

NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

December 4, 2015

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

And

Nevada Department of Education
9890 South Maryland Parkway
Board Room
Las Vegas, Nevada

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Kathleen Conaboy
Robert McCord
Adam Johnson
Elissa Wahl
Marc Abelman
Nora Luna

In Carson City:

Melissa Mackedon

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Patrick Gavin, Director, State Public Charter School Authority
Joan Jurgensen, Education Program Professional, State Public Charter School Authority
Nya Berry, Education Programs Professional, State Public Charter School Authority
Traci House, Business Process Analyst, State Public Charter School Authority

In Carson City:

Angela Blair, Education Program Professional, State Public Charter School Authority
Kathy Robson, Education Program Professional, 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:

Greg Ott, Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Las Vegas:

Attendance Sheet Attached

In Carson City:

Attendance Sheet Attached

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

President Conaboy called the meeting to order at 9:05am with attendance as reflected above.

Member McCord asked for a motion for a flexible agenda. Chair Conaboy agreed and called for a motion for a flexible agenda. Member Abelman seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Comment

Braxton Pacca, father of a student at Doral Academy, spoke about the difficulties they had dealing with Doral Academy. He asked the Authority to ensure charter schools maintain strong communications with parents. He said there were problems at Doral with the grading and the disciplinary procedures the school implemented. Ms. Pacca, mother of Doral student, also spoke about the grading and disciplinary problems at Doral Academy.

Agenda Item 2 - Approval of September 28, 2015 SPCSA Board Meeting Minutes, October 26, 2015 SPCSA Board Meeting Minutes and November 10, 2015

Member Abelman moved for approval of the November 10, 2015 subcommittee meeting. Member Johnson seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Luna moved for approval of the September 28, 2015 and October 26, 2015 board meeting minutes. Member Abelman seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 11- Public Hearing to make a determination regarding whether to revoke the written charter of Silver State Charter School. Pursuant to the October 26 action from the Board and Staff's October 26 letter to Silver State Charter School, the Board will consider whether the deficiencies included in the Notice of Closure have been corrected to the satisfaction of the Board

Deputy Attorney General Ott detailed the agenda item by explaining this would be a hearing for the notice of closure that was sent to Silver State Charter School. He said the school and the SPCSA staff would both have the opportunity to submit evidence and the Authority Board would weigh that evidence for their decision. Mr. Ott also noted the school and SPCSA staff would be allowed the opportunity to discuss the evidence during the hearing prior the final determination by the Authority Board. He then asked everyone who would be testifying on the agenda item to rise and swear they would be telling the full truth during their testimony to the board. Members of the audience along with representatives of SSCS rose and swore the authenticity of their testimony.

Mr. Ott said the hearing would commence with representatives of SSCS to testify on the evidence that had been submitted in response to the notice of closure.

Christina Saenz, governing body president of SSCS, Kit Kotler executive director of SSCS and Ryan Russel counsel for SSCS spoke on behalf of the school. Ms. Saenz explained the changes that had been implemented at SSCS in response to the notice of closure. She said the school had changed governing board members, including the principal and added provisions that would better allow the board to monitor, and make, financial decisions on behalf of the school. She said SSCS had implemented new internal controls that would provide guidance in maintain financial stability of the school. She said the school had closed the account that had been identified in the forensic audit commissioned by the SPCSA. She finished her statement by requesting the Authority board keep the school open and allow them to

serve the students who were enrolled there. Chair Conaboy asked why documents were being referenced by representatives of SSCS that had not been submitted to the Authority or SPCSA staff. Ms. Saenz said she was of the understanding that the documents were submitted into Epicenter and did not understand why the Authority had not received said documents.

Mr. Russel noted the account closing had been agendized within the confines of the Open Meeting Law, but due to bank restrictions the final closing was unable to be completed prior to the hearing. He said he could confirm, as an officer of the court, that the SSCS board had closed the delinquent account.

Chair Conaboy asked Director Gavin why the Authority had not received documents being referenced by SSCS. Director Gavin said the SPCSA staff had received two submissions in Epicenter and that both were the same. The documents received by SPCSA staff were a three page letter in response to the notice of closure.

Dr. Kotler said the school had submitted a 77 page document to Epicenter at 8:55 pm, which was five minutes prior to the submission window closing. She said the contents included the response to the notice of closure, the new internal controls, Dr. Kotler's response to the notice of closure, an attestation that the school serves a majority at-risk students, agreements between Western Nevada College and WNC, student achievement data, governing board changes at SSCS, letters of support from students, parents students, and Assemblyman PK O'Neil and responses to the prior notices of concern and breach that were sent out by the SPCSA.

