

NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

November 2, 2018

Nevada Department of Education
700 East 5th Street
Board Room
Carson City, Nevada

Nevada Department of Education
9890 South Maryland Parkway
2nd Floor Board Room
Las Vegas, Nevada

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Jeff Hinton
Randy Kirner
Sheila Moulton
Stavan Corbett

In Carson City:

Melissa Mackedon
Jason Guinasso

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Nora Luna

AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing
Brian Scroggins, Deputy Director
Michael Dang, Management Analyst IV

In Carson City:

Danny Peltier, Management Analyst I
Selcuk Ozdemir, Education Programs Supervisor

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

None

In Carson City:

Ryan Herrick, General Counsel, State Public Charter School Authority
Aisheh Quiroz, Legal Assistant, State Public Charter School Authority

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Las Vegas:

Tambre Tondryk
Linda Derbidge
Dale Derbidge
Nick Sassohm
Ercan Aydogdu
Kristy Sedlacek
Joe Sedlacek
John Hawk
Ben Gerhardt
Marlo T.
C. Roybal-Benson
Jerod Allen
Amelia T.
Yolanda Hamilton
Kara Hendricks
Omer Arikan
Ricky G.
Bridget Phillips
Ryan Reeves
Candis Hannick
Gayle Jefferson
Trevor Goodsell
John Haynal
Andre Denson
April Koebeke
Zion L.
Gabe Shirey
Cindy Wright

In Carson City:

Pat Hickey
Rebecca Phipps
Chris McBride

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

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order, Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Guinasso called the meeting to order at 9:00am with attendance as reflected above.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

Ben Gerhardt spoke regarding Agenda Item 9 – the ACT Aspire. He cited several deficiencies in the test and the Authority’s requirement of it. He noted that the data from these assessments has never been used.

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of the September 28, 2018 Action Minutes.

Chair Guinasso requested that, given what has transpired with The Legislature, staff obtain a verbatim transcript of the discussion from the September 28, 2018 meeting regarding the Financial Performance Framework as well as the Legal Compliance Questionnaire. These are agenda items 5 and 6 from the September 28, 2018 meeting.

Member Mackedon moved to approve the minutes with the condition that agenda item five and agenda item six be transcribed in full. Member Moulton seconded. Member Kirner abstained. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – Charter School Contract Renewal Recommendations

a. Coral Academy of Science – Las Vegas

Staff recommends renewal of this consistently high-performing school. The memo that corresponds with this agenda item outlines the school’s performance history.

Chair Guinasso noted that the Authority does not have its own system of ratings with which to assess a school’s performance. Director Modrcin stated that this presents staff with an opportunity to overhaul the performance framework that is unique to our schools but also complements the state’s rating system in a way that is beneficial for everyone.

Chair Guinasso also asked what the organizational performance framework looks like – it is described as a “rolling evaluation of school organizational performance”. Director Modrcin explained that this means that we monitor the statutory and regulatory compliance of all of our schools on a regular basis. Staff utilizes a program called Epicenter to monitor this compliance.

Member Moulton noted that she would like to see the schools focus more in diversity and demographics in their enrollment.

Ercan Aydogdu, Executive Director of Coral Academy of Science, spoke briefly on the success of his school and their commitment to improving their demographics and continuing to be a high-performing school.

Member Mackedon moved to approve Coral Academy's renewal application. Member Moulton seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Learning Bridge Charter School

Staff recommends conditionally approving this school's renewal application. The condition is due to the Elementary School operating under a Notice of Concern and receiving a 2-star rating for the 2017-2018 school year. The school needs to receive a rating of 3 stars or better

Kristy Sedlacek spoke on behalf of Learning Bridge Charter School and explained some of the steps she and her staff are taking to ensure that Learning Bridge reaches its performance goals for the 2018-2019 school year.

Member Mackedon moved to approve Learning Bridge's renewal request with the conditions set forth by staff. Member Kirner seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Doral Academy of Nevada

Staff recommends approving this school's renewal application.

