



NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

**April 15, 2022
9:00AM**

The State Public Charter School Authority Board Meeting was conducted virtually and at the following physical location:

Nevada Department of Education
2080 East Flamingo Road
Board Room
Las Vegas, Nevada

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN-PERSON:

Chair Melissa Mackedon
Vice Chair Sheila Moulton
Member Tamika Shauntee Rosales
Member Erica Mosca
Member Maureen Schafer

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Member Jackson Olsen
Member Tonia Holmes-Sutton

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Member Mallory Cyr
Member Lee Farris

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN-PERSON:

Whitney McIntosh
Brian Scroggins
Andrea Damore
Mary Kay Bellinger

AUTHORITY STAFF IN-PERSON:

Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director
Mike Dang, Management Analyst IV

AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Ryan Herrick, General Counsel
Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing
Jennifer King, Administrative Assistant IV

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE VIRTUALLY:

Tambre Tondryk
Patricia Farley
Kathy Rudd
Katie Krackhardt
Rebecca Gonzalez
Sandra Kinne
Jennifer Braster
Jacob Allen
Karli Casto
Miriam Benitez

The new board members, Maureen Shafer and Jackson Olsen introduced themselves. [00:00:18]

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance [00:03:32]

Melissa Mackedon, State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA), Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03am and Vice Chair Moulton facilitated the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment #1 [00:04:46]

1. Brian Scroggins

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of March 4, 2022 SPCSA Board Meeting Action Minutes [00:08:11]

MOTION: Vice Chair Moulton made the motion to approve the March 4, 2022 SPCSA board meeting action minutes. Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – SPCSA Charter School Governing Body Governance Standards [00:08:47]

Chair Mackedon asked Member Shauntee Rosales to speak on the governance standards at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 5 – Executive Director’s Report [00:09:11]

Agenda Item 10 – SPCSA Growth Management Plan.

Chair Mackedon said they were going to combine agenda item 5 with agenda item 10 – SPCSA Growth Management Plan. Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director, began with agenda item 10. Last month the Authority had an initial discussion regarding updates to the growth management plan. Since this is a brief update, there aren’t any written materials and so she’s incorporated it in with the executive director report. Since last meeting staff has held a meeting with their community working group. They’ve continued to review the current version of the growth management plan and begun work on potential updates. Staff believes they will bring this to the Authority for consideration in June and anticipate additional conversations at their May meeting as well.

a. Initiatives Related to Serving All Students Equitably [00:10:28]

Executive Director Feiden said over the last two years, they’ve worked on several initiatives to help elevate their focus on equity. She shared a few brief updates. Next month they are planning on hearing from the Mater Academy team regarding some unique components of their Special Education program at their East campus to better understand how they are effectively serving students with special needs. Additionally, today they will be discussing and possibly moving forward with requiring certain schools to develop recruitment and enrollment plans to serve a representative population of students. Staff will continue to report on these initiatives monthly.

b. COVID-19 Update [00:11:36]

Executive Director Feiden said last month she shared that schools were working on their COVID-19 mitigation plan pursuant to emergency directive 052. At this point, most plans have been approved by their local health authority but a few are outstanding. Additionally, they have seen much lower rates of COVID-19 cases at their schools in the last month and have continued their testing options.

c. Legislative Update: Interim Committees [00:12:21]

Executive Director Feiden said last month she presented along with several of the district superintendents to the Committee on Education about the impacts of COVID-19. This month the Committee on Education is meeting next Wednesday and there are no items charter school specific. Recently, they had several items on the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) April 7 meeting agenda. First, there were several routine adjustments to the grant allocation amounts, all were approved and there were no questions. They also requested additional positions for the agency; one to assist with the management of applications, particularly amendment applications, and one to assist in coordinating their federal program monitoring. Both were approved and they did not receive questions on those new positions. Finally, they have a biannual report due to the IFC regarding the two new positions they received last session that are focused on site evaluations. The report was submitted in January they received no

questions on the report for discussion. Finally, they are working on the agency's budget preparation for next year. The budget process kicked off in March and they have a variety of milestones between now and September. They are also working on the agency's bill draft request.

d. Adjustments to October 1, 2022 student enrollment numbers [00:15:03]

Executive Director Feiden said the Department of Education has an annual enrollment count which occurs on October 1 of each year, and the data is usually published in November. Last year's data was reported to the Authority at the December 3 board meeting. However, recently the Department of Education let local educational agencies know they had identified some minor errors that was reported last fall. None of these areas were specific to the SPCSA schools, however, they post some comparison data to district schools and so while their numbers have not changed, they are working to update those documents.

There was brief discussion between Executive Director Feiden and the Authority.

Agenda Item 6 – Beacon Academy of Nevada [00:18:30]

Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing, briefly introduced the agenda item for Beacon Academy of Nevada. Andrea Damore, Executive Director of Academics, and Mary Kay Bellinger, Operations Coordinator, Beacon Academy of Nevada, provided the presentation on their update on the implementation of their alternative school model as well as available data, including measures under the Alternative Performance Framework. There was further discussion between the Authority, staff, and school representatives, including Tambre Tondryk, Executive Director, Beacon Academy of Nevada.

Agenda Item 7 – Charter School Contract Amendment Applications [00:58:06]

a. Beacon Academy of Nevada – facility acquisition

Mike Dang, Management Analyst IV, provided brief remarks and a summary of the amendment request, to be approved to be granted a good cause exemption to hear this request for amendment and to accelerate its facility financing plans for its East campus which the SPCSA approved on June 26, 2020, and which Beacon Academy of Nevada opened during the 2021-2022 school year. Staff recommends approval of the requests with the condition that the school provide staff with a copy of the final financing documentation, including information staff will specify to Beacon, including the Total Amount Borrowed, Interest Rate, Term in Years, Total of Payments, etc.