Chair Conaboy asked Director Gavin when the document being referenced by SSCS was posted into Epicenter. Director Gavin said no such document had been submitted. Mr. Russel said the school had met all deadlines that were required of them by the SPCSA. He said the school's responses to the notice of closure went above and beyond what was asked of them.

Chair Conaboy asked about the relationship between SSCS and Kellie Grahmann. Dr. Kotler said the settlement agreement that was reached between the SSCS and Ms. Grahmann would be complete in November and the school would pay her consultation fees if they were in need of her assistance, but Dr. Kotler said she would not be contracted for any issue in the future.

Director Gavin asked Ms. Saenz why the resolution for the changes to the governing body was not done sooner. Ms. Saenz said there was a board agenda item during the November board meeting to close the derivatives account. She said the bank notified the school that the decision that was made during the November meeting was not clear enough for it to be approved by the bank, thus the school had to meet again to consider the item and add clarity to its decision. Member McCord asked if the school had received any legal actions that may compromise the curative actions that had been undertaken by the school. Mr. Russell said the school had received no such actions based on the curative measures they had implemented.

Chair Conaboy asked for a five minute recess.

Mr. Ott said the SSCS had submitted a substantial amount of evidence and the Authority did not have enough time to review. He said the possibility of tabling the agenda item until the January 4, 2016 board meeting. Chair Conaboy asked SSCS if they would be willing to explain the materials that were related to the financial performance of the school, but allow for the materials that were submitted on December 3 to be reviewed and heard at the January 4 meeting. Ms. Saenz and Mr. Russell agreed to those suggestions.

Ms. Saenz addressed the governing board changes and the financial changes, discussed earlier in the meeting, which had been made at SSCS.

Member Mackedon said that while the school said the changes being discussed were made, there was no evidence of the changes in the documents submitted by SSCS. She said it was standard practice for all charter schools to upload the necessary documents when changes are made to them, such as the membership of the governing board. Director Gavin asked Ms. Saenz why the affidavits of service, resumes, and conflicts of interest statements were not uploaded to Epicenter, which is required by statute. Ms. Saenz said the information requested by the SPCSA was submitted to Dr. Kotler as Ms. Saenz didn't have access to Epicenter and she ensured the proper documentation would be uploaded. Mr. Russell added that the composition of SSCS's board was not an agenda item and was not up for discussion today.

Chair Conaboy said the item would be tabled and heard again at the January 4, 2016 meeting. SSCS agreed so long as they were able to provide the backup documentation that the SPCSA had requested. Chair Conaboy agreed to the request and Ms. Saenz said all supporting documentation would be submitted by December 10, 2015.

Chair Conaboy then called for the public comment regarding SSCS notice of closure. *(All submitted testimony for public comment can be found as attachment A at the conclusion of the minutes)*

Anthony Bettencourt, student, and William Truce, science teacher, spoke in support of keeping SSCS open. Mr. Truce also read from statements of students, Evan Karl, Danielle Morrison, and Chance Payne who were unable to attend the meeting. Evie Boutte spoke in support of SSCS and said the school does a great job reaching students who may have fallen through the cracks. Carla Ferrigno, spoke in support of SSCS and echoed Ms. Boutte's comments. Dillon Haycock, graduate of SSCS, spoke in support of keeping SSCS open because it allowed him to graduate on time. Michael Gerry, parent of SSCS and husband of SSCS governing board member, spoke in support of keeping SSCS open and hoped the state would allow SSCS the time to submit backup documentation showing the school had made the necessary changes. Delane Pennington, retired SSCS teacher, spoke in support of keeping SSCS open and said the school had done a wonderful job servicing special needs students. Nadine Branco, teacher SSCS, spoke in support of keeping SSCS open. She said she was also a teacher at Western Nevada College and has seen the good work the graduates of SSCS are able to do at the college level. Emily Gehr-Howard, student at SSCS, spoke in support of keeping SSCS open. Sheri Rasmussen, parent of student at SSCS, thanked the board for tabling the agenda item and said she would speak at the January 4 board meeting. Tamara Chavez, parent of a student at SSCS, spoke in support of keeping SSCS open. Kendal Carothers, spoke in support of keeping SSCS open because it allowed her to change her life around while she was a student there. Barbara Wright, teacher at SSCS, spoke in support of keeping SSCS open. Joanna Perry, teacher at SSCS, spoke in support of keeping SSCS open. Jake Conway, teacher at SSCS, spoke in support of keeping SSCS open because its blended model had been such a successful tool for students. Jim Martineau, teacher at SSCS, also spoke in support of keeping SSCS open.

