



NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

January 22, 2021

In compliance with the Governor's Emergency Directives related to COVID-19, the January 22, 2021 Meeting of the State Public Charter School Authority was conducted virtually and livestreamed.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (via video):

Member Lee Farris
Member Tamika Shauntee Rosales
Member Don Soifer
Member Tonia Holmes-Sutton
Member Mallory Cyr
Member Sami Randolph
Member Sheila Moulton
Vice Chair Randy Kirner
Chair Melissa Mackedon

AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT (via video):

Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director
Ryan Herrick, General Counsel
Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing
Danny Peltier, Management Analyst I
Michael Dang, Management Analyst IV
Brian Scroggins, Deputy Director

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

Gabe Shirey
Katherine Thompson
Christian Aguilar
Skye Rodriguez
Dr. Lynda Johnson
Andi Morency
Dr. Derrick Love
Dr. Eric Stansberry
Tony Schwartz
Trevor Goodsell
Tricia Wilbourne
Yolanda Hamilton
Janelle Veith
Dan Triana
Biante Gainous
Shannon Houston
Kara Hendricks
Monica Johnson
Shubham Pandey
Jennifer Hackett
Jill
Victoria

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance [00:00:33]

Chair Melissa Mackedon called the meeting to order at 9:00am, with attendance reflected above. Gabe Shirey, Principal at Signature Preparatory, facilitated the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment #1 [00:03:04]

Ryan Herrick, General Counsel, said there was no public comment submitted via email. Danny Peltier, Management Analyst I, facilitated the public comments via phone.

1. Katherine Thompson, Diocese of Las Vegas, spoke in regard to spoke in support of the Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy Nevada charter school application, agenda item 7(a).
2. Maureen Shauffer, Council for a Better Nevada, spoke in support of the Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy Nevada charter school application, agenda item 7(a).
3. Francisco Aguilar, Blueprint Sports and Cristo Rey St Viator College Preparatory High School, spoke in support of the Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy Nevada charter school application, agenda item 7(a).
4. Skye Rodriguez, spoke in regard to spoke in support of the Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy Nevada charter school application, agenda item 7(a).
5. Dr. Lynda Johnson, spoke in support of the Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy Nevada charter school application, agenda item 7(a).
6. Dr. Eric Stansberry, spoke in support of the Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy Nevada charter school application, agenda item 7(a).

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of December 4, 2020 and December 11, 2020 Board Meeting Action Minutes. [00:23:50]

Member Soifer requested, with regard to the December 4, 2020 board meeting minutes, if these could be amended to include his request specifically related to the value of comparing some key campus-level population/demographic data with that of their adjacent neighborhood schools.

MOTION: *Member Moulton made a motion to approve the December 4, 2020 and December 11, 2020 board meeting action minutes and to include Member Soifer's comments as discussed. Vice Chair Kirner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

A 3-minute recess was taken.

Agenda Item 4 – SPCSA Executive Director's Report. [00:31:39]

a. COVID-19 In-Person Learning Guidance update

Executive Director Feiden said in November the Authority approved the updated and revised COVID-19 In-Person Learning Guidance which limits in-person instruction to 40% of the school's enrollment for schools located in counties subject to increased mitigation efforts. In late November and December, case rates and test positivity increased and new restrictions came from the Governor via the State-wide pause. At that point many SPCSA-sponsored charter schools did pull back in terms of in-person learning and following the winter holidays most schools began to ramp back up with in-person learning. Earlier this month, the Governor announced the State-wide pause would extend into February, and at this point staff does not recommend any changes to the current guidance though there have been a few requests from schools for exemptions to the 40% limit and Executive Director Feiden has been working with those schools to address their concerns and ensure they can operate in a way that meets the needs of their community and students. SPCSA staff expect to bring any updates to the COVID-19 In-Person Learning Guidance to the February meeting. With regard to additional supports provided to schools, the SPCSA anticipates an additional \$10-20 million in federal emergency funds based on the legislation passed in December that will be allocated to schools. They are coordinating with interested schools

and the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services to set up Rapid COVID-19 Testing. They continue to maintain their current communication approach with schools. Chair Mackedon asked about how many schools were interested in the rapid testing program. Executive Director said about 15 school sites were interested in that program and staff is collecting information about who will be administering those tests.

b. COVID-19 Vaccine update [00:33:53]

