the Governor's office:

1. Melissa Mackedon
2. Dennis Holmes

A roll call vote was taken in order to select the third candidate:

Member Kinne: Jessica Hoban  
Member Salcido: Jessica Hoban  
Member Thigpen: Jessica Hoban  
Member Olsen: Jessica Hoban  
Member Farris: Patrick Carter  
Member Shauntee Rosales: Jessica Hoban  
Vice Chair Rivera: Jessica Hoban  
Chair Holmes-Sutton: Jessica Hoban

**Motion:** Member Thigpen made the motion to submit the three candidates to the Governor's office for consideration to make the final appointment for the SPCSA's Executive Director:

1. Melissa Mackedon
2. Dennis Holmes
3. Jessica Hoban

Member Salcido seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Agenda Item 6 – Academic Performance Discussion (continued from being tabled during the meeting) [04:47:30]**

Staff's presentation was updated, as requested by the Authority, (and can be found in the supporting materials) to include another option for the issuing of notices for the Academic Performance. Ms. Broughton talked through option four. Dr. Gayton provided further context regarding the academic notices. There was further discussion between the Authority and SPCSA staff.

**Motion:** Member Farris made the motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff regarding option 1: to issue notices to any schools demonstrating underperformance (schools with 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND Below or Does Not Meet Standard in the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework) and to lift existing academic notices for schools that reviewed a 3-star or higher rating in the 2023 NSPF AND Meets or Exceeds Standard in the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework. Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. Member Kinne abstained from the motion. The motion carried.

**Agenda Item 8 – Long-Range Calendar [00:05:0:10]**

Executive Director Bauer shared the potential agenda items for the next 3 months from the long-range calendar.

**Agenda Item 9 – Public Comment #2 [05:12:03]**

Member Tonia Holmes-Sutton shared the public comment that was submitted.

**Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment [05:12:21]**

Member Holmes-Sutton adjourned the meeting.

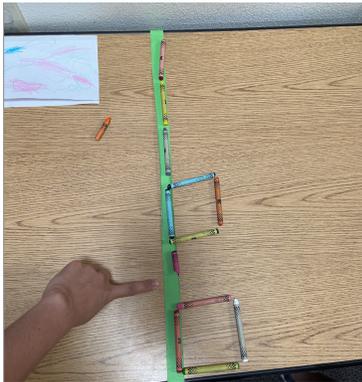
## Testimony in honor of my student, Kamari Wolfe: Charter School Board Authority

My name is Juliana Urtubey and I was one of Kamari Wolfe's teachers at Kermit Booker Elementary during the 2020-2021 school year. I am the 2021 National Teacher of the Year and the 2021 Nevada State Teacher of the Year.

Kamari was a bright and warm Pre-K student. He loved to dance, play with his friends, and learn. One of his favorite activities was an interactive yoga video where he got to "go on dragon hunts" with his classmates and teachers.



Kamari was energetic and warm. He was bright and interested. Once, we were measuring classroom furniture with crayons. While measuring his table, he laid six crayons across. One of the crayons was broken and missing its bottom third so Kamari left a gap because he knew that he had to account for the entire crayon. This showed terrific reasoning skills and mathematical thinking at a young age. I remember waiting with Kamari and his friends to be picked up from school. They hugged and sang and giggled. I was grateful to team up with Ms. Sharena Joseph to provide Kamari all the love and support he needed in Pre-K.



Watching him get his end of the year diploma was a proud moment for us all.

I am writing to celebrate Kamari Wolfe's life and also to advocate for an increase in school safety. Kamari's tragic death while commuting to school was preventable. On Friday, October 6, Kamari was struck by a van crossing Somerset Academy's Losee Campus. All schools must have a holistic safety plan in place to protect students and

families. While it is my understanding that Kamari's accident occurred across the street from Somerset Academy, schools are responsible for creating protocols for safe student drop offs and pickups. Families have reported an unacceptable lack of safety protocols with impatient and unsafe driving occurring at and around the school. Families say that unsafe conditions are a frequent occurrence near the school. A mother called the traffic around the school, "hectic" and navigating it a, "battlefield."

According to the Review Journal, this is the second student to die in a traffic accident before or after school. In 2020, a 12 year old boy died crossing Lone Mountain Road after school. His nine year old sister was also hit and survived after being in the ICU. I call on the Nevada Department of Education, the Charter School Authority Board, the North Las Vegas Police, and the City of North Las Vegas to act **immediately** to ensure safety is a top priority at all Las Vegas schools.

No one prepares you as a teacher to lose a student, to comfort a grieving family, or to soothe children scared and sad that their community has experienced such an unspeakable loss. Keeping our students safe is our job. I urge you to enact policy and accountability systems to immediately ensure students and their families are safe at drop offs and pick-ups in and around our schools.

I will cherish the memories I have of Kamari running to hug me in the mornings. Or watching him give me a little finger wave as I came in and out of his classroom. I will also do all I can to ensure we learn and enact change in the wake of his tragic death.

Please call on me to continue to build safety protocols for children and families.

Juliana Urtubey, NBCT  
2021 National Teacher of the Year  
2021 Nevada Teacher of the Year