Agenda Item 8 - Consideration regarding the Application Review Team's recommendation of Nevada State High School's charter school application renewal

Director Gavin explained that NSHS was up for an expedited renewal. Chair Conaboy then asked representatives of NSHS to speak on behalf of the school. Amanda Law, Student Body President of NSHS, spoke in support of NSHS's renewal. She discussed the opportunities the school had given her while she was enrolled at NSHS. Tanya Escalara, student at NSHS, spoke in support of NSHS's renewal. She discussed how the school assisted her in obtaining her Associates Degree while enrolled in the

school. Sara Carr, student at NSHS, also spoke in support of the renewal of NSHS. Alexander Lamb, student at NSHS, spoke in favor of NSHS's renewal. Jordan Nelson, graduate and employee at NSHS, also spoke in favor of NSHS's renewal and discussed the opportunities the school had provided her.

Director Gavin then read from the recommendation report.

Analysis:

Academics: The SPCSA issues an Academic Performance Framework on an Annual Basis. Nevada State High School has been a 5 Star School since the inception of the NSPF. It was ranked as Exceeds on the 2013 SPCSA Academic Framework and as Exceptional on the 2014 SPCSA Academic Framework.

Organizational: In its current iteration, the SPCSA Organizational Framework is a rolling evaluation of school organizational performance. Based on verified complaints and spot checks of school organizational performance, the Authority issues Notices of Concern or Notices of Breach for Organizational Performance. Schools which have not received such notices are presumed to be in Good Standing. Nevada State High School has received no Notices of Breach or Notices of Concern since the inception of the Framework and is currently presumed to be in Good Standing.

Financial: Nevada State High School has a strong history of clean audit findings. The SPCSA Financial Framework monitors a variety of indicators of financial health. Nevada State High School has not received any Notices of Concern or Notices of Breach in relation to the financial framework. After multiple years of significant operating surpluses, Nevada State High School's board made the strategic decision to forgo incurring debt and opted to spend down prior year surpluses over the past several years to support expansion to serve additional students and the addition of new leadership capacity to support succession planning and future growth. The school has consulted with the Authority regarding these investments and has proactively monitored its performance relative to the Financial Framework calculations to balance out the short term need to dip into prior year surpluses (thereby expending funds in excess of revenues) with the benefits of expansion and pipeline investments. While these declines in fund balance and the incurring of expenses which exceed revenue merit ongoing monitoring, they have not resulted in any findings under the Financial Framework.

Additional Context:

It is important to note that the school has engaged in collaborative discussions with the Authority regarding its plans following renewal, including the submission of both an expansion amendment request and a Notice of Intent to apply for a separate charter under the same board in northern Nevada. As part of that planning and self-evaluation, the school is currently an active participant in the Quality Schools Replication program pioneered at the New York City Center for Charter School Excellence and currently hosted by the Tennessee Charter School Incubator. Through that process, the school has drafted a more resilient, scalable financial model which is intended both to support appropriate investments in the school's current operations and position the school for sustainable expansion.

Recommendation: Approve Renewal

Nevada State High School is one of the strongest academic and organizational performers in the SPCSA portfolio. As noted above, the school's financial performance merits ongoing monitoring to ensure that the operating deficit related to the expansion and pipeline investments does not recur. The school agrees that more aggressive internal monitoring of these indicators and segregating contingency, expansion, and capital refresh reserves from the school's general funds and operating accounts to more appropriately reflect the school's financial position are opportunities for growth and improvement which will only enhance the organization's viability. The school also recognizes that recurrence of fund balance declines

and expenditures exceeding revenue in FY '16 would necessitate a Notice of Concern and heightened monitoring and intervention.

Member McCord moved for approval of the expedited renewal of Nevada State High School. Member Wahl seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Conaboy asked Director Gavin to explain the concept of expedited renewal to clarify the process for people who may not understand. Director Gavin said expedited renewal is only offered by invitation from the SPCSA. He said it was incorporated into the framework in 2013. He said earlier in the year the Authority developed the process for expedited renewal pursuant to the SPCSA Performance Framework. He in order for a school to be invited for expedited renewal a school needed to show high marks in the academic and organizational framework and strong marks on the financial framework.

