



NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

May 20, 2022
9:00AM

The State Public Charter School Authority Board Meeting was conducted virtually.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Chair Melissa Mackedon
Vice Chair Sheila Moulton
Member Mallory Cyr
Member Holmes-Sutton
Member Tamika Shauntee Rosales
Member Lee Farris
Member Erica Mosca
Member Jackson Olsen
Member Maureen Schafer

AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director
Mark Modrcin, Director of Authorizing
Ryan Herrick, General Counsel
Mike Dang, Management Analyst IV
Jennifer King, Administrative Assistant IV
Michael Gawthrop-Hutchins, Management Analyst III

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE VIRTUALLY:

Nick Fleege
Bryan Weeks
Mary Scott
Kara Hendricks
Sandra Kinne

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance [00:01:14]

Melissa Mackedon, State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA), Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00am and Vice Chair Moulton facilitated the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment #1 [00:02:00]

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of April 15, 2022 and April 29, 2022 SPCSA Board Meeting Action Minutes [00:02:30]

Member Moulton noted on the April 29, 2022 on page 6, the second paragraph has a typo. With that correction she moved to approve the minutes.

MOTION: Vice Chair Moulton made the motion to approve the April 15, 2022 and April 29, 2022 SPCSA board meeting action minutes. Member Shauntee Rosaes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – SPCSA Charter School Governing Body Governance Standards [00:03:41]

Chair Mackedon said this item will be pushed to the next meeting.

Agenda Item 5 – Executive Director’s Report [00:03:57]

a. Initiatives Related to Serving All Students Equitably

Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director, said that she wanted to note for the record that Member Mosca arrived at the meeting. With regards to the initiatives related to serving all students equitably, she said last month the Authority voted to require certain SPCSA-sponsored charter schools to develop and submit recruitment and enrollment plans by September 30, 2022. These plans must contain specific strategies aimed at serving a student population that is representative of the school community. Earlier this week staff provided guidance to the 14 schools required to develop and submit these plans. Staff will also be holding 3 option virtual working sessions to support the schools with the process. Second, as the Authority knows, they planned to have Mater Academy of Nevada present at this meeting regarding their special education program, due to the move to the virtual setting, they are not here this month, but staff is working to reschedule their presentation with the Authority. Finally, she shared that their project aware team has been developing a training module on restorative justice and while the schools that are participating in their MTSS cohort get a lot of support from their project aware team with restorative justice, staff saw a need for some baseline training to be made available for all schools. They will be piloting this training with their new schools slated to open next year in June and plan to open a training opportunity for all schools over the summer or early fall.

b. COVID-19 Update [00:06:35]

Executive Director Feiden said the state of emergency related to COVID-19 will end today and there are some impacts she wanted to note. First, going into next year all of their schools, except those that were previously approved to operate as full time distance education school, will return to fully in person without an option for virtual learning. Additionally, end of course exams which have been waived for the last 3 years, will be reinstated next year. Emergency subs, which are allowed in Clark and Washoe Counties only during the state of emergency, will be phased out. In these counties, schools may continue to use emergency subs through the end of this year and into summer school, but will not be allowed to have emergency subs, specifically in Clark and Washoe counties, in the 2022-23 school year. Note that emergency subs will continue to be permitted in their rural communities, as the regulations allow for that, even outside the state of emergency. Additionally, there are some implications for their COVID-19 testing lab, through which many of their schools participate in for administrating rapid tests at their school sites. When the state of emergency ends, the provision that allows their lab to be overseen by a registered nurse, will not be in place and to continue they would need someone with a different type of medical license. They are seeking out someone with additional credentials and are in touch with DHHS, to continue testing at their school sites. If they are unable to do so they will work with their schools to transition into other options. Finally, she did want to note that even though the state of emergency is ending, the SPCSA as a

federal recipient of emergency funds and will need to continue to keep their plan for safe in person learning up to date through September 30, 2023 because the grant continues through that period.

c. New Charter School Applications [00:09:13]

