



NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

Friday, July 28, 2023
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 Tonia Holmes-Sutton
Member Tamika Shauntee Rosales
Member Maureen Schafer
Member Kurt Thigpen
Member Sandra Kinne

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Vice Chair Cindi Rivera
Member Jackson Olsen
Member Victor Salcido

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Member Lee Farris

AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT IN-PERSON:

Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director
Marinna Cutler, Director of School Support
Michael Dang, Management Analyst IV
Jennifer King, Administrative Assistant IV

AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Ryan Herrick, General Counsel
Selcuk Ozdemir, Education Programs Supervisor
Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III
Erin Walker, MTSS Project Facilitator

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN-PERSON:

Julie Carver
Jose Herrera
Paul Ballou
Estella Spaine
Anna Parra
Denise Cisneros
Ben Salkowe
Whitney McIntosh
Ignacio Prado
Page Jefferies
Brett Willis

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE VIRTUALLY:

Dr. Yolanda Hamilton
Jai Mallory
Sherlene Simpson
Nachum Golodner
Angela Orr
Mike Taack

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance [00:00:31]

Tonia Holmes-Sutton, Chair, of the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA), called the meeting to order at 9:00am and facilitated the pledge of allegiance. Member Kinne and Member Salcido gave brief introductions.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment #1 [00:04:37]

1. Anna Parra, Equipo Academy, see attachments.

Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda [00:06:49]

- a. **Approval of June 23, 2023 SPCSA Board Meeting Action Minutes. The Authority will review and possibly approve the action minutes from the June 23, 2023 Authority Board meeting.**

- b. **Consideration of contract amendment application: Nevada Virtual Academy – Name Change**

Motion: Member Thigpen made the motion to approve the June 23, 2023 Board Meeting Action Minutes and Nevada Virtual Academy’s request to Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and amendment request to approve the school’s request to change its name from Nevada Virtual Academy to Nevada Virtual Charter School. Member Schafer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – SPCSA Charter School Governing Body Governance Standards [00:07:26]

Member Olsen provided comment regarding standard 1 of the SPCSA Charter School Governing Body Governance Standards: Focus on Student Growth, Achievement, and Social and Emotional Wellbeing. Member Thigpen will provide comment around the SPCSA Charter School Governing Body Governance Standards at the August meeting.

Agenda Item 5 – SPCSA Executive Director’s Report. [00:10:41]

- a. **2024 Proposed Board Meeting Dates**

Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director, provided the update regarding the proposed 2024 SPCSA board meeting dates. She noted that if the board has any concerns with these dates to let her know, otherwise they will move forward with reserving these dates for the board room.

- b. **New Charter School Applications [00:11:36]**

Executive Director Feiden shared with the Authority the update regarding the new charter school applications. The SPCSA has received eight new charter school applications and as of today they have received two withdrawals and so the Authority will be considering up to six applications at the August 25th board meeting. As a reminder, any new charter application that is denied at the August 25th meeting, does have the opportunity to resubmit their application within 30 days according to statute. Staff expects that if there any denials that do resubmit, those will be brought to the November or December meeting for reconsideration.

- c. **2023-24 Site Evaluation Schedule [00:12:52]**

Executive Director Feiden said they have the 2023-24 site evaluation schedule which can be found in the supporting materials.

- d. **Plan for Safe Return to In Person Learning [00:13:38]**

Executive Director Feiden said at the last meeting the Authority approved updates to the Plan for Safe Return to In Person Learning as is required as a condition of receiving their ESSER funds. Staff was made aware that the CDC updated their website in several of the resources referenced in their plan and so staff wanted to inform the Authority they made those corrections after the board approved the plan.

- e. **Executive Order 2023-008 [00:14:18]**

Executive Director Feiden provided an update regarding Executive Order 2023-008.

Agenda Item 6 – New Schools Updates. [00:17:38]

a. Eagle Charter Schools of Nevada

Executive Director Feiden provided an overview and update regarding Eagle Charter Schools of Nevada. Jose Herrera, Principal, said he is joined with Jai Mallory, and Sherlene Simpson, virtually. He provided the update on behalf of the school.

b. Pinecrest Academy – Springs Campus [00:35:56]

Executive Director Feiden provided an overview and update regarding Pinecrest Academy – Springs Campus. Michael O’Dowd, Principal, Pinecrest Academy – Springs campus, provided the update on behalf of the school. He was joined by Jessica Medina.

c. Southern Nevada Trades High School [00:48:41]

Executive Director Feiden provided an overview and update regarding Southern Nevada Trades High School. Julie Carver, Executive Director and Brett Willis, Board Chair, provided the update on behalf of the school.

Agenda Item 10 – Transportation Plans and Charter School Contract Amendment Applications.

b. Southern Nevada Trades High School – Transportation Plan and Contract Amendment to Provide Transportation [01:04:00]

Executive Director provided some brief background regarding the transportation plans. See the attached recommendation memo for more context.