Dr. Wendi Hawk, NSHS spoke about NSHS and its operations. Member McCord commended the school for its continued success and the foresight it uses to map out strong missions and goals.

Agenda Item 9 - Nevada State High School Expansion Amendment request

Director Gavin read from the recommendation report. Nevada State High School has requested permission to pursue the acquisition of a new facility in East Las Vegas. The new campus would open with approximately 150 students in 2016-17 and is projected to serve 250 students at capacity.

Background

Nevada State High School was approved by the State Board of Education in 2010 and opened in the fall of that year. It currently operates under a written charter which will expire in 2016. It has submitted a request for expedited renewal which will also be considered today. The school has not received any notices of concern or breach related to its academic, financial, or organizational performance. The school has operated as a 5 Star school since the inception of the NSPF and was ranked as Exceeds in 2013 and Exceptional in 2014 on the SPCSA Academic Framework.

Recommendation: Approve with Conditions

The school meets the current criteria for approval for a new facility pursuant to the most recent revisions to NAC and has participated thoughtfully in the new amendment request process in a manner which demonstrates the capacity to effectively govern and operate a new campus. It is important to note that the school's unique dual-enrollment model serving 11th and 12th grade students who receive the majority of their instruction on college campuses presents some challenges in participating in the menu of diversification strategies that the SPCSA has articulated in evaluating expansion requests. The staff's analysis of this school's context and those diversification options is provided below:

- *Operating a Weighted Lottery:* Because the school has historically accepted all interested students, the school has operated on a rolling admissions basis and has not had to operate a lottery or maintain a wait list. Consequently, a weighted lottery is not applicable in this instance.
- *Providing a Broad or the Full Continuum:* Given the inclusion nature of the dual-enrollment program and the school's reliance on higher education partnerships—including the disability services offices at the local colleges—it is unclear whether mandating a broader continuum is appropriate in this particular context.
- *Participation in the NSLP program:* As a program which sends students to college campuses, the school is not in a position to offer a breakfast or lunch program.
- *State/Federal Pre-K program:* As a very small high school, the option of directly operating a subsidized pre-K program would not provide a diversification feeder, the primary purpose behind that option. However, a future partnership with an East Las Vegas charter school which offers

the Pre-K program might provide pregnant and parenting students enrolled at NSHS who are unable to participate in a college based pre-K program with an additional support, depending on alignment of that school's schedule with the schedule of the NSHS student. Recommended condition: Staff suggests that the Board request that the school to explore the feasibility of that option during the first and second year of implementation and report back to the Board.

It is important to note that Nevada State High School is pursuing this expansion to provide a dual-enrollment opportunity to students in East Las Vegas, one of the state's most under-served communities. The willingness of an operator which has typically been located in suburban locations to a neighborhood with far more challenges should be encouraged. Moreover, the SPCSA Board retains significant discretion in making expansion amendment decisions, as the criteria adopted by the Board have not been enshrined in regulation and are not rules of general applicability. Rather, they are guidelines intended to serve the broader objective of cultivating an SPCSA student population that is more reflective of the diversity of this state. Approving the expansion of Nevada State High School to East Las Vegas is an action which will support that goal.

As the school is submitting this request well in advance of executing on a lease or sale, staff requests that the initial approval be granted as one strategic amendment to acquire and operate a facility in East Las Vegas and serving the grade levels and student enrollment identified in the request. Staff further requests delegated authority to grant additional technical amendments and approvals in upon receipt of documentation and other items required under NAC to occupy the buildings over the course of the next several years. This approval is consistent with the mechanism the Authority Board uses to permit the incorporation of pre-opening requirements for new schools into the charter contract without the delay and complexity attendant to additional board review.

Dr. Hawk spoke about why NSHS chose to add an additional location. She said students had to drive across the entire valley to reach the current NSHS campus. With the additional campus it will allow the students easier access to the campus and the resources they need to attend NSHS successfully. Dr. Tim Stevens also spoke about the work he did in identifying the location for the additional campus. He said they worked to find a location that would allow for students in disadvantaged areas in Las Vegas valley. He said it was difficult for those students to make their way to Henderson due to lack of transportation, child care, work hours and other restrictions that made the travel difficult. He said, while those students do find a way, it was not conducive to a successful learning experience. Dr. Hawk explained the model the school uses and why they have educational advisors instead of the traditional teachers. She said students take college courses through the College of Southern Nevada, but still need advisors that can assist them with class choices and other decisions that the college may not be able to help with.