The SPCSA has been working with multiple agencies to ensure schools get information about how educators can sign up for vaccines and much of this is county by county. For our schools outside of Clark County, in counties including Washoe, Churchill, Elko, and White Pine, those counties have already begun vaccinations for education personnel, and we ensured that our schools are in touch with the appropriate authorities so that teachers can in fact sign up. Our understanding is that in each of those counties our schools are underway in terms of educator vaccinations. As for Clark County, SPCSA staff has been working diligently with the Health Department, Nevada Department of Education (NDE), and UNLV. They expect teachers to be able to participate on preregistration beginning Monday, January 25, and this registration will put teachers on a list and scheduled based on availability of the supply of vaccines.

Member Moulton asked about the timeline for teachers getting back into school. Executive Director Feiden replied we are looking at best early March and even with the vaccines, schools will still need to continue taking the current precautions. Vice Chair Kirner said, in regard to the in-person learning, the elementary and lower grades in Washoe County School District (WCSD) are in-person and on a regular schedule, have we heard from our charter schools up there and have we granted exemptions for those grades, so that they can compete and don't lose students to WCSD? Executive Director Feiden confirmed WCSD is operating full in-person for elementary school for students and that all SPCSA-sponsored charter schools in Washoe County currently have exemptions.

c. Initiatives related to Serving All Students Equitably, including preliminary data regarding educator demographics [00:42:19]

Executive Director Feiden said the SPCSA has taken a number of steps in the arena of their equity initiatives and shared three updates in particular. She began with the review of their initial review of teacher data. She recognized the NDE as a good partner in helping them access some of this information. They are particularly talking about licensed educator data. The most recent data pull did not reflect all of the teachers, but this data shows 24 charter schools and 46 campuses and they plan to bring further updated details to the February meeting. Within this preliminary data, it was determined 82% of teachers are white, the second highest represented group is African American, at 6.75 percent, 3rd was Hispanic and Latinx at 5.25%, and all other demographic groups being below 5%. She provided two other updates, regarding the surveys on SPCSA-sponsored charter schools and the trainings they conducted on diversity, equity and inclusion, about 30% of charter holders responded and of these they found that 60% of these had conducted some sort of diversity, equity and inclusion training within the last year. The frequency varied from school to school. 90% indicated interest in the SPCSA and identifying a partner who could provide training. Those that indicated they were not interested seemed to be providing this training themselves. SPCSA staff plans to look at this data in further detail and bring back a plan to the Board to provide resources or identify action steps to take with those schools interested. The final topic she touched on today was related to the SPCSA Community Working Group and spoke about the attendees at the recent Equity Subcommittee meeting. The group spent time reviewing and discussing the Equity memo provided at the SPCSA December meeting. The full group will reconvene next week.

d. The Nevada Department of Education's Proposed COVID-19 State Plan Addendum to Nevada's ESEA Consolidated State Plan for the 2020-2021 School Year [00:51:51]

Executive Director Feiden provided the update. In the Spring of 2020 the U.S. Department of Education allowed applications for waivers and the NDE applied for a waiver that granted, most significantly, a waiver from state assessments. The Federal government has offered another opportunity for waivers though there is a limited scope of options and there is not an option for states to apply to skip assessments again. NDE is planning to submit a request for a waiver and developed a draft in December and accepted public comment until January with the

anticipation of submitting the request to the Federal government in early February. Within the draft the major impact is with regard to star-ratings. NDE has stated that star ratings will be “carried over” from the 2018-2019 school year (the last school year that new star ratings were issued). In the addendum, the NDE proposes to not publish star ratings or reports for the 2020-21 school year but instead provide NSPF index scores so that “districts and schools may use this information for continual evaluation and improvement efforts.” Further technical changes can be reviewed in the memo alongside this agenda item in the supporting materials.

