



NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

July 29, 2022
9:00AM

The State Public Charter School Authority board meeting was conducted in-person and virtually.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN-PERSON:

Chair Melissa Mackedon
Vice Chair Sheila Moulton
Member Mallory Cyr
Member Tonia Holmes-Sutton
Member Tamika Shauntee Rosales
Member Lee Farris
Member Erica Mosca

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Member Maureen Schafer

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Member Jackson Olsen

AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT IN-PERSON:

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

AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Danny Peltier, Management Analyst I

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN-PERSON:

Jessica LeNeave
Janelly Corona
Ercan Aydogdu
Emrullah Eraslen
Alyse Sobosan
Robyn Redding
Anna Parra
Ben Salkowe
Whitney McIntosh
Angela Alexander
Alexis Lynch
Braxton Pacatte
Denise Pacatte
Mariella Bueno

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE VIRTUALLY:

Kathy Rudd
Sandra Kinne
Jennifer Braster
Karli Casto
Lorna James-Cervantes
Kristin Serrano
Chris McBride
Christine Dzarnowski
Yolanda Hamilton
Samantha Morris
Ann Diggins
Angela Cook

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance [00:00:59]

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

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment #1 [00:02:01]

1. Anna Parra, Equipo Academy, regarding agenda item 9.
2. Braxton Packette, spoke in regard to Nevada Connections Academy.
3. Denise Packette, spoke in regard to Nevada Connections Academy.

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of June 27, 2022 SPCSA Board Meeting Action Minutes [00:13:29]

MOTION: Vice Chair Moulton made the motion to approve the June 27, 2022 SPCSA board meeting action minutes. Member Farris seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – Executive Director’s Report [00:14:25]

a. Initiatives Related to Serving All Students Equitably

Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director said in April the Authority voted to require certain SPCSA-sponsored charter schools to develop and submit recruitment and enrollment plans by September 30 of 2022. These recruitment and enrollment plans must contain specific strategies aimed at serving a student population that is representative of the school’s community. Particularly with regard to the population of students qualifying for free or reduced priced lunch. Earlier this month staff held a second optional working session for those schools that are required to develop and submit these plans. Staff has a third session scheduled for August.

b. Language Access Plan pursuant to Senate Bill 318 (2021) [00:15:40]

Executive Director Feiden said Senate Bill 318 from the 2021 legislative session required all state agencies to develop language access plans intended to provide meaningful, timely access to persons with limited English proficiency. After reviewing all of the resources and documentation provided by the Governor’s Office of New Americans, and after meeting with experts at UNR, they’ve completed a draft and posted it to their website along with a public comment form that will be open for three approximately weeks. She walked through some of the highlights of the draft which can be found in the supporting materials. The SPCSA will be revising the plan biannually. There was brief discussion regarding the language access plan.

c. Legislative Session: Interim Committees and Planning [00:20:38]

Executive Director Feiden said the Legislative Committee on Education is meeting today and they have two final meetings for the interim scheduled for August. At this point they are not aware if there will be specific charter school items, but they are prepared to be present and work with the Committee as needed. Additionally, as a reminder the SPCSA is required to provide biannual reports during this biennium to their Interim Finance Committee regarding two new positions dedicated to site evaluations and their second report of the biennium is due today and they will be submitting that by the end of the day today. SPCSA staff is also working to submit the agency request budget to the Governor’s Finance Office by the end of August as is required.

d. Elko Institute of Academic Achievement New Facility for 2023-23 School Year [00:21:50]

Executive Director Feiden said Elko Institute of Academic Achievement was approved in January to relocate to a new facility for the 2023-2024 school year. However, the school has faced some challenges in securing a contractor to construct this new building within budget and as a result the EIAA board plans to bring an amendment request to the SPCSA to request to defer the relocation. A letter from the school leader can be found in the supporting materials with additional details.

e. Doral Academy of Northern Nevada New Campus for 2023-24 School Year [00:22:35]

Executive Director Feiden said at the June meeting the Authority approved Doral Academy of Northern Nevada (DANN) to add a second campus in the 2023-24 school year. That approval included certain conditions that would need to be met by September 30 of this year. The DANN board met in early July and at that time

declined to adopt the policies needed to meet the conditions set forth by the Authority in its approval. While the DANN board does have until September 30 to meet those conditions, current indications are that they do not plan to move forward with those conditions and therefore would not be able to expand to that second campus.

