

NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

April 16, 2013

Department of Education
700 East Fifth Street
Board Conference Room
Carson City, Nevada

And

Department of Education
9890 South Maryland Pkwy
Second Floor Conference Room
Las Vegas, Nevada

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
(Tele Conferenced)

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:
Robert McCord

In Carson City:
None

Teleconference
Marc Abelman
Elissa Wahl
Kathleen Conaboy
Melissa Mackedon
Michael Van

AUTHORITY MEMBERS ABSENT:
Nora Luna

AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:
Traci House, Business Process Analyst II, State Public Charter School Authority

In Carson City:
Steve Canavero, Director, State Public Charter School Authority
Katherine Rohrer, Education Program Professional, State Public Charter School Authority
Tom McCormack, Education Program Professional, State Public Charter School Authority
Angela Blair, Education Program Professional, State Public Charter School Authority
Allyson Kellogg, Management Analyst, State Public Charter School Authority
Katie Higday, Management Analyst, State Public Charter School Authority

Danny Peltier, Administrative Assistant, State Public Charter School Authority

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

None

In Carson City:

Shane Chesney, Senior Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Las Vegas:

Hasan Deniz
Maria DePina
Fatih Ozer
Marlene Battle
Sebia Rabersen
Ercan Aydogdu
Cathy Ranstrom
Nick Sarisahl
Ryan Reeves
M. Gunozu
Danny Diamond
Melissa Ozaki
April Taggart
Kriby Okuda
Sarah Di Salvo
Bettina Di Salvo
Murhet Ecerslon
Ferdar Yusekkaya
John Hawk
Kathy Kubrik
Jesse Maloy
David Disalw

In Carson City:

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

Chair Conaboy called the meeting to order at 2:00p.m. with attendance as reflected above.

Agenda Item 1 - Public Comment

Members of Coral Academy's staff and students spoke on behalf of Coral Academy and the success the school has had over the past six years. Sarah DiSalvo started at Coral Academy in the 5th grade. She said the school and programs within the school has grown incredibly while she has been in attendance. She also spoke about the numerous Advanced Placement classes that Coral offers that help students' chances at being accepted into the college of their choice. Marlene Battle, instructional coach at Coal Academy said she had been at the school for three years. She started as a teacher and took over as the instructional coach. Ms. Battle said she really likes the small class sizes and the involvements teachers can have with the students and their parents.

She said Coral offers Differentiated instruction in order to help along different types of learners. She said the students know that there is a lot of rigorous involved in Coral Academy, but those students also know that within that is a love and true caring for their futures. Maria DePina, site director at 8185 Tamarus Drive campus of Coral Academy. She has been with Coral Academy for five years, and began her tenure with the school as the Dean of Students. She spoke about the experience she has had and how incredible the school environment is. She also complimented the parent involvement at the school, and the partnership they share with Coral Academy's staff in achieving success for the students of Coral Academy. Jesse Maloy, 5th grade English teacher, echoed what was said by the other staff members, but also included that the classroom environment is truly exceptional at Coral Academy and like none other that he has seen in his teaching experience.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of January 8, 2013 SPCSA Board meeting minutes

Chair Conaboy noted a few grammatical corrections.

Member Van moved to approve the March 22, 2013 minutes. Member Mackedon seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 3 - Legislative Update

Director Canavero began by mentioning how busy the legislative session has been and also thanking the legislative liaisons. SB 59, CCSD sponsored, was passed out of committee after the SPCSA decided to withdraw the amendment which looked to be stalling the bill. SB 471, Revolving Loan Account, was noted during the hearing that the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) had suggested language for the bill that may make the bill better, and Director Canavero said that talks were still ongoing regarding the new language and the bill itself. SB 384, which provides for charter schools to access through a conduit issuer to tax-exempt bonds, no longer includes the Authority as the conduit to issue bonds. The language was changed to include business and industry to be the conduit to the bonds that charter schools would be accessing. SB 384 passed out of the Senate Committee and had moved onto the Assembly. Director Canavero also suggested that committee members keep an eye on SB311, which had been called a “parent trigger” bill, and it affects charter by providing the option for charter schools with 3 consecutive years of persistent underperformance to be improved by the parents of the children who attend the school and if that is unsuccessful the school could be converted to an Empowerment school.