Member Johnson commended NSHS for choosing to open a campus on the east side of the valley. He asked about how the support would be different considering the socioeconomic status of the students in the east valley as compared to the students who attend the Henderson campus. Dr. Stevens said they had looked at providing additional assistance with the social aspects of students attending the east valley campus. He said the academic support would mirror the Henderson campus, but did acknowledge students may need additional help connecting with people in the community they may otherwise not meet.

Member McCord moved for approval of staff's recommendation of NSHS expansion request. Member Abelman seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Godliness Qulicane, NSHS student, spoke in favor of the expansion request. He discussed the transportation difficulties he faced while attending NSHS's Henderson campus. He said he had to take

three hour bus rides in order to make it to class on time. Karina Deras, graduate and part time employee of NSHS, spoke in support of the campus expansion. She said the travel to Henderson was difficult for her while she attended NSHS and hopes the additional campus in East Las Vegas would alleviate some of those problems for students who live in that area. Dr. Hawk then read testimony for Erica Mosca in support of the expansion.

Agenda Item 6 - Charter School Administrators Report

Steve Werlien, Nevada Connections principal gave the administrators report and his submitted testimony follows. “I am happy to be here to report on our 3rd Charter School Directors’ meeting which took place on Friday November 13th. We were lucky to have 14 schools participate in Reno, LV, and via phone. Participants spent 2.5 hours discussing challenges, opportunities, and strategies common to our schools. In keeping with tradition, we will be meeting again in January and Tambre Tondryk from Beacon Academy will be facilitating the meeting.

To start with, just having the opportunity to have conversations with colleagues from across the state and learn about their schools is highly valuable—particularly for those who are still relatively new to Nevada—such as myself.

We began our meeting by reflecting on the recent CSAN conference and how satisfying it was to see so many charter school leaders, teachers, board members, government officials, and representatives of the higher education community present. Teachers were appreciative of the PD opportunity and the chance to interact with colleagues. **Based on dialogue at the meeting—there is a strong desire to have future opportunities for all stakeholders such as this.**

Legislative activities, challenges, and opportunities were discussed as well and took up a large part of our meeting time. There was a clear and definitively stated need for the charter movement to have a unified voice during this critical time. Much discussion around schools needing to do “legwork” to tell our stories to elected officials, get them to our campuses, and engage them in conversation about the need we fill as charters in the state, and our needs as public schools. Facilities funding—and in fact funding equity in general—were identified as the most pressing needs and those around which educational and communication activities will revolve. Developing materials to clearly and succinctly share this information—and to actually have a deliverable available by Winter Break was decided upon by the group. This is timely, considering the interim committee will begin formally meeting in February. Mobilizing parents and joining with their voices is also a critical need as we move forward.

The Charter School Association board members present led a discussion on the need to focus on fundraising and lobbying and the pressing need of securing a full time executive director to help guide its efforts and those of the charter movement. To date, at least one interview has been held.

Testing was discussed. This was a continuation of the dialogue started at the Charter School Association PD day from earlier in the month. There is a clear concern with the amount of time that would be required to properly administer the ASPIRE test across additional grades. However—there was also an understanding of the need for the availability of reliable testing data to support decision making in the absence of SBAC data. The group is looking forward to having continued opportunities to provide input on the pros and cons of ASPIRE testing with the charter authority and to create a plan to support accountability balanced with avoiding test burnout. The group feels strongly that all perspectives and the needs of all schools are shared when decisions are made in this very important area.

We continued our meeting by addressing some of the new legislative initiatives and their operational realities. Read by 3 legislation was designated as a topic which needs further discussion, explanation, and dissemination of best practice. The grant funding which was associated with this initiative was referenced, and based on comments provided by several members of our group there appeared to be concern over the number of charter schools that were provided funding. There was general consensus that transparency and clarity regarding grants administered by the DOE is needed to ensure charter schools are given a fair chance at obtaining them.

The discussion continued with anti-bullying legislation, the role of the Office of Safe and Respective Learning (which was presented at the CSAN conference) and the Safe Schools Conference two weeks ago. While everyone clearly understood the need to proactively address this topic—several school leaders expressed concern over the amount of time needed to investigate allegations of bullying—and the timeframe in which such investigations must take place. In addition to addressing bullying in all forms and at all levels, charter schools serve many students who enroll as victims of bullying—seeking new opportunities.