Bridget Phelps spoke on behalf of Doral Academy and noted that they are working on improving their diversity and also working on their performance – particularly the two schools which received three-star ratings. She also highlighted that their Special Education program is attractive to Special Ed. parents.

Member Moulton moved to renew Doral Academy of Nevada's application for renewal. Member Mackedon seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

d. Nevada Virtual Academy (continued to next meeting)

Agenda Item 5 – Quarterly Report

a. Discovery Charter School

John Haynal, Receiver for Discovery Charter School, spoke regarding the success the school has achieved under his leadership. He noted that he has placed a lot of emphasis on finding the right people to do the work of meeting the needs of the students. He also explained steps staff has taken to increase the diversity of their enrollment.

Chair Guinasso asked if staff could direct those giving Quarterly Reports to submit a report in writing as part of their Quarterly Report.

b. Quest Preparatory Academy

Josh Kern, Receiver for Quest Preparatory Academy, spoke about the turnaround Quest has achieved under his leadership. He asked Alexandra Pardo, of Tensquare, to speak about what she has been doing for Quest over the past year.

Ms. Pardo noted the significant gains Quest has made in terms of their NSPF rating, from being in the bottom five percent in the state to achieving a three-star rating (or close to it). She highlighted the work the school has done to improve their instruction and leadership over the last year. She also explained the shift Quest has seen in regard to the demographic they are serving.

Ms. Pardo also explained some steps the school is taking to address teacher turnover.

c. Argent Preparatory Academy

Mr. Kern, who is also the Receiver for Argent Preparatory Academy, updated the Authority Board regarding the closure of the school. He included an update on the process of transferring students to other schools and ensuring they are supported throughout their transition into their new schools.

Mr. Kern asked the Authority Board for guidance regarding the student records should go when the school is completely wound down. Chair Guinasso directed staff to get the answer to this question and to provide an update on this progress at the next meeting.

Mr. Kern explained some of the financial aspects of the wind-down of Argent and stated that the school will not have any outstanding liabilities at the end of the process. He also said that he would provide the Board with a report about the closeout process in order to inform the “best practice” of other schools facing closure.

d. Nevada Virtual Academy

Dr. Yolanda Hamilton, Nevada Virtual Academy head of school, gave an update on Nevada Virtual Academy’s progress in the school year to this point. She was joined by Dr. Denson, K-8 principal, and April Koebecke, Assistant Principal. Her presentation is included in the supporting documents for this meeting.

Chair Guinasso stressed the importance of the obligation NVA staff has to ensure the smooth transition of their K-5 students into their new schools as the NVA elementary school is in its final year.

e. Nevada Connections Academy

Dr. Chris McBride, Superintendent of Nevada Connections Academy, spoke at length on the measures he and his staff are taking to improve NCA’s overall performance.

Chair Guinasso made mention that NCA is up for renewal next year and that its performance-to-date is not at a level the Authority would expect to see from a school

applying for renewal. He firmly stated that NCA has to turn around their performance if they are hoping to apply for renewal next year. He asked where the staff's hope comes from.

Dr. McBride responded that his hope is found when he considers the students they are serving and from the fact that a significant number of NSPF points were lost because of a penalty – not necessarily because the students performed more poorly than they did previously.

Member Moulton expressed concern because the school is serving 3400 students.

Chair Guinasso asked Dr. McBride to bring a Board Member to the next Quarterly Update.

Director Modrcin spoke regarding the Learning Coach trainings that his team has seen. One meeting only had two attendees who showed up for training, and another meeting had only Director Modrcin on a conference call line by himself. He highlighted the importance of the commitment to professional development and trainings.

Agenda Item 6 – American Leadership Academy

Chair Guinasso, whose law firm represents American Leadership Academy, excused himself from the room for this agenda item and will not be voting on it.

