

NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

January 9 and 10, 2014

Grant Sawyer Building
Room 4412
555 East Washington Ave.
Las Vegas, Nevada

And

Legislative Building
401 South Carson Street
Room 2135
Carson City, Nevada

MINUTES OF THE RETREAT

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Kathleen Conaboy
Michael Van
Melissa Mackedon
Nora Luna
Elissa Wahl
Marc Abelman
Robert McCord (Absent on 1/10/2014)

In Carson City

None

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Steve Canavero PhD, Director, State Public Charter School Authority
Tom McCormack, Education Program Professional, State Public Charter School Authority
Traci House, Business Process Analyst, State Public Charter School Authority
Katherine Rohrer PhD, Education Program Professional, State Public Charter School Authority
Angela Blair, Education Program Professional, State Public Charter School Authority
Kathy Robson, 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

In Carson City:

Danny Peltier, Administrative Assistant, State Public Charter School Authority

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Shane Chesney, Senior Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Las Vegas:

Caroline McIntosh
Ben Gerhardt
Kelli Miller
Deb Roberson
Danny Diamond
Heidi Arbuckle
Ed Heling
Dale Erquiaga
Judy Gunino
Ryan Reeves
Iliana Arroyo
Stephanie Holdaway
John Hawk
Wendi Hawk
Dominic DiFelice
Larry Mason
Al Casso

In Carson City:

None

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

President Conaboy called the meeting to order at 1:00pm with attendance as reflected above.

Chair Conaboy asked for a motion for a flexible agenda.

Member McCord moved for a flexible agenda. Member Abelman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item - Public Comment

Caroline McIntosh spoke about the service of Director Canavero and how much it was appreciated by her school and others. She also thanked the SPCSA staff for their support as Nevada Virtual works to turn around results from previous years.

Agenda Item 2 – Opening Comments

Chair Conaboy first asked Senior Deputy Attorney General Shane Chesney to speak about any rules that may be relevant to the retreat. He said that the Authority should be cautious of deliberation since the purpose of a retreat is to gain information and then deliberate those topics in a regular meeting of the Authority.

Chair Conaboy asked that each of the SPCSA staff introduce themselves before she started her opening comments. Chair Conaboy said she hoped that this retreat would provide a good dialogue that would lead to a sustainable structure for the SPCSA. She then spoke about the history of the SPCSA and the accomplishments it has had over the two years of its existence.

Agenda Item 3 - Update and discussion related to the SPCSA's Strategic Plan

Director Canavero began by expressing his appreciation to both the SPCSA staff and the Authority board. He then explained the strategic plan of the SPCSA and how it can help charters be successful while still allowing the charter schools to keep their autonomy. He said that school governance would be a good place for the Authority to concentrate on in that it could provide the resources or training to help charter schools strengthen their governing board. He said that staff had considered a few ideas regarding being more involved with the actual boards' work or providing the training that is needed for the governing boards to attend. He said that staff had also explored two consultants who specialize in the training charter school governing boards.

He said that after the two presentations staff was impressed with The High Bar, which specializes in governance training. He said that it was recommended by other Authorizers he spoke with, it's best if the SPCSA staff not be involved with the actual training of the charter school governing boards because they may feel like they can't be as open as they would like for fear of being penalized by the SPCSA. With that information, Director Canavero explained what The High Bar does and how they facilitate the training for the charter school governing boards. The total cost of the High Bar was about \$200,000 for the length of the contract term, which would be a considerable investment decision that would have to be made by the Authority Board.

Member Ableman asked how the cost would change as the number of charter school boards increased. Director Canavero said that with each new board the SPCSA would be charged a licensing fee. Member Wahl asked if the decision to consult with The High Bar had been made before, or after, the decision to lower the fee charter of the charter schools. Director Canavero said this decision was under consideration long before the fee discussion took place.

Member Mackedon said that she holds The High Bar in high regard, but the price seemed to be a little too much. She said the differences in the needs of each charter schools' governing board may inhibit the value of choosing The High Bar and the one-stop-shop training that they provide. She felt a more targeted assistance that took the uniqueness of each charter board may be a more valuable investment.