We ended our meeting by identifying new and ongoing agenda items to address at our next meeting:

- Fundraising/philanthropy update
- CSAN Executive Director search
- Performance Framework and input to the interim committee
- Weighted Funding
- SB 509—and student recruitment
- Development of mechanisms to increase and improve collaboration with the Charter Authority as we develop future agendas and plans of actions.”

Agenda Item 12 - Consideration of WestEd Executive Director Evaluation subcommittee recommendations

Subcommittee Chair Abelman, Member Mackedon and Member Johnson chaired the Executive Director Evaluation Subcommittee at a meeting on November 10. Paul Koehler and Sheila Arredondo, WestEd, presented the results from the subcommittee hearing. Member Abelman spoke about the key finding at the subcommittee meeting which was the need for the Authority to update its strategic plan in order to set more relevant and reachable goals to measure the Executive Director’s performance. Mr. Koehler explained how they approached building an evaluation protocol. He said the protocol needs to be fair, transparent and the least burden for the Authority board and the Executive Director. Ms. Arredondo then walked the Authority through the draft protocol that had been completed after the November 10 meeting. Ms. Arredondo explained the interview results with the subcommittee. She said there was a consensus that no process was in place to evaluate the executive director. She said the members had referenced the strategic plan and to set the metrics of measurement based on that. She said the members wanted to identify priorities and goals for the coming years in order to have something to measure the executive director’s success against.

She said there was disagreement on the frequency of the evaluations and whether it should be annually or biennially. She said there was disagreement on who should have input on the final evaluation metrics. Members agreed that there were certain decisions that would need to be made quickly including frequency, stakeholder inclusion and overall process.

Mr. Koehler then detailed the suggested goals WestEd had come up with based on the information they heard during the interviews. The goals were reflect upon and document the performance of the entire organization, calibrate and align expectations and goals between the board and executive director,

determine the board's level of approval and support for the executive director, establish priorities, set goals and determine metrics for the coming year.

It was also recommended the SPCSA board assess the strategic plan and update accordingly along with evaluating the executive director. They said some of the goals were set three years ago and should be updated so the metrics for evaluations would be based on more relevant, up-to-date, goals.

Ms. Arredondo explained the full board and executive director would complete and analyze results from the one-page assessment form each year, perhaps in the fall or one-year following the appointment of the executive director. Informal mid-year check-in conversations would also be conducted between the executive director and board chair to assess progress and redirect efforts as needed. A written description of the conversation would be necessary only if major adjustments were made to the work plan. The front side of the one-page assessment form would be similar in style to the first page of the SPCSA Strategic Plan. The front side would include the overarching goal, four main strategies, and recent data for each of the eleven measures, associated targets, and space to write one numerical rating per strategy. Once the front side of the form is completed, individuals would be encouraged to reflect upon the data and ratings and then use the space provided on the back to respond to the following questions: what are the implications for the board, what should be the board's top priority, what are the implications for the executive director and what should be the executive director's top priority?

Agenda Item 10 - Doral Academy Expansion Amendment request

Director Gavin read from the recommendation report. Doral Academy has requested permission to pursue the acquisition of three new facilities: one additional K-8 campus to open in 2017, one K-8 campus to open in 2018, and one 9-12 campus to open in 2019 – for a total of 3 additional campuses. This would result in an additional 960 Doral students in 2017-18 growing to a total increased enrollment of 3,300 by 2022-23.

Background

Doral was approved by the SPCSA Board in 2013 and opened in the fall of 2013. It currently operates under a charter contract. It has previously received approval to operate two additional elementary-middle school facilities and to add a high school program. The school has not received any notices of concern or breach related to its academic, financial, or organizational performance. The school currently operates a 5 star elementary school program and a 3 star middle school program. Results from internal assessments indicate that the school is continuing to make academic growth, but it is important to note that absent SBAC data it is impossible to determine what, if any, predictive value the school's commercially available testing system has related to SBAC performance. As the school only operated one campus at the time of the most recent CRT administration, it is not possible to disaggregate academic performance on high stakes state assessments by campus.