Executive Director Feiden said under their new regulations, new charter school applications are now due between April 15 and April 30 of this year. This year they received 5 applications, however 1 applicant has decided to withdraw. All applicants plan to locate in Clark County and the applications themselves will be posted online by the end of today. They will also be posting a public comment form that will be available to the public and they have already reached out to their district partners for district input, as required by statute. Staff and external reviewers are beginning the application review and expect to bring recommendations to the Authority in August.

d. 2022 Sponsor Feedback Survey [00:11:37]

Executive Director Feiden said last week staff released their annual feedback sponsor survey. This survey is sent to charter school leaders and seeks input on a variety of topics, including communication, the authorizing functions in their agency and performance frameworks, the school support functions, and the grant administration functions as well. The survey will close in early June and they look forward to sharing the results at an upcoming meeting.

e. Update on New Schools Opening in Fall 2022 [00:12:40]

- Battle Born Academy
- Sage Collegiate
- PilotED – Cactus Park Elementary
- Young Women’s Leadership Academy
- Strong Start Academy

Executive Director Feiden provided the update. Staff is closely monitoring these schools’ completion of the pre-opening checklist and meet with each of these schools at least monthly. At this point, all schools appear to be on track with meeting their pre-opening requirements, but there are several major milestones that are approaching that she briefly summarized. Lastly, she shared brief updates regarding each of the new schools.

Agenda Item 6 – Charter School Contract Amendment Applications [00:25:23]

a. Discovery Charter School

Mike Dang, Management Analyst IV, said Discovery Charter School has submitted the requests for the Authority to approve a good cause exemption and to be approved to acquire their current facility at the Hillpointe campus that will not affect approved enrollment. SPCSA staff has reviewed the application and recommends conditional approval. Mr. Dang provided the details regarding the amendment which can be found in the supporting materials. There was brief discussion between the Authority and school representative, Bryan Weeks.

MOTION: *Vice Chair Moulton made the motion to grant Discovery Charter School a good cause exemption and approve the school’s request to implement its submitted campus acquisition and financing plans. These approvals are subject to the condition that the school, within 10 days after being made available to the school, provide SPCSA staff with an electronic copy of the final recorded title, financing documentation including an amortization schedule, the Total Amount Borrowed, Financing Interest Rate(s) and Term in Years. Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

b. Eagle Charter Schools of Nevada [00:34:20]

Director Modrcin said Eagle Charter Schools of Nevada was approved a second deferral to open in the 2022-23 school year with the condition that the school provide evidence that the identified facility was under lease in May of 2022. In early April, SPCSA staff was notified that there were some potential issues with the identified facility and according to the amendment application, in recent weeks it became apparent that the previously

identified facility no longer was no longer a realistic option for the school. The amendment application states Eagle is seeking permission to permanently locate in one of its originally approved zip codes, 89104, as a facility at 2025 E. Sahara has been identified on a workable timeline for the 2023 – 24 school year. The amendment goes on to note that the school is prepared to execute a lease in a timely manner, and that the bulk of the parent interest forms for the school originate from the 89104 zip code. Information provided to date indicates that if approved, the Eagle board will be able to provide the SPCSA with a fully executed lease by June 30, 2022. To ensure that the school remains on track to open in 2023, SPCSA staff recommends that other conditions attached to the January deferral remain in place. Should the request be approved, SPCSA staff suggests the permitting condition include a timeline of February 1, 2023. With these conditions, SPCSA staff recommends the Authority approve the amendment request. There was brief discussion between the Authority and school representative, Mr. Fleege.