Member Farris asked why the NDE wouldn’t be considering chronic absenteeism? Executive Director Feiden said as far as she understands NDE plans to post student attendance data, however the chronic absenteeism will not be incorporated into the star-ratings because of the impact it would have. There was further discussion around attendance and how it is calculated. Member Cyr said this conversation made her think of an earlier discussion where Executive Director Feiden asked the Authority for feedback on items that may be helpful on evaluating schools other than the details in the star-ratings. Are there programs such as i-Ready or other curriculum that most of our schools use that we could see the growth of students on those programs? Based on the likelihood that those are relied on more now. Executive Director Feiden said she anticipates they will work with schools to understand the full context of what is going on given the nature of this year and certainly using those materials would be beneficial.

e. Explore Academy Facility Update [01:00:30]

Executive Director Feiden provided the brief update regarding Explore Academy’s facility. The facility they’ve secured is in the 89132 zip-code area and a [written update](#) from the school has also been provided.

f. Update on 2020 – 2021 Site Evaluations [01:01:58]

Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing, provided a brief update regarding the 2020 – 2021 school year site evaluations. SPCSA staff has completed 19 site evaluations and reports are out to those schools and 23 more are scheduled through the end of this academic year.

Agenda Item 5 – State Public Charter School Authority Financial Performance Framework Recommendations regarding the issuance of Notices of Concern, taking no action, or other action as directed by the Authority. [01:04:17]

Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing, began the Financial Performance Framework presentation and reviewed the objectives for this framework which is used to monitor the financial health of our schools. SPCSA staff recognize the conditions today and considered that during the evaluations. The three notices being recommended today are for schools that recently came out of receiverships or have been up for possible termination in recent years. Staff believes these schools are on the right trajectory.

Mike Dang, Finance and Organizational Manager, took over the remainder of the presentation. He talked about the timeline which includes SPCSA staff monitoring quarterly reports and audits presented to individual charter boards. Once these are submitted to the SPCSA, the Legislative Commission Budget and NDE, and the results are provided to schools, then the final data is presented, which is what we will be going through today. As a result of the analysis and discussions with schools, SPCSA recommends tabling the ratings under Enrollment Forecast Accuracy measure for FY20. Available data suggests that this measure may need to be altered as many schools with otherwise adequate financial performance were unable to meet the standard as adopted by the Authority in 2019 and issuing a Notice of Concern to the following schools:

- Discovery Charter School
- Nevada Virtual Academy
- Quest Preparatory Academy

Schools will be required to develop and submit a Financial Performance Improvement Plan and provide a written update on implementation of the plan in April 2021.

SPCSA staff also recommends directing the following schools to develop a targeted remediation plan in collaboration with SPCSA staff so as to ensure that financial performance improves in FY21. While a Notice is not recommended for this subset of schools, SPCSA staff wants to proactively address financial concerns with these schools prior to the end of FY21:

- Doral Academy of Northern Nevada
- Honors Academy of Literature
- Legacy Traditional Schools
- Signature Preparatory

There was further discussion between SPCSA staff and the Authority regarding the debt to asset ratio within the ratings of the schools before Chair Mackedon gave the schools the opportunity to discuss the recommended notices.

a. Discovery Charter School [01:29:32]

Tricia Wilbourne, Principal, Discovery Charter School, joined by 3 board members, spoke in response to the recommendation to issue a Notice of Concern to their school. Discovery Charter School has recently come out of receivership the administration was replaced, the board was reinstated, and we inherited a lot of debt. They did pay it off in full of June 2020, hired an account, had some clean up with accounts. The school has received a grant and increased enrollment of 23%. Bryan Weeks, board member, spoke to the debt to asset and current financial ratio.

b. Nevada Virtual Academy [01:33:27]

Yolanda Hamilton, Head of School, said they are working with their board and the SPCSA financial team to show improvement and look forward to heading in the right direction.

c. Quest Preparatory Academy [01:34:17]

Janelle Veith, Principal, joined by Richard McNeel, said they look forward to improving their financial position.

d. Doral Academy of Northern Nevada [00:00:00]

The school did make comments.

Member Holmes-Sutton left for the remainder of the meeting.

e. Honors Academy of Literature [01:35:58]

Andi Morency, spoke in response to the recommendation for Honors Academy of Literature to develop a targeted remediation plan. The school received the PPP Loan last year and that was not forgiven in the same fiscal year, it wasn't until September that they were able to file the forgiveness paperwork. They had additional expenses that were covered and have been forgiven now. With that loan forgiveness, they ended their year over \$200,000 cash flow positive. They do not see this being issue moving forward.

f. Legacy Traditional Schools [01:36:53]

Jennifer Hackett, Deputy Superintendent joined by board members Rick Phillips and financial team and Rob Howatt from their financial team. Mr. Howatt spoke to the issues they are dealing with and working with Mr. Dang on rectifying.

g. Signature Preparatory Academy [01:39:11]

Gabe Shirey, Principal, joined by their Board's Vice Chair Jessica Phee, and Board Secretary Linda Rolle, spoke to the issues related to the recommendation to develop a targeted remediation plan. He shared the updated enrollment of 1,100 students and said this will satisfy many of the financial setbacks they have. They are also working on acquiring their facility and will be speaking to the SPCSA board further in March. Lastly, there are additional grants they are awaiting approval for.