Director Canavero said that he would be more than willing to go back to The High Bar to discuss the price structure in order to try and lower the prices. Member Wahl also asked how the SPCSA would “force” the charter school governing boards to participate in the trainings. Director Canavero said that had also been something that he and Brian Flanner had considered and they had not come up with a clear solution.

Chair Conaboy asked what SPCSA staff’s collective recommendation would be with regard pursuing a contract with The High Bar. Director Canavero said that it could be feasible for the SPCSA staff to provide training for the charter school boards if that is what the Authority would like to see. Member McCord said he was conflicted on whether using the High Bar would be useful or not. He said that public boards are constantly changing and sometimes you can have a good board or a bad board no matter what type of training they undertake. But Member McCord also said that the Authority does not have the power to choose curriculum, higher teachers, or provide education and that leads the charter school governing boards as the only outlet where the Authority could affect immediate change. He said ultimately it is the charter schools’ governing board’s responsibility to identify their weaknesses and try to find resources to address that.

The Authority continued to discuss different pricing structures or models that could be explored in order to lower the costs without losing the opportunity for valuable training for the governing boards. They also discussed how to ensure the governing boards take advantage of the training without risking the school’s autonomy.

After discussion finished regarding governance, Director Canavero showed the Authority the data that has been collected by staff regarding school performance, authorizing, and student populations about the SPCSA-sponsored charter schools.

Director Canavero then discussed the roundtables that he had organized with community leaders in Las Vegas along with outside chartering companies and non-profit educational organizations in order to bring high-quality charter schools to the Las Vegas areas. They discussed what Nevada needs to do both nationally and internally to draw these operators to the state. Director Canavero said he was very pleased with the conversations that he had, but there was still plenty of work that needed to be done.

Member Wahl asked if funding for facilities was discussed with the exploratory group. Director Canavero said that funding was discussed, but specifics such as purchasing facilities for schools in Subsection 7 status were not discussed.

Chair Conaboy asked what the next steps should be. Director Canavero said that this needs to be kept in mind over the next few years. It is not something that will be done within the next few months. This is a large undertaking that will have multiple components that need to be finalized. The goal should be to make drawing quality schools into Nevada and develop quality school leaders within Nevada over the next 5 years.

Member Abelman was asked to speak of the ideas he had. He said that the arts and education needs to be a focus moving forward within charter schools. He felt that art has been put aside, and that it is as equally important in creating strong leaders as the Common Core. Chair Conaboy followed up with a question about if charter school incubators considered those types of issues. Member Abelman agreed that this is a real question that needs to be answered because the Authority can’t choose curriculums for schools, but it could try drawing schools into Nevada that focus on the arts. Director Canavero responded by saying that it would be possible to recruit these schools to this state that have a focus in those areas. He said it takes a strong strategy that needs to be in place in order to show exactly the type of schools you are looking for. He said that this is something that charter school incubators are not used for; there are still other ways to solicit certain charter school models if the Authority feels they would be beneficial to certain regions of the state.

Chair Conaboy then discussed the lack of representation of charter schools on the Nevada State Superintendent's Board. She said she spoke with some of the members and expressed her hope that charter schools would be included in these meetings in the future. She then asked Director Canavero about the Local Education Agency (LEA) status of the Authority and how that would affect its relationship with the charter schools it sponsors.

Director Canavero said that as the LEA there is not as much autonomy allowed for the charter school because there are certain procedures (SPED, Title I) that need to be executed properly and charter schools are not allowed a choice in the execution of those procedures. However, as the sponsor, the Authority needs to keep in mind the autonomy of charter schools and always work to protect that autonomy to allow charter schools to continue their innovation.

Agenda Item 5 - Presentations by Authority staff

Katie Higday, Management Analyst, spoke about the reporting requirements manual and the reports that charter schools are required to submit. She explained the process of submission, why the reports are submitted, and what staff does with the reports upon receipt. She also explained that the goal of the SPCSA staff is to limit the amount of reports that schools are required to submit by allowing the schools to submit attestations instead of the full report to the SPCSA. Tom McCormack also added that staff was making efforts in the NAC regulation changes to eliminate redundant reports. Member McCord said he agreed that it was always a positive to be able eliminate reports that do not serve a purpose in the data collection of a state agency.