MOTION: *Member Farris made the motion to grant the good cause exemption request and approve the amendment request submitted by Eagle Charter Schools of Nevada, permitting the school to locate in the 89104 at the proposed location of 2025 E. Sahara, with the following conditions:*

- That the school provide a fully executed lease on or before June 30, 2022;*
- That the school provide evidence that a school leader has been hired by January 1, 2023;*
- That the school provide evidence that all zoning requirements have been fulfilled and that appropriate permits have been obtained by February 1, 2023; and*
- That the school continue to provide written, monthly updates to SPCSA staff through the incubation year towards these conditions as well as a successful opening in the 2023 – 24 school year.*

Vice Chair Moulton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 7 – SPCSA Revolving Loan Application (Sage Collegiate) [00:42:04]

Michael Gawthrop-Hutchins, Management Analyst III, said Sage Collegiate is requesting a revolving loan application and staff has reviewed the application to ensure alignment with at least one of the statutory purposes and that there was a strong plan in place for management and repayment of funds should the loan be awarded. SPCSA staff recommends approval of the application and more details can be found in the recommendation memo in the supporting materials.

MOTION: *Member Farris made the motion to approve the Revolving Loan Fund Application for \$112,000 for the Sage Collegiate Public Charter School according to the repayment terms described in this Memo. Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

Agenda Item 8 – Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy Nevada [00:45:38]

Executive Director Feiden said this item is a request for a good cause exemption from Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy Nevada to submit a charter application outside of the established application window. The request was submitted on May 6, 2022.

PTAA Nevada proposes that if approved, PTAA Nevada would submit a Notice of Intent on or before May 31, 2022 and submit the charter application within 90 days of the Notice of Intent. The letter, which can be found alongside the materials for today’s meeting, provides five reasons for this request. After reviewing the request, SPCSA staff believe that good cause exists to allow PTAA Nevada to submit a charter application outside of the established application window, particularly given the recent regulatory changes that adjusted the application window. Therefore, SPCSA staff recommend approval of this good cause exemption.

Vice Chair Moulton asked for the litigation update as well as Member Schafer’s proposal of participation in this discussion and vote, given her affiliation with the applicant. Mr. Herrick gave the litigation update and Member Schafer replied that as she did with the last time this applicant came before the board, she will abstain on the issue as well today.

Member Farris asked who was present on behalf of the school today and Ms. Hendricks replied it was just her today. Member Farris said he thinks the school should be here as they decide on this important item, he supports the request but does think it is a bad start and hopefully it gets better from here on out. Member Schafer commented with all due respect to her colleagues, they have been in this process for almost two years and acknowledging she has been on the other side, she does not know that it is a bad start, but she does know their willingness to continue in this process is courageous and she appreciates that. There was brief discussion about the April 29, 2022 minutes.

MOTION: *Member Farris made the motion to approve the request for a good cause exemption and to approve the request by PTAA Nevada to submit an application outside of the established applications window, and instead submit a Notice of Intent on or before May 31, 2022 and submit the application 90 days after the Notice of Intent is submitted to the SPCSA. Vice Chair Moulton seconded the motion. The motion carried, with Member Schafer abstained.*

Agenda Item 9 – Long-Range Calendar [00:57:25]

Executive Director Feiden said they expect a number of amendments on the June agenda and for the Authority to be prepared for that. She also briefly noted that the June meeting will not be on a Friday, instead it will be on Monday, June 27th and similarly the August meeting will not be on a Friday, it will be Monday, August 29th.

Member Shauntee Rosales offered to handle the SPCSA Charter School Governing Body Governance Standards item at the next meeting. Member Holmes-Sutton asked for the opportunity to clarify and speak about their Sandhill campus, in review of the documents submitted, she has some questions.

Agenda Item 10 – Public Comment #2 [01:01:30]

Public comment on the line:

1. Diane Thompson, regarding concerns around retention of black and brown kids.
2. Shawn Tigler, regarding concerns at Legacy Traditional School.
3. Monica, regarding concerns at Legacy Traditional School North Valley.
4. Dawn Mccockrin, regarding concerns at Legacy Traditional School.
5. Parent of a student, regarding concerns at Legacy Traditional School.
6. David Hoover, regarding concerns at Legacy Traditional School North Valley.

Agenda Item 13 – Adjournment [01:20:06]

The meeting was adjourned at 10:19 AM.