Director Modrcin described the three recommended motions described in [Staff's Recommendation](#).

MOTION: *Member Moulton made a motion to adopt the financial performance framework results for the entire SPCSA portfolio for FY20 for all indicators except the Enrollment Forecast Accuracy measure, and direct SPCSA staff to review this measure prior to the start of FY22 for possible modifications for Authority consideration. Member Farris seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

MOTION: *Vice Chair Kirner made a motion to issue a Notice of Concern to Discovery Charter School, Nevada Virtual Academy and Quest Preparatory Academy under the Financial Performance Framework for FY20 and require these schools to develop a financial performance improvement plan in collaboration with SPCSA staff and provide a written report on progress to date in implementing the plan by April 1, 2021. Member Moulton seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

MOTION: *Member Moulton made a motion to direct Doral Academy of Northern Nevada, Legacy Traditional Schools, Honors Academy of Literature and Signature Preparatory Academy to develop a targeted remediation plan in collaboration with SPCSA staff. Vice Chair Kirner seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

Agenda Item 6 – Charter School Contract Amendment Applications. [01:54:44]

~~**a. Mater Academy of Northern Nevada – expansion/addition of a new campus**~~
Withdrawn.

b. Sports Leadership and Management Academy – enrollment amendment, addition of grade levels (proposing to add kindergarten through fifth grades)

Director Modrcin provided a brief overview of Sports Leadership and Management Academy (SLAM) request for amendment to add kindergarten through fifth grades. SPCSA staff has reviewed the application request and recommends that the Authority conditionally approval the expansion of the SLAM request to expand their enrollment to grades K – 5, subject to the conditions described in [Staff's Recommendation](#). SPCSA staff also recommends that a third condition be included for the school to complete the pre-opening requirements and process.

Dan Triana, Principal, SLAM spoke regarding their school's request for amendment. They have spoken to their community and current families and they are excited about this expansion. Jill Cribari, Assistant Principal, also provided comment.

MOTION: *Member Moulton made a motion to conditionally approve the expansion of the SLAM request to expand their enrollment to grades K – 5 for the 2021 – 2022 school year, subject to the conditions described in [Staff's Recommendation](#) and a third condition to complete the pre-opening requirements and process. Member Farris seconded. The motion unanimously.*

c. Las Vegas Collegiate – facility and enrollment amendment [02:02:18]

Mike Dang, Management Analyst IV, summarized Las Vegas Collegiate's request for amendment to approve their good Cause exemption request to take action on a formal request to allow the school to expand enrollment in existing grades, relocate its facility temporarily, and to expand the territory in which the facility may be located beginning in the school year 2021-2022 if they are unable to locate within the 89106-zip code. SPCSA staff has reviewed the application and recommends that the Authority grant the school's request for a good cause exemption and approve the school's amendment proposal to expand enrollment and relocation of its campus.