Director Modrcin gave a brief update on the status of ALA Summerlin's opening. ALA has moved its proposed location to Henderson instead of Summerlin. Gabe Shyree, Executive Director of American Leadership Academy, was asked to speak on this.

Mr. Shirey went through the chronology of how the school came to choose the property it chose. There were numerous discussions and negotiations during which they tried to secure a site for the new school. They have faced an uphill battle in obtaining their new location but are now prepared to put the school at this site. Mr. Shirey apologized for the process being more difficult than he anticipated and also apologized for not keeping the Authority updated as often as he could have.

Mr. Shirey introduced Garry Benson, Principal of ALA Summerlin (East Henderson) and a CharterOne Representative (ALA's Education Management Organization).

Members of the Board asked staff to create a map of where SPCSA schools are in relation to other districts' schools and asked that the Authority make some inroads with regard to letting school districts know they will have new charter schools nearby.

Agenda Item 7 – Rising Stars Schools

Director Modrcin briefly update the board regarding the SPCSA's "Rising Stars Schools". The accompanying memo and documents can be found as part of the supporting documents for this meeting.

Chair Guinasso asked to see the enrollment data before the board when it becomes available.

Agenda Item 8 – 2018 Fiscal Year Legal Compliance Questionnaire

Chair Guinasso asked what the relationship is between the organizational framework and the legal compliance questionnaire.

The findings from a site visit that can help answer most of the questions contained in the Questionnaire.

Director Modrcin explained that there is a difference between a School Support site visit and an Evaluative Site Visit – but that there is a protocol being worked on by staff that is almost ready for rollout.

Deputy Director Scroggins noted that his team has visited every school in the portfolio (school support visits).

Chair Guinasso stated that the compliance questionnaire should actually ensure that the school is complying with law and doing what they are supposed to be doing.

Chair Guinasso moved that we not require the schools to complete the questionnaire in its current form and to direct staff to revise the questionnaire so that it is aligned with the organizational framework and with the site visit protocol. Member Moulton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 9 – ACT Aspire

Member Mackedon made a motion to administer the ACT Aspire for the 2018-2019 school year strictly on a voluntary basis. Member Moulton seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 10 – Interim Finance Committee

There were some concerns raised regarding the positions that we requested and whether the work is being done, whether we have eliminated the backlog etc.

After the meeting, Chair Guinasso received a letter from the IFC and wanted to let the Board know that he and Vice Chair Mackedon will work with Staff to answer these questions. The response will be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

This board did not have any knowledge of the Letter of Intent, nor did the board see the budget before it was submitted.

Agenda Item 11 – Long-Range Board Calendar

Chair Guinasso directed staff to revise the Long-Range Calendar, and to schedule the dates for 2019. He also asked to place the frameworks on the long-range calendar instead of in the parking lot.

The board members went through their schedules and confirmed whether they will be available for a meeting in December. Based on availability and need, the board decided to meet in December.

Agenda Item 12 – Public Comment #2

Ryan Reeves –Chief Operating Officer of Academica Nevada. Mr. Reeves expressed his gratitude, and he believes that there should be input by the governed to those who govern them. He appreciates the spirit with which the Authority has approached the Frameworks and Legal Compliance Questionnaire with stakeholders.

He also expressed his concern that Henderson has become saturated with charter schools. He does not believe there are enough students to fill the seats of a proposed new school.

Pat Hickey – Executive Director of CSAN commended the SPCSA and the board for their willingness to work with stakeholders and the public. He applauded the effort to raise the bar for our students. He also recommended working with Clark County School District in the spirit of dialogue and communication.

Agenda Item 12 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm

Good Morning Board,

For the record, my name is Ben Gerhardt, and I am speaking on behalf of Agenda Item #9, your determination of the ACT Aspire assessment.