Motion: Member Olsen made the motion to:

1. Approve the SNTHS Transportation Plan, along with funding to implement the Plan and allow SPCSA staff to work with the school to make budget revisions as long as the total funding does not exceed the average per pupil cost in the local school district.
2. Approve the charter contract amendment request for SNTHS to allow the school to provide student transportation.
3. Require the school to provide SPCSA staff with documentation to demonstrate that the school is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations prior to beginning to transport students.

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

Agenda Item 7 – Girls Empowerment Middle Schools. [01:12:20]

Executive Director Feiden provided the update regarding the closure of Girls Empowerment Middle School (GEMS). Mike Taack provided comment.

Agenda Item 8 – Charter School Contract Amendment Applications [01:17:08]

a. Futuro Academy

Member Rivera abstained from this agenda item. Danny Peltier, Management Analyst IV, said Futuro Academy has submitted an amendment application requesting that the SPCSA grant a Good Cause Exemption and approve the school’s request to amend their current charter to reduce the enrollment cap for the 2023 – 24 school year, and remainder of the charter term, from 522 students to 450.

Motion: Member Schafer made the motion to grant the Good Cause Exemption Request and approve Futuro Academy’s request to reduce the enrollment cap for the 2023 – 24 school year, and remainder of the charter term, from 522 students to 450. Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved enrollment cap for Futuro Academy:

School Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Grade Levels	K-5	K-5	K-5
Enrollment Cap	450	450	450

Agenda Item 10 – Transportation Plans and Charter School Contract Amendment Applications.

a. Futuro Academy – Transportation Plan and Contract Amendment to Provide Transportation
[01:22:22]

Executive Director provided some brief background regarding the transportation plans. See the attached recommendation memo for more context.

Motion: Member Thigpen made the motion to:

1. Approve the Futuro Academy Transportation Plan, along with funding to implement the Plan and allow SPCSA staff to work with the school to make budget revisions as long as the total funding does not exceed the average per pupil cost in the local school district.
2. Approve the charter contract amendment request for Futuro Academy to allow the school to provide student transportation.
3. Require the school to provide SPCSA staff with documentation to demonstrate that the school is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations prior to beginning to transport students.

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

b. Battle Born Academy [01:20:11]

This item was removed from the agenda prior to the meeting.

Agenda Item 9 – Financial Performance Review and Recommendations for the 2021-22 School Year. 2021-22 SPCSA Financial Performance Framework Ratings

i. Doral Academy of Northern Nevada [01:25:41]

Mike Dang, Manager of Organizational and Financial Performance, provided the overview of the Financial Performance Ratings. This recommendation pertains to Doral Academy of Northern Nevada (DANN). Staff received the audit from DANN on June 29 and, after reviewing the audit, presented preliminary findings to the school during the week of July 3rd. The school was given one week to respond with any additional information. Staff recently received the audit for Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada (PANN) and are in the process of reviewing it to present preliminary findings to the school. Currently, the SPCSA has not received final audits for the following two schools: Doral Academy of Nevada and Pinecrest Academy of Nevada. Results and recommendations regarding these remaining audits will be presented at a future meeting. See the supporting materials for staff's analysis of the audit for DANN. Angela Orr, Executive Director, DANN, and Nachum Golodner provided comment on behalf of the school.

Motion: Member Thigpen made the motion to adopt the Financial Performance Framework results presented for Doral Academy of Northern Nevada, for fiscal year 2022 for all indicators except the Enrollment Variance measure, which was not rated. Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. The Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 10 – Transportation Plans and Charter School Contract Amendment Applications.

b. Young Women's Leadership Academy - Transportation Plan and Contract Amendment to Provide Transportation [01:38:17]

Executive Director provided some brief background regarding the transportation plans. See the attached recommendation memo for more context.

Motion: Member Shauntee Rosales made the motion to:

1. Approve the YWLA Transportation Plan, along with funding to implement the Plan and allow SPCSA staff to work with the school to make budget revisions as long as the total funding does not exceed the average per pupil cost in the local school district.
2. Approve the charter contract amendment request for YWLA to allow the school to provide student transportation.
3. Require the school to provide SPCSA staff with documentation to demonstrate that the school is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations prior to beginning to transport students.

Member Thigpen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 11 – Project AWARE Grant [01:44:15]

Erin Walker, Project AWARE Manager, SPCSA, provided the presentation which can be found in the supporting materials. There was brief discussion between staff and the Authority.

Agenda Item 12 – Long-Range Calendar. [02:19:25]

Executive Director Feiden noted the new charter applications will be heard at the August meeting. In addition, the transportation plans will be on the August and October agendas. She reminded the Authority that October, November and December is when they will dig into their data for academic performance on the NSPF, their performance ratings, and they hope to have the count data and graduation data. She also relayed that staff has put together a form that schools can fill out to notify the schools and the public about to participate in in response to Member Olsen’s request.

Agenda Item 13 – Public Comment #2. [02:24:02]

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 14 – Adjournment [02:25:30]

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26PM.