Biante Gainous spoke to Las Vegas Collegiate's request for amendment to expand enrollment and relocation of their campus. For clarity, the reason they'd like to return back to 162 students is to make sure they can serve as many families as they can and expand their efforts. As it relates to the facility, one thing they did submit was a list of possible locations that they have vetted and used their facility developer to go through. She said they have exhausted all over 89106 options and want to remain true to that zip code so just as they requested for transportation, the bus is definitely still happening, and they were able to get that approved via CSP. Member Farris said his concerns with one of the temporary sites the school proposed was a small retail center about 150 feet away from a Dotty's which is a restricted gaming facility 24 hours with alcohol being served on site as well as had limited parking, limited space to que parents, and no visible outdoor space for the kids to utilize. The site concerns him greatly and it does not appear to be an appropriate site for a school even on a temporary basis and if there were a way to eliminate that site as a possibility of a temporary location. Ms. Gainous said all of those pieces they considered as well but to be transparent the reason it is on the list is because exactly the reason they had to come here for an amendment. At some point they are going to have to make a decision and make sure they have a place for their children to go. She said they will make it the last option and can guarantee that, but she does not want to promise if they have no other options, they would not have to choose that facility as they need to provide a school for their parents and families and deliver on what they said they would do. Member Farris said if the site remains an option, he cannot support this request because in his good conscious it seems like a wholly inappropriate place for kids and it is a tight parking lot. Member Soifer voiced his concerns around the location. One being the site's appropriateness and two is its ability to pass regulatory, whether it be within its municipality or wherever is necessary to get the proper approvals. If it has happened through this process at this point and if Ms. Gainous could speak more to that. Ms. Gainous said what they know is that the facility faces the back and when they spoke with the owner they were told there is a daycare that operates just at the L side and they have not had much trouble because of the hours of operation. They are typically gone before they see a lot of foot traffic. They are just trying to do what they can do best and unfortunately it is not the best viable option but they are working with a facility developer and are working to get in the middle of 89106 and are taking all pieces into account. She emphasized it is not their first option and said they hope to bring forth a different option.

Member Cyr said in acknowledging that the school originally partnered with a Boys & Girls Club and they were going to start their first year there but COVID hit that network hard, she is wondering what the status is on that and if the school has reengaged with them. Ms. Gainous said at this time it is not the most feasible option for them and with the other challenges COVID presented are part of the reason we had to reduce enrollment and it kind of came along with that. It is not something that the Boys & Girls Club are prepared to handle at this time. However, they do still have the partnership and it is still a partnership they use to support transportation, before and after care, and still remain the tight relationship.

MOTION: *Member Moulton made a motion to approve the request of the Las Vegas Collegiate Charter School to: Grant the School a Good Cause Exemption to Request; and approve for one year, with conditions outlined in [Staff's Recommendation](#), Las Vegas Collegiate Charter School's request to temporarily lease a facility within the 89106 zip code, or within 1.5 miles of the 89106 zip code for the 2021-2022 school year only and be allowed to go back to the original enrollment number of 162. Member Randolph seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

A 6-minute convenience break was taken.

Agenda Item 7 – Resubmitted New Charter School Applications. [02:24:14]

Executive Director Feiden gave a quick summary of how they got here with the two resubmissions today. The applications were initially received on or before July 15, 2020. Staff completed the initial review including capacity interviews and on November 6, 2020 the Authority denied both of these applications. In accordance with statute, staff sent a letter of denial and set a meeting with the applicants to meet and confer regarding the application and both applicants resubmitted in early December. A review committee made up of SPCSA staff

conducted an evaluation of the resubmitted application against the SPCSA's application rubric and had a clarification call with each applicant.

a. Pioneer Technology & Art Academy Nevada [02:26:57]

Executive Director Feiden presented the overview and staff's recommendation related to Pioneer Technology & Art Academy Nevada resubmitted charter school application. Upon resubmission, the review committee determined that some deficiencies within the original application had been addressed, and the ratings against the charter application rubric reflect these changes. Despite some outstanding areas for improvement, the Meeting the Need section and the Financial Plan are now rated as 'Meets the Standard'. While progress in the areas listed above as well as components of the other sections have been noted, the review committee finds that the charter application has not 'Met the Standard' in a sufficient number of application components to be recommended for approval. The high school program remains underdeveloped and the proposal continues to lack details within several components of the academic plan. Additionally, while the applicant team was able to provide evidence of a secured facility, several deficiencies within the operations plan have not been adequately addressed. Finally, concerns regarding the approach to expansion in Las Vegas and the delineation of roles and responsibilities between the superintendent of the CMO and the proposed principal persist. For these major reasons, in addition to those outlined within the remainder of [Staff's Recommendation](#), SPCSA staff recommends the Authority deny the Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy charter school application.

Shubham Pandey, Founding Member of PTAA, spoke to the organization and the other charter schools they run in other states. He requested that the Authority approve their application and allow for their school to open a K – 8th charter school and open their high school in the next application cycle. They have changed their budget to make it K – 8th specific, and just taking the high school enrollment out, staffing, and building requirements, has given a huge boost to our budget. Lastly, any items that are left beyond the high school grades and budget, they can be provided and clarified between now and when the school opens in August.