f. Initial Steps in Response to 2021-22 SPCSA Sponsor Survey Results [00:23:30]

Executive Director Feiden said in July staff presented results of their annual sponsor survey which was conducted in May and June of this year. Based on the results of that survey, staff have prioritized a few action steps for the next upcoming year. She spoke in more detail regarding staff' action steps which can be found in the memo within the supporting materials. There was brief discussion between Executive Director Feiden and the Authority.

g. New School Application Process [00:32:56]

Executive Director Feiden said SPCSA staff are currently in the process of reviewing four applications for new charter schools. Their review team has completed initial evaluations and recently completed the capacity interviews. Over the new few weeks, SPCSA staff will work to finalize their recommendations and plan to bring those recommendations to the Authority for action on the August 29th meeting. There is a brief document within the supporting materials that provides a summary of the timeline.

h. 2022-23 School Year Site Evaluations [00:33:32]

Executive Director Feiden said the materials for today's meeting includes a list of schools that are expected to receive site evaluations during the upcoming school year. SPCSA staff is working to get these scheduled and will be bringing a few technical changes to the site evaluation manual and protocol to the Authority at their August meeting as well.

Agenda Item 5 – Update on approved new charter schools for Fall 2022 [00:34:11]

a. Battle Born Academy

Kathy Rudd, Principal, Battle Born Academy said they presented their written update earlier in the week and have had several things happening since then. With regard to student recruitment, they've seen a ton of progress over the last several weeks and have put additional effort and time and community work into student recruitment. They hired two part time professionals and they also brought on a full-time student recruitment role as well as mobilizing a number of their parents to do student recruitment. They were at 121 students earlier this week as of this morning they are at 143. The school had its open house this week and more than 200 families attended. With regard to facilities, they are in their facility and it is operational. The school's walk through with SPCSA staff was yesterday and they have a number of small items to update or turn in with regard to the pre-opening checklist, and that is on track to being fully completed by early next week and ready to open for the first day of school. Lastly, with regard to staffing their hiring has been going fantastically. She invites everyone to their school this year and see their particular project based and social emotional approach in action. Additionally, she spoke to the partnership and collaborations between Battle Born Academy and Equipo Academy as requested by Member Mosca.

b. PilotED – Cactus Park Elementary [00:41:23]

Karli Casto, Principal, PilotED, said PilotED had their walk through with SPCSA staff and have a few things to complete on that front. With regards to their facility, their permanent facility was delayed due to a permitting issue and a couple other things that they worked out and have received that permit and now have a much more nailed down timeline of getting their TCO on October 13. They have moved forward with their temporary location at Nevada Prep and they've notified families and staff of the change. For enrollment, they have about 240 active applications for their 200 seats and so those are filling up as a first come first serve basis as families submit their enrollment paperwork. 153 seats are filled and complete. The school's open house is next week and have also held office hours to help families with completing registration paperwork. With regard to staffing, they are fully staffed. Ms. Casto additionally spoke to their partnership with Nevada Prep, as requested by Member Mosca,

and discussed the ideas around exploring options to provide transportation and perhaps a partnership with Nevada Prep.

c. Sage Collegiate [00:48:19]

Sandra Kinne, Executive Director, Sage Collegiate, said staff at the school is undergoing professional development and they are still making offers for a couple positions. With regard to facilities, they had a single HVAC unit arrive and there is a single part that they need for all of their HVAC units by the manufacturer and there has been a production delay. They have had a contingency plan ready to implement and execute and that is modules on site and so they will be in modules on their campus for a few weeks and they have shared that information with their families and thankfully most families have remained committed. They remain fully enrolled and have a waitlist around four dozen across all grade levels. They have continued with their engagement, hosting and being a part of events in the last month and plan to continue to actively engage. With regard to facilities, they will have a Certificate of Occupancy in hand by next Friday.

d. Strong Start Academy [00:55:55]