Traci House, Business Process Analyst, spoke about the transition from PowerSchool to Infinite Campus student information system. Currently the SPCSA uses PowerSchool, but as Clark County moves to Infinite Campus, along with other districts in the state, the SPCSA has followed suit. The SPCSA pays for Infinite Campus for the charter schools in order to allow for a larger contract which is passed along to charter schools. The transition, with software changes, training, and data transfer, is set to be complete by the start of the 2014 – 2015 school year.

Agenda Item 7 - Update on NDE activities from the Superintendent of Public Instruction

Superintendent Dale Erquiaga spoke to the Authority about his plans as the new Nevada State Superintendent of Public Instruction. He said that charter schools and school choice will be very much a part of his agenda. Superintendent Erquiaga said there were three major goals that would have an effect of the charter schools in Nevada. He said the implementation of revised standards for both core subjects and career and technical education that would now include an end of course exams. He said the High School Proficiency will also be phased out over the next few years and will be replaced with end of course exams. He said the Criterion Reference Test would be replaced over the next few years will Smarter Balance tests. Superintendent Erquiaga also explained that the K-12 Funding Task Force would meet at the end of January do discuss, and provide solutions, to Nevada's K-12 funding model. Superintendent Erquiaga also said it will be his goal for the Nevada Department of Education to change how it will deal with underperforming schools in Nevada. He hopes to increase the role of the state with regard to turnaround of the schools. Some of those solutions may be converting underperforming schools into charter school, which would require changes in the Nevada Revised Statute.

Agenda Item 6 – General discussion related to contested cases to be heard at a public hearing before the Authority

“Contested case” means a proceeding, including but not restricted to rate making and licensing, in which the legal rights, duties or privileges of a party are required by law to be determined by an agency after an opportunity for hearing, or in which an administrative penalty may be imposed.

Chair Conaboy then called for recess at 4:31 p.m. until 9 a.m. January 10, 2014.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

Chair Conaboy then called the Regular meeting of the Authority into session at 9:04 am

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of November 1, 2013 SPCSA Minutes

Member Wahl had a few minor edits to the draft minutes.

Member Abelman moved for approval of the November 1, 2013 minutes. Member McCord seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration regarding the Application Review Team’s recommendation of Nevada State High School’s II charter school application resubmission

Director Canavero then briefed the Authority on the previous recommendation staff had made at the November 1, 2013 SPCSA board meeting. He then explained the changes that Nevada State High School II had made to remedy the application’s deficiencies and SPCSA staff was now recommending approval for NSHS II’s charter application resubmission.

John Hawk then spoke to the Authority about their plans for Nevada State High School II and how things like staffing, location, and the separation of Nevada State High School I would work. Director Canavero added that staff was comfortable with the transfer of leadership that both schools will undertake and that was what led to the recommendation for approval of the charter application resubmission. Member Abelman asked if the Hawks were concerned about burning out from too much work between the two Nevada State High School locations. Dr. Hawk said that he is passionate for the work they do and that he plans on building leadership cultures within each school so that each school will be able to operate at a high quality on their own.

Member Mackedon motioned for the approval of Nevada State High II’s charter school application resubmission. Member Abelman seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 - Consideration regarding the Application Review Team’s recommendation of Mater Academy’s charter school application resubmission

Director Canavero quickly went over the recommendation from the previous meeting regarding Mater Academy. He then explained that Mate Academy had done great work remedying the deficiencies of their original application and staff was impressed at the relative ease at which they were able to review the resubmission. With that being said, Director Canavero said that staff would be recommending approval for Mater Academy’s charter application resubmission.

Chair Conaboy then asked the liaison for Mater Academy to answer any questions the Authority may have for her. Sheila Moulton explained the hard work the Committee to Form had done during the 30 day resubmission period and she was proud of the way the application had come together. Member Abelman asked if she could explain how the fee reductions from the EMO, Academica, would work in the budget. Robert Anderson, treasure of the CTF, said that Academica would work with Mater Academy in the future in order to ensure that the costs that Mater Academy would need to be accountable for were reasonable for the school to pay. He said that Mater Academy had worked with Academica to clarify the relationship between the school and the EMO and that work helped show the actual fees the school would be responsible for. Ms. Moulton added that she has been very cognizant of the finances for the school and will continue to be very involved with the budget of the school as it works towards opening.