Dr. Derrick Love, proposed Principal, PTAA, spoke to PTAA's resubmitted charter school application. He said the community is ready for this program and curriculum and they have a track record for creating a proven system that works. He spoke to the high school piece and dual credit piece and other deficiencies identified by the review team in the application. The school is asking the Authority's reconsideration for approval for a K – 8th program.

Rudy Pamintuan, Board Member, PTAA, talked about the community needs.

Further conversation ensued between the Authority, SPCSA staff and proposed school representatives regarding the applicant's request to approve a K – 8th model rather than K – 12th.

MOTION: *Member Randolph made a motion to deny the Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy Nevada application as resubmitted during the 2020 Summer Application Cycle based on a finding that the applicant has failed to satisfy the requirements contained in NRS 388A.249(3). Member Moulton seconded.*

Further discussion ensued between the Authority and the proposed charter school representatives.

Chair Mackedon called the vote via roll call:

Member Soifer: No

Vice Chair Kirner: No

Member Shauntee Rosales: Yes

Member Cyr: Yes

Member Randolph: Yes

Member Farris: Yes

Member Moulton: Yes

Chair Mackedon: No

The motion carried 5-3.

A 15-minute convenience break was taken.

b. Eagle Charter Schools of Nevada [04:23:30]

Director Modrcin provided the background and detailed overview of the Eagle Charter Schools of Nevada resubmission charter school application. Overall and after careful consideration, the review committee unanimously recommends that this resubmitted charter school application be conditionally approved as the applicant was found to satisfy the requirements found in NRS 388A.249. The complete recommendation along with the conditions staff is proposing can be found in [Staff's Recommendation](#) (in the supporting materials). Upon resubmission, the review committee found that a number of deficiencies identified in the original application review had been resolved. Within the Meeting the Need section, which was previously rated as Approaches the Standard, the Committee to Form presented additional evidence that the proposed model is relevant to the specific needs of the community. Like the original application, the Academic Plan within the resubmission was also rated as Meets the Standard. Additional details were provided to more thoroughly describe the available supports to key student groups that persistently underperform in various academic measures. The Operations Plan within the initial application was rated as Approaches the Standard. The Committee to Form presented a more detailed and clear staffing plan, and also included significant evidence of community demand for the proposed educational model. Other key improvements were identified in the staffing plan, services and ongoing operations subsections. The review committee did identify a few remaining concerns, namely in the facilities, incubation year, and school leadership sections, that resulted in this section being rated as Approaches the Standard. After resubmission, the shortcomings previously identified within the Financial plan were determined to have been addressed. The proposed CMO has a history of running financially successful schools, and the budget presented in the resubmission appears to account for all major expenditures to ensure that the academic program can be implemented as planned. The Addendum, which is required of all applicants proposing to contract with an Educational Management Organization or Charter Management Operation, was also rated as Meets the Standard upon resubmission. Important details regarding the agreement between the local governing board and CMO were clarified, in particular the nature of funds for the critical incubation year. For these reasons, in addition to those described throughout this memo, staff's recommendation approve, with conditions, the charter school application for Eagle Charter Schools of Nevada.

Monica Johnson, Board Chair, Eagle Charter Schools of Nevada, extended her appreciation for the Board's approval today. In regards to the facility, they've identified a facility and are working with a facility manager to determine if it will be ready in time for the school year while exploring other options if necessary. Nick Fleege, Founder, Eagle Charter Schools of Nevada, followed up and said that if these conditions are not met, they are willing to work with SPCSA staff. Member Randolph asked about the status of the establishment of their board. Ms. Johnson said they are currently working towards a 5-member board in a timely manner.

MOTION: *Member Farris made a motion to approve the Eagle Charter Schools of Nevada charter application as resubmitted during the 2020 Summer Application Cycle, with conditions outlined below, based on a finding that the applicant now meets the requirements contained in NRS 388A.249(3).*

- 1. Present confirmation that a facility is under lease or under contract on or before March 1, 2021, and that the Eagle Nevada board has approved a plan to ensure that the same is ready for the 2021 – 22 school year;*
- 2. Present confirmation that Eagle Nevada has hired a school leader no later than April 1, 2021;*
- 3. Governing Board – Ensure a fully constituted governing body made up of five qualified members meeting the requirements of NRS 388A.320 by April 1, 2021. Provide initial training for the governing body by May 1, 2021. In addition, Board Member Mallory must be replaced by March 1, 2021.*

4. *Provide an updated list of proposed partnerships which also includes draft Memorandums of Understanding with each identified partner, and outlines deliverables and responsibilities of each party no later than June 1, 2021; and*
5. *Complete the SPCSA pre-opening process for new charter schools.*

All conditions must be met by the dates listed above and to staff's satisfaction for an opening for the 2021-22 school year. Member Moulton seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Soifer left for the remainder of the meeting.