Lorna James-Cervantes, Board Chair, Strong Start Academy, said they are fully staffed and their enrollment is at 109 students. They are continuing to receive completed enrollment forms every day. They continue to advertise throughout the community and hold events at different local areas to let families know they are there and the option for a dual language school. They have completed all of their pre-opening checklist and their walk through was also completed. The school's board feels that they are on track for a great school year.

e. Young Women's Leadership Academy [01:01:18]

Whitney McIntosh, Principal, Young Women's Leadership Academy, provided the update on behalf of the school. With regard to staffing, they are 67% staffed and still looking for individuals and have a contingency plan to work with Troop to provide long-term substitutes. With regard to scholar enrollment, they are 90% enrolled. They have 100 scholars and are looking for a few more. They have hired a recruitment coordinator that is part time and has been going to events and recruiting scholars for the school. With regard to facilities, they are currently experiencing some construction delays and permitting delays and because of that they will be asking today for a good cause exemption to request to start in a temporary facility. That facility is the boys and girls club used by GALS in the past and they feel that it would be best fit.

Agenda Item 7 – Charter School Contract Amendment Applications [01:06:28]

b. Young Women's Leadership Academy

Mike Dang, Management Analyst IV, said as previously mentioned, the school is requesting a good cause exemption and the amendment request to locate in a temporary location for the start of the upcoming school year.

***Motion:** Vice Chair Moulton made the motion to grant YWLA a Good Cause Exemption Request and approve YWLA's amendment request to temporarily locate at the Boys and Girls Club at 920 Cottage Grove Avenue, subject to the condition that the school show evidence that it has met the facility requirements of NRS 388A.360 and that SPCSA staff has completed a walkthrough of the temporary Cottage Grove facility, prior to the start of the school year. Member Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

A 10-minute convenience break was taken.

Agenda Item 6 – Update on approved new charter school campuses for Fall 2022 [01:17:24]

a. Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas – Cadence Campus

Ercan Aydogdu, Executive Director, Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas, provided the update on behalf of the school. A presentation can be found in the supporting materials. As of yesterday late afternoon, they had 1405 students complete with enrollment and 220 in the process. 1,625 are almost fully enrolled. He provided an update regarding a CASLV student that was on Telemundo and selected by the National Alliance for Public

Charter Schools to participate in the coveted rising leaders program before turning it over to their Community Outreach Coordinator, Janelly Corona. Ms. Corona talked about the continued targeted community outreach efforts and efforts with the City of Henderson. Emrullah Eraslen, Principal, CASLV Cadence campus, provided information about the school communication. With regard to staffing, they have 86 total staff and a couple left to fill and long term subs in the meantime. Mr. Aydogdu provided the facility update. The TCO inspections started on July 21st and the TCO is schedule to have by August 2nd. Yesterday at 9:00pm the gas meters were installed and are live as of this morning. They are working to fix some of the fire alarms that were causing problems with the AC units and those will be worked on over the weekend. Member Holmes-Sutton asked for data around the demographics of their teachers with regards to teaching experience as well as representation of the student population. There was brief discussion between the Authority and school representatives.

b. Pinecrest Academy Virtual [01:39:12]

Jessica LaNeave, Principal, Pinecrest Academy Virtual, said they are currently enrolled 80/80 students and they may push that to 82 or 83. They have identified Director Serrano as the principal. They have been marketing their system as an entire network, specifically with Pinecrest Virtual they have mostly done online targeted marketing to the two zip codes in their application. As for their unique conditions they are meeting all three of them so far. All of their marketing goes out in bilingual communication, and they continue to gather data but currently have roughly 30% that claimed on their application that they are free or reduced priced lunch. There was brief discussion between the Authority and Ms. LeNeave.

Agenda Item 7 – Charter School Contract Amendment Applications [01:53:17]

a. Nevada Virtual Academy – relocation beginning in to 2022 – 23 school year

Danny Peltier, Management Analyst, said Nevada Virtual Academy has submitted a good cause exemption request and an amendment request to relocate their facility but will not affect the approved enrollment cap. SPCSA staff are supportive of this request and a recommendation memo can be found in the supporting materials. He provided some background on the school and details around the amendment request. He noted the recommendation memo should have had the approved enrollment caps included and they will continue to be at 2100 students for grades 6th-12th.