Member Wahl motioned for the approval of Mater Academy’s charter application resubmission. Member Abelman seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 5 – Consideration regarding the Application Review Team’s recommendation of Legacy International’s charter school application resubmission

Director Canavero again detailed the previous recommendation staff had made regarding Legacy International’s charter application. He said that while some changes and improvements had been made in the resubmission, the application still contained far too many deficiencies for staff to feel comfortable recommending approval. With that, he said staff would be recommending denial of Legacy International’s charter application resubmission.

Chair Conaboy then asked if anyone from Legacy International’s Committee to Form was in attendance to answer questions from the Authority. There were none present for the meeting.

Member Mackedon moved to deny the charter application resubmission for Legacy International. Member Van seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 7 – Discussion and possible action regarding the approval to postpone the commencement of charter school operation

Tom McCormack, Education Program Professional, detailed staff’s recommendation for the Authority to adopt language clarifying charter school’s requests for delaying the commencement of operation:

Pursuant to NRS 386.527, "The sponsor of the charter school may require, or the governing body of the charter school may request that the sponsor authorize, the charter school to delay commencement of operation for 1 school year."

Proposed policy: Pursuant to NRS 386.527, the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) may require or authorize delay of commencement of the operation of a charter school for *no more than* 1 school year beyond the school's planned startup year identified in the charter school's application. If a charter school that has delayed commencement of operation pursuant to NRS 386.527 fails to commence operation, the year after its original planned commencement and wishes to begin operation at some future date, it must submit for review and approval by the SPCSA a charter school application during the application submission window identified in regulation for that future date.

Member Luna motioned for the approval of the SPCSA staff’s language regarding the postponement of commencing charter school operation. Michael Van seconded. Member Luna asked if this would only apply to schools in the future. Chair Conaboy said yes. There was no further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 7 – Approval of New America School’s request for an extension of Subsection 7 per NAC 386.240(1)

Tom McCormack then explained New America charter school’s request for delaying commencement of operation for one year. He outlined the letter that was sent by New America explaining lack of funds and facilities as the reason for the delay. He then explained that this delay would be the only one that would be allowed by the Authority. If they decided to delay beyond the 2015-2016 school year then the school would be required to submit a new charter application for review by SPCSA staff.

Member Mackedon moved to approve New America’s request for delay in commencement of operation. Member Van seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 8 – Discussion and possible action regarding the Nevada Interscholastic Athletic Association (NIAA) proposed regulations and possible next steps for the Authority

Senior Deputy Attorney Chesney explained that he had looked into the NIAA and what it does for athletics in Nevada. The Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) is a non-profit organization of secondary schools in Nevada. In essence, the NIAA is the governing body of high school athletics and activities in the Silver State as recognized by the Nevada state legislature. It is important to note, however, that the NIAA does NOT receive state funding. The NIAA's revenue streams are corporate partnerships, event ticket sales and member school's dues.

The original (NIAA) Nevada Interscholastic League was formed in 1922. It became affiliated with the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) in 1939. School administrators established the League in order to develop and enforce high school athletic welfare and safety standards, eligibility and amateurism policies, and ethical conduct and behavior policies that would complement the academic work of students. The NIAA ensures that Nevada's student-athletes engage in pure competition under uniform regulations.

As of September 2013, the NIAA had 106 member schools divided into four divisions. The NIAA is responsible for sponsoring, directing and developing athletics and activities in Nevada's high schools. In addition, the NIAA oversees the Nevada Association of Student Councils (NASC). The NIAA office is responsible for sanctioning activities, conducting post-season tournaments, regulating officials and providing a host of services to its member schools. The Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association is incorporated in compliance with NRS 81.170-81.280 and was recognized in 1974 under the provisions of NRS 386.420-.470.

He then explained that he read the most recent minutes for the NIAA meetings and he said they had found discussion of charter schools. He explained the applicable statute for pupils participating in athletics while attending a charter school. He explained that the NIAA has no proposed official regulation changes regarding charter schools. It was evident however, that some charter schools were applying for membership with the NIAA. Mr. Chesney said that the NIAA would again be taking the issue up at its upcoming February meeting and perhaps more information would be available then. Member Van said that he could speak with members of the NIAA and clarify what was or was not being proposed for regulation changes. Both Mr. Chesney and Member Van said they would have additional information regarding this topic at the next SPCSA Authority meeting.