In the Assembly, AB205, which creates charter performance contracts, changes language to the lottery language in NRS, and contains default closure language. Director Canavero said that after working with multiple parties, language had been agreed upon and the bill would be moving forward in the legislative process. Chair Conaboy also added that language in AB205 would accommodate both the Nevada School Performance Framework and the charter performance framework that the SPCSA had been working on. Director Canavero felt that automatic closures, while a good idea, needed to be clarified with regard to alternative schools that may not fit within the Nevada School Performance Framework.

Director Canavero finished by discussing SB453, which is a clean-up bill to existing charter school law. IT was authored to remove the Nevada Department of Education's role in reviewing charter applications on behalf of the sponsor of the charter school. The process of how sponsors can become sponsors also was clarified and increasing accountability for charter sponsors across the state.

Agenda Item 4 - Recommendation to renew the Coral Academy of Science-Las Vegas charter.

Director Canavero read from the Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas Renewal Report, which can be seen below:

The Renewal Report for Coral Academy of Science – Las Vegas (CASLV) is a summary of the evidence collected by the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) through its analysis of documentation, review

of the school's Renewal Application along with an analysis of academic performance throughout the charter term.

The decision to renew a charter for a subsequent six-year period is based on a comprehensive review of the school's performance guided by three questions:

1. Is the academic program a success?
2. Is the school fiscally sound?
3. Is the school a viable organization?

This report is structured around three sections: Academic, Fiscal, and Organizational. Each section contains an overview of key findings based on a review of evidence and concludes with the Authority's determination on each of the three guiding questions.

CASLV data from the Nevada School Performance Framework for the 2011-2012 school year are presented in the Authority's Academic Profile. Percentile rankings were determined using the Nevada School Performance Framework attribution tables released in January of 2013. Coral Academy of Las Vegas is identified as a Quality School per the Authority's draft framework using results from the 2011-2012 school year (the most current growth data).

- AYP designations since Coral opened have been Adequate or High Achieving.
 - FY2008 and FY 2009 AYP designations were High Achieving—Status;
 - FY 2010 and FY 2011 designations were adequate; and
 - FY2012 designation was High Achieving-Growth.
- Since the school opened, overall percentage of students achieving proficiency in ELA and Math has been consistently above the Annual Measurable Objectives set by the state.
- As measured by the NSPF attribution tables, proficiency rates for grades 3-6 in both Reading and Math rank above the 95th percentile in the state.
- As measured by the NSPF attribution tables, proficiency rates for grades 7-8 for Reading rank above the 75th percentile and for Math rank above the 95th percentile in the state.
- As measured by the NSPF attribution tables, the percentage of students meeting their Adequate Yearly Growth targets for grades 3-8 in both Reading and Math rank above the 75th percentile in the state.

As measured by the NSPF attribution tables, the Median Growth Percentile for grades 3-8 is above the 50th percentile for Reading and above the 75th percentile in Math.

Overall academic performance at the high school level is based on a small population of students. Although the school meets the N-count thresholds, the overall N-count may only include ten students.

- AYP designation for FY12 for the High School was Adequate
- As measured by the NSPF attribution tables, the percentage of students proficient for 11th grade Math ranks >25th percentile and <50th percentile in the state.
- As measured by the NSPF attribution tables, the percentage of students proficient for 11th grade Reading ranks >50th percentile but <75th percentile in the state.
- As measured by the NSPF attribution tables, the Median Growth Percentile for both Reading and Math ranks above the 75th percentile.
- The N-count for the 2012 grad rate was too small to allow for a statistically sound calculation.