***Motion:** Member Farris made the motion to grant Nevada Virtual Academy a Good Cause Exemption and approve the request to relocate to a new location that will not affect enrollment with the following condition:*

- *That the school complete the pre-opening process, which requires permitting, a Certificate of Occupancy be provided to the SPCSA prior to occupying the permanent facility at 8645 S. Eastern Avenue, Las Vegas NV, 89123, and a walkthrough by SPCSA staff pursuant to NRS 388A.360.*

Member Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Young Women’s Leadership Academy

See agenda item 5(e).

Agenda Item 8 – Nevada Connections Academy [01:58:20]

Director Modrcin said this is a quarterly update from Nevada Connections Academy leadership team who is joined virtually. Chris McBride, Superintendent, Nevada Connections Academy, began the school’s presentation which can be found in the supporting materials. He is joined by Christine Dzarnoski, Principal. Dr. McBride provided the updates as it relates to the predicted NSPF Performance. He noted that these results are unofficial and have not been validated by NDE yet. Ms. Dzarnoski provided some NSPF indicator updates as well as the 2022-2023 school year goals. There was further discussion between the Authority and school representatives.

Agenda Item 9 – COVID-19 Plan for the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction [02:30:57]

Executive Director Feiden said as a reminder the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 was signed into law on March 11, 2021, and includes numerous provisions aimed at responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and providing relief to address the impacts. Among these provisions is the allocation of \$122 billion to the ARP

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund to be used to “help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the Nation’s students.” As a condition of receiving funding, each Local Education Agency (LEA) must, within 30 days of receiving the ARP ESSER allocation, develop and post a plan for the “safe return of in-person instruction and continuity of services.” Pursuant to federal and state guidance, the State Public Charter School Authority reviews and updates this plan, with input and feedback from the public, at least every six months. The previous version was updated February 15, 2022 and today you’ll see an updated version of the plan with changes highlighted in yellow. The changes are made to bring the plan up to date given that the State of Emergency related to COVID-19 was lifted in May. Executive Director Feiden summarized the changes. The plan with highlighted changes can be found in the supporting materials.

Motion: *Member Farris made the motion to approve the changes to the plan as outlined by Executive Director Feiden. Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

Agenda Item 10 – Charter School Renewal Process [02:38:56]

Director Modrcin said they have two goals for today’s presentation, which can be found in the supporting materials, to understand the multi-step process of charter renewal and to understand what information and data SPCSA staff will use when making renewal recommendations. The SPCSA has eight schools that will be up for renewal and just entered their last fiscal year under their contract with the state of Nevada. He talked about the renewal timeline and key dates. The information and data SPCSA staff look for when making a recommendation includes the school’s Academic Performance, Organizational Performance, Financial Performance, Site Evaluation Findings, and other information provided in the renewal application. The standard contract term in Nevada is 6 years. The term lengths recommended by SPCSA staff are based off whether a school inconsistency meet performances expectations, consistently meets performance expectations, or exceeds performance expectations.

Agenda Item 11 – Long-Range Calendar [02:45:30]

Executive Director Feiden said she wanted to remind the Authority and the public that the August board meeting is on Monday, August 29th. They will have some action items on the August agenda, including the new charter school applications and some recommendations regarding site evaluations and they will have some informational items as well. They will be looking ahead to some updates and revisions to the growth management plan following the new charter school applications, because with the shift in the application window that will allow them to line up the information on their growth management plan to recently approved applications. They will see renewal recommendations in the late calendar year. They are not anticipating star ratings, but they are expecting to review index scores at the October meeting. Member Shauntee Rosales asked for the staff make up and demographics of school boards and staff. Executive Director Feiden said staff demographics unlike student demographics are not a data set that is validated in any way. They have looked at this data briefly in the past and can certainly pull it again, but she added only licensed data is reported and it does not go through the same process that student demographics do. Member Holmes-Sutton echoed the request.

Agenda Item 12 – Public Comment #2 [02:51:15]

1. Denise Packette, spoke in regard to Nevada Connections Academy.
2. Braxton Packette, spoke in regard to Nevada Connections Academy.

Agenda Item 13 – Adjournment [03:00:46]

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02PM.