***MOTION:** Vice Chair Moulton made the motion to Grant Beacon Academy of Nevada (Beacon) a Good Cause Exemption to hear this matter and, secondly, grant the school's request to implement its submitted financing plans for the East campus, which Beacon began occupying the 2021-2022 school year, with the condition that the school provide staff with a copy of the final financing documentation, including information staff will specify to Beacon, including the Total Amount Borrowed, Interest Rate, Term in Years, Total of Payments, etc. Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

b. Girls Athletic Leadership School – change in EMO/CMO [01:02:22]

Executive Director Feiden provided some brief remarks and a summary of the amendment request. As of February 28, 2022, GALS, Inc. the charter management organization for GALS Las Vegas terminated its affiliation with the Las Vegas school. Pursuant to the school's charter contract this constitutes a material change to the charter and requires approval by the Authority. SPCSA staff has been monitoring these developments and recommends the Authority approve the separation of GALS Las Vegas and GALS, Inc. SPCSA staff anticipate a subsequent amendment request at a future meeting to address the adjust in operations, academics, and finances in order to operate as a stand-alone charter. There was brief discussion between the Authority Patricia Farley, Board Chair, Girls Athletic Leadership (GALS),

***MOTION:** Vice Chair Moulton made the motion to approve the separation of GALS Las Vegas and its charter management organization, GALS, Inc. and direct GALS Las Vegas to work with SPCSA staff to outline specific*

changes to the operations, academics, and finances that will be required to operate as a stand-alone charter school. Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Battle Born Academy – temporary location for the 2022 – 23 school year [01:07:40]

Director Modrcin provided brief remarks and a summary of the amendment request, to be granted a good cause exemption and approved to temporarily locate a facility located at 4201 E. Bonanza Road, Las Vegas, NV 89110 for the 2022 – 2023 school year. SPCSA staff recommend the Authority grant the school’s request with conditions. There was brief discussion between the Authority and Kathy Rudd, Co-Founder, Battle Born Academy.

MOTION: *Vice Chair Moulton made the motion to Grant Battle Born Academy a Good Cause Exemption and approve the requests of the school to temporarily locate in a new facility at 4201 E. Bonanza Road Las Vegas, NV 89110 for the 2022 – 23 school year only, with the following conditions:*

- That Battle Born Academy provide SPCSA staff with a copy of a fully executed lease on or before June 1, 2022;*
- That the school present evidence of the appropriate permitting for the facility no later than 30 days prior to the start of the 2022 – 23 school year as required by NRS 388A.360; and*
- That the school complete the remaining requirements of the SPCSA Pre-Opening process.*

Member Mosca seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 8 – Update on approved new charter schools for Fall 2022 [01:14:49]

a. Battle Born Academy

Director Modrcin provided some brief remarks before turning it over to the school for the update. A written update can also be found in the supporting materials. Kathy Rudd, Co-Founder, Battle Born Academy, provided the verbal update on behalf of the school.

b. Sage Collegiate [01:19:36]

Director Modrcin provided some brief remarks before turning it over to the school for the update. A written update can also be found in the supporting materials. Sandra Kinne, Executive Director, Sage Collegiate, provided the verbal update on behalf of the school.

c. PilotED – Cactus Park Elementary [01:24:50]

Director Modrcin provided some brief remarks before turning it over to the school for the update. A written update can also be found in the supporting materials. Jacob Allen, Chief Executive Officer, PilotED Foundation, provided the verbal update on behalf of the school.

d. Young Women’s Leadership Academy [01:29:40]

A written update can be found in the supporting materials for this item. Whitney McIntonsh, Principal, Young Women’s Leadership Academy, provided the verbal update on behalf of the school.

e. Strong Start Academy

Director Modrcin provided some brief remarks before turning it over to the school for the update. A written update can also be found in the supporting materials. Miriam Benitez, Principal, Strong Start Academy, provided the verbal update on behalf of the school.

A 7-minute convenience break was taken.

Agenda Item 9 – Charter School Recruitment and Enrollment Plans [01:44:40]

Executive Director Feiden provided the update and staff’s recommendation to require certain sponsored schools to develop recruitment and enrollment plans. The referenced recommendation memo can be found in the

supporting materials with the technical background and details. There was further discussion between the Authority and Executive Director Feiden regarding the memo and recommendation as presented.

MOTION: *Member Mosca made the motion to require the following schools to develop and submit Recruitment and enrollment plans by September 30, 2022. Recruitment and enrollment plans must contain specific strategies aimed at serving a student population that is representative of the school's local community, particularly with regard to the population of students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch.*

- *Alpine Academy*
- *Doral Northern Nevada*
- *Doral Pebble*
- *Doral Red Rock*
- *Founders Academy*
- *Leadership Academy*
- *Nevada State High School Downtown Henderson*
- *Nevada State High School Northwest*
- *Pinecrest Inspirada*
- *Pinecrest Sloan Canyon*
- *Somerset Aliante*
- *Somerset Lone Mountain*
- *Somerset Sky Pointe*
- *Somerset Skye Canyon*

Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 10 – SPCSA Growth Management Plan [00:09:11]

This item was combined with agenda item 5, see above.

Agenda Item 11 – Long-Range Calendar. [02:18:20]

Executive Director Feiden flagged that the Growth Management Plan is on the calendar for possible approval in June and they are looking ahead to some potential amendment applications as well. Member Mosca asked for next year if the new schools could provide how many teachers and how many students in a way that they are away from that goal, that may be helpful.

Agenda Item 12 – Public Comment #2 [02:20:13]

There was no public comment on the line or in the board room.

Agenda Item 13 – Adjournment [02:20:28]

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21AM.