

**NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY**

**May 18, 2015**

Nevada Department of Education  
Conference Room  
9890 South Meadows Parkway  
Las Vegas, Nevada

And

Nevada Department of Education  
700 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Room 2135  
Carson City, Nevada

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**In Las Vegas:**

Robert McCord

**In Carson City:**

Kathleen Conaboy

Elissa Wahl

**Conference Call Line**

Melissa Mackedon

Nora Luna

Elissa Wahl

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Michael Van

Marc Abelman

**AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT:**

**In Las Vegas:**

Traci House, Business Process Analyst, State Public Charter School Authority

Patrick Gavin, Director, State Public Charter School Authority

**In Carson City: please check staff attendance**

Jessica Hoban, Administrative Services Officer, State Public Charter School Authority

Joan Jurgensen, 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  
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:**

Eve Brier  
Deb Roberson  
Teresa Gregory  
Orlando Dos Santos  
Ben Gerhardt  
Ercan Aydogdu

**In Carson City:**

Jaime Winter

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

President Conaboy called the meeting to order at 8:35am with attendance as reflected above.

**Agenda Item 1 - Public Comment**

No members of the public wished to make a comment.

**Agenda Item 2 - Consideration regarding Senate Bills 200, 460, 509 and Assembly Bill 395 and other bills relating to education**

Director Gavin began by updating the Authority about the hearing for SB509 in Senate Finance. He said no major concerns were raised and he expected the bill to be in a work session in the coming days. Chair Conaboy asked Director Gavin to comment on the SPCSA's agency budget closing. Director Gavin said most of the requests in the budget were approved and it would allow for the SPCSA to grow its capacity to monitor and sponsor high quality charter schools. Chair Conaboy said Director Gavin, Jessica Hoban and she met with Senator Kieckhefer regarding the SPCSA's budget proposal and he was very supportive of the needs of the agency.

Director Gavin said he had met with the chair of the Senate Education Committee, Becky Harris, about changes that needed to be made in SB509. She recommended to vote the bill out of the Senate and to address proposed changes when it received a hearing in the Assembly Education Committee.

Director Gavin said SB200 had been approved by the Senate and the Assembly Education Committee and would receive a vote before the whole Assembly soon. Member Wahl added that she was confident SB509 would gain passage in both houses due the response it received in its committee hearings.

Director Gavin spoke about the SB491, Charter Harbor Master bill. He said the bill *provides for the award of a grant of money for use in Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and Fiscal Year 2016-2017 to a nonprofit organization to aid the establishment and operation of high quality charter schools to serve pupils who live in poverty. A nonprofit organization that receives such a grant is required to use the money to: (1) recruit, encourage and develop natural persons to assume leadership roles in the formation and operation of high quality charter schools for pupils who live in households that have household incomes that are less than the federally designated level signifying poverty; and (2) recruit charter management organizations to operate such charter schools. The nonprofit organization is also required to match the grant with its own money. This bill also requires the nonprofit organization that receives the grant to prepare an annual report concerning the use of the money awarded and submit the report to the Budget Division of the Department of Administration and the Interim Finance Committee.*

Chair Conaboy discussed the changes to funding for Special Education and said she hopes the new formulas will create more equity with the distribution of funds to districts and charter schools. She said that all of the funding bills were contingent on passage of the policy bills. The Distributive School Account was also discussed:

*The Distributive School Account (DSA) provides direct state financial aid to school districts and charter schools for K-12 public education in Nevada. The funding formula, identified by NRS 387.121 as the "Nevada Plan," provides school districts a guaranteed dollar amount of basic state support per student plus additional funds for categorical programs such as special education, class-size reduction, and reimbursement of certain student transportation costs. School districts and charter schools receive either monthly or quarterly apportionments from these on the basis of student enrollment. Each school district is guaranteed a specific amount per student, which is developed through a formula that considers the demographic, economic, and wealth characteristics of the district. Allotments of licensed employees and*

*related costs are determined from tables that recognize the differences in costs between rural and urban school districts as well as small and large districts. Transportation costs are incorporated into the allocation process. For purposes of calculating basic support, enrollment includes students enrolled in grades one through twelve, students in ungraded special education classes, and six-tenths of the count of students enrolled in kindergarten and in preschool programs for children with special needs. Special education is funded on an amount-per-unit basis as established by each session of the Legislature. Pursuant to NRS 387.1233, school districts and charter schools are partially protected from decreases in enrollment through a one-year "hold harmless" statutory provision, which guarantees payment based on the highest enrollment in the current or prior year unless the decrease is greater than 5%, in which case the payment guarantee is based on the higher of the prior two years' enrollment. The DSA is funded by a General Fund appropriation, sales taxes on out-of-state sales, income from federal mineral land leases, interest from the Permanent School Fund, and a portion of the state taxes on slot machines. In addition to the state funds received by the school districts through the DSA, the school districts receive the 2.25% local school support sales tax that is part of the DSA guarantee; the abated \$0.75 per \$100 of assessed valuation property/mining tax, one-third of which is part of the DSA guarantee; governmental services taxes; franchise taxes; and various other local and federal revenues. Statutory Authority: NRS Chapter 387.*

Chair Conaboy and Director Gavin both said continued dialogue with school leaders will be vital for the successful implementation of the various education bills that may pass during the 2015 session. Director Gavin said collaboration will allow for schools to be informed and not miss opportunities that were provided to them by the passage of these bills and budgets.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Next Meeting Date**

The State Public Charter School Authority will meet on June 12, 2015

### **Agenda Item – 4 Public Comment**

None

Chair Conaboy called for a motion for adjournment

**Member McCord motioned to adjourn. Member Mackedon seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 am