After the statewide SBAC irregularity debacle during the 2014-2015 school year, the Charter Authority (SPCSA) held a meeting in Las Vegas to detail its plan for the use of ACT Aspire Summative assessments to drive SPCSA decisions on accountability measures on the future of Charter Contract resubmissions primarily if another statewide irregularity were to happen during the 2015-2016 school year.

At that meeting, I argued that this decision was being made in haste due to a number of factors not ironed out at that time. A summary of these factors was as follows:

- Only SPCSA schools were mandated for the assessment, so there would be no state computations for proficiency averages or growth.
- Students were asked to be double tested At least; with some grade levels having the possibility to be tripled tested at that time. Thousands of student and teacher hours would be spent annually on an additional assessment
- SBAC and ACT Aspire are two totally different summative assessments in structure and delivery, so there would be distinct variations in grouped results
- The Charter Authority would have to create, revise, and maintain a framework, and have to create the formulas and computations without state data

There were others, but for time's sake, these were the four most glaring factors. Even with my objections, the plan was approved and set into motion. Three years later, nothing other than school-pulled data has come of these assessments.

At the August 26, 2016 Charter Authority Board meeting, the Authority charged Nevada Virtual with a measurement of student performance based on the current summative ACT Aspire score starting with the 2015-2016 school year.

After speaking with Andy Frost over at ACT, we came to the conclusion that there would be no state-level comparison data on proficiency and growth measurements. In order to fulfill the Charter Authorities request, I worked with Mr. Frost and Margie Jorgensen of K12 to come up with an ACT Aspire growth measurement that could be used to help track our students' growth who have been enrolled with us for the full 2015-2016 Academic school year and continue to monitor them as they progress through the school years. This involved creating our own growth computations using Normal Curve Equivalent and Percentiles in order to give every student a true growth calculation.

None of this was ever used. No Hard review happened.

So many hours have been spent of this assessment with nothing to show for it, unless the schools themselves took the data, analyzed and disseminated it.

I will go back to my original point during the 2015-2016 school year. There is no need for this assessment unless it is to be used. Either petition the state department of education to change course and have the ACT Aspire assessment replace the SBAC so we can have a true vertical alignment of assessments (ACT Aspire from 3-10 grade with ACT in 11th) which is what I proposed back then, or remove the assessment and focus on what the state is focusing on, the SBAC. Stop wasting valuable time and resources.

DCSLV RECEIVER QUARTERLY REPORT

As of 11/01/2018

Enrollment Numbers are as follows:

	ES	MS	Total
Hillpointe Campus	191	66	257
Sandhill Campus	87	31	118
Total	278	97	375

Milestones (Accomplishments):

2018 NEVADA SCHOOL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK RESULTS

School	PTS.	STAR RATING
MV (ES)	53.11	3 STARS
HP (ES)	80.89	4 STARS
MV (ES)	72.56	4 STARS
HP (MS)	87	5 STARS

- Discovery CS NJHS/NEHS facilitated a food drive at the Hillpointe Campus as part of their community service project.
- There are twenty-seven members of Discovery's chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society.
- There are sixteen members in Discovery's chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.
- Discovery CS continues to facilitate family engagement activities such as our annual Fall Festival, Book Fair, Lunch with a Loved One, Literacy Night, Multicultural Feast, and Trunk-or-Treat with a great participation at both campuses.
- Discovery CS received an SB200 grant in the amount of \$5,000 which was used to purchase six Lego Robotics kits, 12 Dash robots, and 10 Sphero robots.