Agenda Item 8 – SPCSA Annual Review and Overview of SPCSA-Sponsored Public Charter Schools. [04:44:18]

Executive Director Feiden said as the Authority knows, throughout the fall a ton of data comes in and they will be taking an opportunity to review it and use it as a starting point for communication with the public. She began her presentation via PowerPoint (see supporting materials) and talked about the following topics:

- Overview of the SPCSA
 - What are public charter schools?
 - SPCSA-Sponsored Public Charter Schools
 - The SPCSA's Strategic Plan
 - The 2020-2021 School Year – An Unprecedented Year
 - Performance of the SPCSA-Sponsored Charter Schools
 - Elevating our Focus on Equity
 - Needs Assessment and Growth Management Plan

She concluded the presentation with acknowledging this has been an unprecedented year and despite the challenges they have a lot to celebrate and continue to be focused on their strategic vision of equitable access to high-quality schools. For reference she included supporting slides in the Appendix with additional details related to the data she referred to.

Agenda Item 9 – 2021 Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment. [05:03:26]

Executive Director Feiden said in referring to the [2021 Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment](#), most recently updated by SPCSA staff, statute requires the SPCSA to conduct an annual evaluation of demographic information of pupils, academic needs of pupils, and needs of any pupils at risk of dropping out of school in the state. Given there were not assessments last spring, there was limited new data to include in this recent update, so this is limited in nature, but she pointed to the changes they made. They made a full edit to the document and language was updated to reflect annual needs assessment and there were also some clarification updates. This update is reflective of feedback they have received from local school districts, the Department of Education and their community working group as well as Nevada Association of School Superintendents. She highlighted a few specific updates.

MOTION: *Vice Chair Kirner made a motion to accept the 2021 Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment as presented by Executive Director Feiden. Member Randolph seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

Agenda Item 10 – State Public Charter School Authority Pre-Opening Process. [05:12:55]

Brian Scroggins, Deputy Director, spoke about the SPCSA Pre-Opening Process. He provided the introduction to the pre-opening document, which can be found in the supporting materials. Representatives from each team within the SPCSA have gone through the document to make sure the SPCSA is giving schools the information

they need in order to open properly. The purpose of this document is to show transparency to our schools, to help manage school expectations, to work with and hold schools accountable.

Agenda Item 11 – Annual Report to Nevada’s Department of Education. [05:22:43]

Executive Director Feiden said statute requiring this report changed last legislative session, now requiring this report to be submitted by February 15th of last year. This is a report required of any sponsor. She provided the high-level summary of what is contained in the report.

- Summary evaluating the academic, organizational and financial performance
- List of schools
- Strategic vision of the sponsor
- Table providing the amount of money from the Federal government that was distributed to charter schools (Federal grant money passed through out schools)

MOTION: Member Kirner made the motion to approve the annual report to the Nevada Department of Education as presented by Executive Director Feiden. Member Shauntee Rosales seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 12 – 2021 Legislative Update. [05:26:33]

Mr. Herrick said that we are a week away from the 2021 Legislative Session and walked through some of the education-related BDRs. Executive Director Feiden spoke to the Governor’s State of the State where the proposed budget was presented and discussed some of the anticipated impacts it will have on the SPCSA.

Agenda Item 13 – Long-Range Calendar. [05:38:07]

Executive Director Feiden said to note they anticipate the new schools approved for next year come to report their progress and they also have one outstanding application that has not gone through the resubmission process, TEACH charter school application resubmission receipt to come and recommendation to follow in February. Looking ahead to April and May, the Authority can anticipate the next round of charter school applications.

Agenda Item 14 – Public Comment #2. [05:39:45]

There was no further public comment.

Agenda Item 15 – Adjournment [05:41:13]

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38pm.