Boone Cragun, chair of Doral governing board spoke on behalf of the school's request for campus expansion. He spoke about the need for the additional campuses to meet the demand of the students in the community it wished to serve. He said the school would like to have three elementary schools feed the high school that would be opening in the 2016-2017 school year. Chair Conaboy asked how Doral planned to overlap personnel with the campuses in Northern and Southern Nevada. Mr. Cragun said the school planned to share resources through Academica. Clayton Howell, Academica, explained that Bridget Phillips would affiliate with the northern campus and assist them in their opening. She would provide consultation for personnel identification, policy and procedures and professional development that would be offered to all of the Doral campuses. Chair Conaboy asked if Doral felt they had the capacity for the expansion that they were requesting. Mr. Cragun said the school was very confident it

would have the capacity to expand and maintain the quality at of education at each of their campuses. Ed Cojane, Doral Academy, spoke about the weight list for Doral Academy. He said currently the wait list for all campuses is 5000. Half of the 5000 live in the southwest portion of Las Vegas, which is where one of the proposed campuses would be located.

Member Johnson asked how the school would address some of the academic results Doral showed at the K-8 school level. Mr. Cragun said the school had a six year plan and would not be trying to open all the campuses next year. He said this would be a managed growth that would ensure quality education for the students. Chair Conaboy asked about the changes in the school's mission statement. She asked why the school added the language that stated that they were "open to all students" considering that was already a given. She also asked how the school would diversify its population to better represent the community which the schools operate in. Mr. Cragun said they would be doing more grassroots marketing to reach members of the community who may not have seen other advertisements in the past. He said one of the main goals of the additional campuses was to diversify the population of the school. Member Johnson asked how the community outreach would be different from outreach the school had performed in the past. Clayton Howell explained the school would be using mailers to targeted zip codes where the school would be located. He added Doral had recently been approved for the National School Lunch Program which would allow parents who may have needed that service to enroll their children into Doral. Mr. Cragun said the school would also be adding Spanish language flyers to help reach different communities in Las Vegas.

Director Gavin then gave the SPCSA staff recommendation.

Recommendation: Approve with Conditions

The school meets the current criteria for approval for a new facility pursuant to the most recent revisions to NAC and has participated thoughtfully in the new amendment request process in a manner which demonstrates the capacity to effectively govern and operate multiple new campuses. The school's enrollment diversification strategies align to the criteria and activities articulated by the SPCSA earlier this fall. As the school is submitting this request well in advance of executing on a lease or sale, staff requests that the initial approval be granted as one strategic amendment to acquire and operate three facilities in the approximate identified area and serving the grade levels and student enrollment identified in the request. Staff further requests delegated authority to grant additional technical amendments and approvals in upon receipt of documentation and other items required under NAC to occupy the buildings over the course of the next several years. This approval is consistent with the mechanism the Authority Board uses to permit the incorporation of pre-opening requirements for new schools into the charter contract without the delay and complexity attendant to additional board review.

Member Wahl asked to amend the recommendation to allow for the Authority to withdraw its approval for additional campuses if it does not meet the academic requirements in the 2016, 2017, and 2018 school year. Director Gavin agreed with the amended recommendation.

Member Johnson asked if Doral Academy representatives were okay with the additional requirements. Doral representatives said they were fine with the additional requirements.

Member Johnson moved for approval of staff recommendations for the Doral Campus Expansion along with academic, financial and organizational progress reports prior to each campus opening. Member McCord seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – Director's Report

Director Gavin explained that NDE had released SBAC data but the Superintendent asked that the data be considered informational only. He also detailed the demographic data for Washoe County, Clark County and the SPCSA, which can be found as attachment B. Director Gavin noted the SPCSA's total growth has outpaced the districts over the past five years. Director Gavin said the total Hispanic population in the state's education system is 43.1%. The SPCSA's was 22%. He said this was a major demographic disparity that would need to be addressed by the Authority and the schools it sponsors. He noted the SPED was also less in charter schools across the state. Chair Conaboy spoke about the difference in funding the charter schools had received for SPED students, which may have contributed to the enrollment difference. He said the point of sharing this data with the Authority was to address some of the challenges the Authority has with regard to enrollment discrepancies and possibly identify models that could be recruited from other states that would allow for more equal demographics in state sponsored charter schools. Member Johnson added that when you look at the charter schools in Las Vegas, they are not matching the demographics of the communities they reside in. He said that was a troubling sign that needed to be addressed by the Authority and the charter schools. Member Luna said a good way to diversify some of the schools would be to look at the staff and members of the governing board so they may better represent the community the school operates in.

Director Gavin then spoke about the 11 notices of intent SPCSA staff had received for the Winter 2016 application cycle:

- Coral Academy of Science - Carson City
- American Leadership Academy - Centennial Hills
- American Leadership Academy, North Las Vegas
- ELAT Public Schools
- High Point Academy
- Nevada Arts and Science Academy
- Nevada Military Academy
- Nevada State High School East
- Pathways In Education - Nevada
- Midtown Academy
- Mountain West Academy

Director Gavin spoke about the Deputy Director applicants that had been received by staff. He said he anticipated to start setting up interviews over the next weeks and he said there may be a possibility to have a candidate identified prior to the January 4 SPCSA board meeting.