Agenda Item 9 – Discussion and possible action regarding proposed NAC revisions

Tom McCormack, Education Program Professional, began by explaining staff was recommending the Authority approve the proposed NAC changes regarding charter schools so that they may be able to take the proposals to the State Board of Education, who hold regulatory power. The proposed changes by the SPCSA are considered only proposed until the State Board of Education takes action on them. Mr. McCormack said that SPCSA staff had been working with various charter school stakeholders during the NAC revision process. All of the charter schools have been kept up-to-date during the process and their suggestions have been both vital and much appreciated.

Chair Conaboy asked about the schools districts as sponsors and whether they actually want to sponsor new charter schools. Currently they are not sponsoring new charter schools in what some consider as a moratorium on new district-sponsored charter schools. Mr. McCormack said that there is not officially a moratorium; however that is what is effectively in place right now. Chair Conaboy asked that staff make clear in their request for NAC revisions that all sponsors are held to the same standards, and that it is the statutory responsibilities of the Authority to work to have all sponsors adhere to higher standards.

Dan Tafoya, Clark County Charter School Consultant, also spoke about the district sponsoring. He said that his office has been working with the Authority in order to make their sponsoring process mirror national best practices as close as possible. He said that it is always a healthy idea to have a periodic review of the sponsors

in the state in order to ensure they are adhering to sound sponsoring practices. Member Wahl also added that while she believes that all sponsors should adhere to the same NAC requirements, but she also understands that they are their own sponsor as well and may want to do some things differently than other sponsors in the state.

Nora Luna motioned to submit the proposed the NAC revision, along with the letter received and entered into testimony and assurances that assures this was a collaborative process with charter schools and the Authority, to the State Board of Education for their consideration. Member Van seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 14 – Charter School Association of Nevada Update

Member Mackedon began her update by explaining the work that CSAN has been accomplishing over the past year. She said they had hired a new Executive Director. Lauren Tevis will serve as the Executive Director for CSAN and hopefully work to generate a more robust community between the charter schools in Nevada. She is also working on setting up the annual CSAN conference that will take place later in 2014.

Agenda Item 11 – Update Regarding the Charter School Revolving Loan Account

Director Canavero explained the process for the charter loan application as Brian Flanner was unable to attend the meeting. He said Mr. Flanner had conducted meetings with the charter schools in order to train them on how to apply for the loan. Per NRS 386.578, if the governing body of a charter school has a written charter issued or a charter contract executed pursuant to NRS 386.527, the governing body may submit an application to the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) for a loan from the Account for Charter Schools.

Per NRS 386.577 the SPCSA may use the money in the Account for Charter Schools only to make loans at or below market rate to charter schools for the costs incurred: (a) in preparing a charter school to commence its first year of operation; and (b) to improve a charter school that has been in operation. The total amount of the loan that may be made to a charter school must not exceed the lesser of an amount equal to \$500 per pupil enrolled or to be enrolled at the charter school or \$200,000.

The process for requesting reimbursement for costs incurred is as follows: Only charter schools whose Charter School Revolving Loan application, including budget; has been approved by the SPCSA may request reimbursements from the Account for Charter Schools. The charter school must designate one loan account liaison for requesting reimbursements from the SPCSA. Only expenses identified in the budget that was approved by the SPCSA will be reimbursed. An individual, on behalf of a school, or a school; will incur expenses pursuant to NRS 386.577.

The charter school loan account liaison will then request a reimbursement from the SPCSA with receipts attached. The SPCSA will then reimburse the charter school who may in turn reimburse the individual who incurred the expense, if applicable.

Agenda Item 12 – Appointment of Interim Director

Chair Conaboy then explained that because of Director Canavero's departure to the Nevada Department of Education, the Authority would be responsible for appointing an Interim Director until the permanent director could be found. Tom McCormack, Education Program Professional, was chosen to become the Interim Director. It was made clear that Mr. McCormack would not officially become Interim Director until midnight January 11, 2014.