An ongoing concern: Reporting of Subpopulations: The school consistently shows a low to non-existent subpopulation in FRL, IEP, and ELL as reported in the 11-12 NSPF and in all AYP reports posed for 2008-2012. Overall, is the academic program at CASLV a success? Yes.

Coral Academy of Science -Las Vegas is fiscally sound in the near term as indicated by their maintenance of adequate liquid assets to pay liabilities that will mature in the next year and the maintenance of adequate cash to pay over two months of operating expenses. Their fiscal sustainability outlook is positive as evidenced by their ability to pay debts that mature at dates farther than a year in the future, their sustained positive surplus margin over time and their positive annual cash flow.

Coral Academy of Science-Las Vegas' independent audit report annually shows that their financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the aggregate remaining fund information, and the respective changes in financial position in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The auditor's consideration of internal control over financial reporting did not identify any deficiencies in internal control considered to be material weaknesses. There were no ongoing fiscal concerns.

Longitudinal analysis of the Annual Performance Audit for CASLV 2007-2012: Identification of significant and/or repeat noncompliant findings.

19, 2, 7, 10, 22, 28, below, are subsections of NAC 386.410, Performance audits: Report of compliance.

19. A determination whether the charter school complies with [NRS 386.590](#) regarding the employment of teachers and other educational personnel.

- Noncompliant for 2007-2008 and 2009-2010.
 - Coral Academy is currently compliant.

2. A determination whether the membership of the governing body of the charter school complies with [NRS 386.549](#) and [NAC 386.345](#), including, without limitation, whether:

(a) The governing body consists of the number of teachers required by [NRS 386.549](#);

(b) A majority of the members of the governing body reside in the county in which the charter school is located; and

(c) Each member of the governing body has filed an affidavit with the Department indicating that he or she:

(1) Has not been convicted of a felony or offense involving moral turpitude; and

(2) Has read and understands material concerning the roles and responsibilities of members of governing bodies of charter schools and other material designed to assist the governing bodies of charter schools, if such material is provided to him or her by the Department, as required pursuant to [NRS 386.549](#).

- Noncompliant for 2008-2009 and 2010-2011.
 - Coral Academy is currently compliant.

7. A determination whether the charter school has complied with generally accepted standards of accounting and fiscal management.

- Noncompliant for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012
 - Coral Academy has resolved this issue satisfactorily with their response to the SPCSA 2012-2013 Annual Performance Audit.

10. A determination whether the charter school complies with [NRS 386.573](#) regarding orders for payment of money.

- Noncompliant for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012
 - Coral Academy has resolved this issue satisfactorily with their response to the SPCSA 2012-2013 Annual Performance Audit.

22. A description of the procedure for the enrollment of pupils in the charter school, including, without limitation, whether the charter school enrolls pupils on the basis of a lottery system if more pupils who are eligible for enrollment apply for enrollment than the number of spaces that are available.

- Noncompliant for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012.
 - The lottery/enrollment issue from the 2011-2012 APA was resolved by amendment of the charter approved by the Authority 1/23/13.

28. A determination whether the written inventory of equipment, supplies and textbooks that is maintained by the charter school pursuant to [NAC 386.342](#) is current and accurate.

- Noncompliant for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012.
 - Inventory is inspected once per year.

Special Education

Coral Academy of Las Vegas (CALV) Renewal – Special Education Review

- Coral Academy of Las Vegas has had no complaint reports filed with NDE for the years 2007 – 2013.
- Coral Academy of Las Vegas has had no due process hearings with NDE for the years 2007 –2013.
- Coral Academy of Las Vegas turns in all required reports on time and they are complete and compliant.
- Coral Academy of Las Vegas was monitored by NDE’s Special Education Department during the school years 2008-2009 and 2011-2012. Subsequently, the school had to develop and implement a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for the following school years, 2009-2010 and 2012-2013, to address the noncompliance issues discovered during the monitoring phase. All noncompliance issues were of procedural and process errors. NDE is still reviewing documents submitted by CALV to complete their CAP plan for FY13. If all documents are correct, then CALV will be put back in NDE’s monitoring cycle; if there are still concerns, then CALV will continue to be monitored again during the 2013-2014 school year.