Director Gavin next spoke about the upcoming NACSA Evaluation presentation they would be giving at the January 4 board meeting. The results of the presentation were drawn from interviews with staff and governing board members and would assist the Authority with the authorizing practices it employs.

Director Gavin discussed other possible changes to education law with regard to teacher licensure, grants other hypothetical changes with may occur during the next legislation session based on ongoing discussion between the US DOE and NV DOE.

Director Gavin said the SPCSA's first Regulation Workshop would be held on December 11 in conjunction with NDE. He said charter applications, financial provisions and performance would be the items that would be addressed in the workshop.

Agenda Item 7 - Consideration and possible action on an invitational, rolling application track with expedited approval for proven models identified by SPCSA staff

Director Gavin explained the reasoning for an application track that would expedite the process for high quality operators. He said this track would only be based on invitation by the Authority and would not be offered to first time operators or other entities that didn't have a proven track record. He said the big difference would be an adjustment to the application timeline to allow the operator to start operations quicker than may otherwise be allowed under the other 4 application tracks. He said other states had implemented this type of application to help operators navigate the application bureaucracy more quickly and effiecntly. He said the Authority would have the final say as to who would be offered an invitation to the expedited application track.

Chair Conaboy asked if the Achievement School District would be using the SPCSA's application. Director Gavin said the ASD would be using a third party consultant to develop the application they would use. He said he didn't know who the consultant would be, but would look into it for the board. Chair Conaboy asked what the criteria would be for an operator to be offered an invitation. Director Gavin said the academic, financial and organizational data for the school along with consultation of other operators across the country. Director Gavin added that even though an operator may be invited, it would not guarantee they would be given a charter. He said this idea behind the expedited application would be to allow SPCSA staff to recruit the high quality operators and to show them that Nevada would be as open to these operators as possible.

Member Johnson moved for approval of the expedited charter application. Member Mackedon seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 13 - Election of SPCSA Board Chair and Vice Chair

Member McCord nominated Member Johnson for chair of the Authority. Member Johnson accepted the motion. Member Abelman seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Member McCord nominated Member Mackedon for Vice Chair. Member Abelman seconded. Member Mackedon accepted the nomination. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Emeritus Chair Conaboy turned over the chairmanship to Member Johnson. Member Luna thanked the Member Conaboy for her leadership during her time as chair.

Agenda Item 14 - Next Board meeting: January 4, 2016

Chair Johnson said the next meeting would be on January 4, 2016 at 10am.

Member McCord said he would be unable to make the April and October board meetings and hoped that the date may be able to be changed. He also requested Director Gavin to develop a spreadsheet providing detail of the status of all charter schools. The last item Member McCord requested was for SPCSA staff to look at NAC 387.1233(4) which dealt with the hold harmless provision. He said he confused with language that allowed for schools to change their enrollment without changing education capacities or the facility. He said he did not believe that was the intent of the hold harmless provision, but he said he may be unclear.

Member Luna requested that staff and they Authority continue to work on the Authority liaison program.

Agenda Item 15 – Public Comment

Member Mackedon thanked Member Conaboy for her work as chair of the SPCSA.

There was no other public comment

Agenda Item 16 - Adjournment

Chair Johnson called for a motion for adjournment.

Member McCord moved for adjournment. Member Abelman seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously

State Public Charter School Authority

Board Meeting

Carson City

12-4-2015

Name	Representing	Email Address for SPCSA List serve
Sheri Rasmussen	Parent of SSHS Student	SRASMUSSEN@clwss.nv.gov
Samara Chavez	Parent of SSHS Student	+ Jennings, T. @ demand
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Barbara Wright	Teacher at SSHS	bubs86@gmail.com
Joanna Perry	Teacher at SSHS	jperry@sshs.org
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Emily Gehr	Silver State Charter School	emi.loves.yalok@gmail
Pete Goff	✓	

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Albert Sindlinga	SSHS	
A. Michelle Nadalin	Silver State	
Deborah Behr	Silver State Charterschool Parent	
Tiffany Behr	" "	a1prosb@yahoo.com

State Public Charter School Authority

Evaluation Sub Committee Meeting

Las Vegas

12-4-15

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