Member Mackedon moved to appoint Tom McCormack as the Interim Director of the State Public Charter School Authority, effective midnight January 11, 2014. Member Van seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 6 – Discussion and possible action related to items discussed during the January 9, 2014 Authority Retreat

After discussion from the retreat, the Authority again took up the question as to how to pursue effective charter school governance training and if that would include the contract proposed by The High Bar. Chair Conaboy recalled the previous day's discussion and some of the ideas that had been thought of during it. She brought up Member McCord's idea to form an academy in-house that would be responsible for providing school's the necessary training and resources for governance training. Chair Conaboy asked if Member Mackedon could discuss her thoughts she had on the topic.

Member Mackedon began by saying a lot of the schools don't have a large budget in this area. She said that while her school does send some of its board members to National Association of School Boards, other schools may not be in the position to do that right now. She said the one thing that those conferences really miss is the one-on-one training that a contract with the High Bar would be able to provide. She said she personally feels it would be valuable for the schools to be able to opt-in to training by the High Bar. She said that if schools don't opt in, then they could be reimbursed by the Authority.

Member Van thought using a carrot-stick approach would work. If the school opts into the training, they may be eligible for a reimbursement for a determined amount if they reach certain benchmarks that would be decided upon later.

Member Wahl asked how the opt-in would actually work. Director Canavero said that it could work in a variety of ways based on what was decided on by the Authority. The idea had not been discussed with the High Bar, and details of how the opt-in/opt-out structure would still need to be determined. Director Canavero said they would set a certain number of slots that schools would be able to apply for, and then if the program worked for those schools, the next year the SPCSA could set up more spots with the High Bar. Chair Conaboy said that it is obvious that there is a need for more training and board education, but the way to provide that training is still undetermined. She then asked Director Canavero if staff could look at different models and ways the issues could be approached, understanding that The High Bar is the gold standard, but the price may be too high. She also added that the district schools also see this as an issue as well, and maybe the Authority could collaborate with the district sponsors and CSAN to provide the necessary education.

Director Canavero explained how this type of things looks like in other states. He said that other states work on a fee-based model and that fee goes into self-funding the training that the sponsors have put together for the schools. He said this could be a great way to help schools through CSAN.

Chair Conaboy also added that if CSAN takes an active role in facilitating this training, than some of the funds that were going to be used for the High Bar contract could be used through CSAN to provide the education. Director Canavero said that would be a great idea.

Member Wahl motioned to direct staff to research, and bring forth ideas to meet the needs of not only boards, but the principals, teachers, and to include the possibility to work with CSAN to that end. Member Abelman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Canavero then asked for clarification from the chair regarding hiring a Public Information Officer and the human capital that would involve. He wanted to ensure that Chair Conaboy's direction was followed clearly and correctly. Chair Conaboy said that she wanted to purse the Public Information Office, along with government affairs, so the SPCSA would be well-positioned during the next legislative session.

Director Canavero then asked the Authority to look at the Alliance Model Rankings that were included in their support document. He explained the gains that Nevada had made in National charter law rankings. He said that

he expects that due to legislation and policies that have been put into place by the Authority, Nevada would see another large jump in their rankings to even better reflect the work that has been done.

Agenda Item 13 – Overview of Authority Board work in the next 3 months

Interim Director McCormack explained that the SPCSA staff had put together the Operation Manual and the Reporting Requirements manual for the schools to use in their reporting and operations procedures. He said that staff will be seeking Authority approval for the Operations Manual upon the final draft being completed.

He also explained there was work being done to eliminate the 120-day enrollment window that inhibits charter schools from enrolling pupils earlier in the year. He said that while the actual elimination of this regulation would not take place until June 2014; SPCSA staff had been busy working with the Nevada Department of Education to ensure this 120 limit would not affect the schools that had been approved earlier in the meeting.

Member Luna also asked that staff break out the student populations in the charter schools by ethnicity.

Katherine Rohrer said that she had finished that work and would recirculate the information to the Authority members.

Finally, Dr. Canavero thanked the Authority for all the work that had been accomplished during his tenure as Director of the SPCSA. He said one of the strongest aspects of charter schools in Nevada was the excellent Authority Board that was in place to sponsor them. He said that he feels during the search that this will be a strong argument in favor of someone choosing to apply to become the Authority's next director.

Members of the Authority all thanked Dr. Canavero for his hard work and wished him well at the Nevada Department of Education.

Member Van moved for adjournment. Member Abelman seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.