Ongoing concern:

- 1) The bylaws (Art. 3, Sec 3.2) should be updated to reflect the membership requirements of NRS 386.549.

a. Coral indicated they plan to amend the bylaws at the next meeting of the governing body. Consistent with best practices, CASLV should strive to ensure the governance of the school reflects the community in which they serve.

The staff of the State Public Charter School Authority recommends Coral Academy of Science charter be renewed based on the school’s overall academic, financial, and organizational performance.

After Director Canavero completed the SPCSA staff recommendation report, members of Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas spoke to Authority. Ercan Aydogdu, Executive Director of Coral Academy, spoke about the growth Coral had undergone over the past 6 years. He said that the school had grown from 100 pupils to over 1,000 in the past six years. He spoke about the focus on math and science that the school’s curriculum is based on and the successes they have had in moving their students on from the Academy to institutions of higher learning. Member McCord said they he thought it was important to emphasize the work Coral Academy has done with under-served student populations and that he wanted the school to continue their due diligence on the matter as the school moves forward.

Member McCord moved for the approval of Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas’s renewal application. Member Abelman Seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Agenda Item 5 - Discussion and possible action related to the Director of the State Public Charter School Authority pursuit of other business as described in NRS 386.5115

Director Canavero began by explaining that NRS 386.5115 prohibits the Director from pursuing other business or occupation or any office of profit without the approval of the State Public Charter School Authority. He said

for the purpose of this agenda item, other business is defined by activities that fall outside of those duties that can be reasonably linked to the Director Duties as defined in NRS 386.512. Director Canavero asked for the Board's approval to engage in *other business* because the Director's participation builds productive relationships with leaders in the charter school field, raises the standing of Nevada within the charter school sector, develops core capacities in the Director's leadership, and keeps Nevada abreast of emerging talent as well as best practices of charter school sponsorship.

Such activities that are deemed to be *other business* shall only be pursued during non-compensated time by the State (i.e., furlough or annual leave). The Director shall report to the Authority Board on a quarterly basis any engagement in *other business* during the preceding quarter.

Member McCord said he believes these types of activities are a value-added activity for the SPCSA and all of Nevada. Chair Conaboy said that while she agreed with everything Member McCord said she had some concerns with the last part of the presentation regarding *activities that are deemed to be other business shall only be pursued during non-compensated time by the State (i.e., furlough or annual leave)*. She said that she felt that Director Canavero did not have to participate in the outside activities on non-compensated time. She said she felt it was part of expectations of the Authority that Director Canavero would take part in activities that better the charter school environment in Nevada and that he need not take his own personal time to engage in the activities. She said she had been singing Director Canavero's praises at the legislature for his membership on the NACSA Board of Directors and that membership help all Nevada Charter schools keep up-to-date on model charter law and national best practices. Member McCord recommended that the Authority approve the motion as written now, and then amend one proper counsel had been sought with regard to the compensation of the Director.

Agenda Item 6 – Member Comment

Member Wahl talked about meeting with Jim Rogers, owner of Channel 3 in Las Vegas. She appeared on "Inside Nevada" and recorded five different series for the television show. Each segment would be airing that week and would be focusing on homeschool, RISE Resource Center, charter schools, and educational options for Nevada parents as a whole.

Agenda Item 7 – Public Comment

None

Agenda Item 8 – Next meeting Date

The next SPCSA board meeting was scheduled for June 21, 2013.

Member Van moved for adjournment. Member Abelman seconded. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.