Future Milestones (In Process):

- Receiver Exit Plan to local Governance under review for implementation
- Letter of Intent Filed o Start up a separate High School with a feeder system and MOU with Discovery Charter School. A new charter agreement will be drafted and submitted for approval.
- A Discovery CS First bus was Purchased - 60 passenger school bus for the purpose of transporting students to and from school. Also to be used for field trips. Working through the state transportation checklist at this time.
- Review and ongoing negotiations of the three site leases:
 - Hillpointe Campus Lease expires 08/2021
 - Mesa Vista Campus Lease expires 08/2021
 - Sandhill Campus Lease expires 06/2019

2018-2019 Grants:

- Ms. Tricia Wilbourne received a grant through Charlotte's Litter for \$500. It was granted for her to use on vests, kennels and dog beds in the classroom. Annie is in her 2nd week of obedience training and has covered 5 weeks of training, She has been on campus for staff meetings, open house, literacy night, and the Halloween parade. She will be working most Fridays beginning Nov 2. Student morale is high because of her as is our class attendance. Students school-wide ask about her well being and her next appearance and parents have been nothing but supportive.
- Ms. Hansen received a grant through Donors Choose to use towards Chromebooks for the 4th/5th-grade computer lab at the Hillpointe Campus. She was able to purchase 5 headphones, 4 mouse devices, and 3 Chromebooks.
- Ms. Brittany Arnold recently submitted a request through Donors Choose to purchase 4 laptops so that she can increase the amount of time students have access to iReady, ST Math, and Reading Eggs. This will be incredibly beneficial for students who do not have access to utilize these programs at home.
- Discovery CS received a Title IV Grant in the amount of \$55,000 which we are using to fund a full-time instructional coach to provide teachers with ongoing professional development opportunities.

- Discovery CS received the Turnaround Grant in the amount \$25,000 which we are using to fund a continued partnership with Achievement Network (ANet). This is the second year Discovery is partnering with ANet and the grant enables Discovery to participate in ANet's Level 1 series.
- Discovery CS received \$15,000 from the SB200 Grant. Discovery is using \$4,102 to fund professional development opportunities, \$9,300 for six employees to attend a technology conference and \$1,598 to purchase two Swivel video robots.
- Discovery CS applied for the Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant which, if awarded, Discovery will use to purchase a 3D printer.
- Discovery CS applied for a grant through the Whole Kids Foundation which, if awarded, Discovery will use to install a garden bed at the Sandhill Campus.
- Discovery CS applied for eRate with the assistance of Certified E-Rate Management Professional corporation. Form 470 was submitted and certified as of October 24, 2018. Discovery CS is accepting the submission of potential bids until December 4, 2018. All bids will be uploaded once received into EPC in accordance with E-rate rules.

Professional Development:

- Ms. Amanda Kettleison attended a 2-day Kagan workshop in San Diego in August of 2018. Mrs. Kettleison is Discovery's full-time instructional coach. She is already using the knowledge and skills she gained at this training to increase engagement and cooperative learning structures at Discovery.
- As the instructional coach, Mrs. Kettleison has organized and facilitated trainings for standards-based grading, informational text, Words Their Way, data folders, and Write From the Beginning. The trainings occur during Discovery's weekly professional development sessions on Friday. Mrs. Kettleison is then able to meet with teachers during the week to provide job-embedded, professional development.

DCSLV

Receiver Exit Plan

Goals to be Met By April 1, 2019

- A Magnet school Model must be identified and implementation underway
- Enrollment for 2019-20 must be @ a minimum of 400+ students
- Two parents (one from each site) must be identified and attend training for governance members.
- A staff Plan and budget must be built based on 375 students (minus receiver expense)
- Each school site and school (ES & MS) must earn at a minimum a 3-star rating on the NSPF for the 2018-19 school year.

IF All Goals Have Been Met, the Following Exit Plan Will be Recommended to the Charter School Authority and the 8th. Judicial Court

- A five Member School board that has completed training will be recommended for appointment to the NPSCA for an initial 3-year period.
- The governance board will consist of Two parents (one from each site) and three community members or a NPSCA approved Charter School Management Organization consisting of three voting members.
- Each board member will have the equivalent of one vote thus making for a five-vote governance structure.
- The new governance structure would take control of the school as of August 1, 2019.

IF THE CONDITIONS/GOALS HAVE NOT BEEN MET, THE RECEIVERSHIP MODEL WILL BE IN EXISTANCE.