



## NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

Friday, October 13, 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:**

Member Tamika Shauntee Rosales  
Member Kurt Thigpen  
Member Sandra Kinne  
Vice Chair Cindi Rivera  
Chair Tonia Holmes-Sutton

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:**

Member Jackson Olsen  
Member Salcido  
Member Lee Farris

#### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Member Maureen Schafer

#### **AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT IN-PERSON:**

Jennifer Bauer, Interim Executive Director  
Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing  
Jennifer King, Administrative Assistant IV

#### **AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT VIRTUALLY:**

Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III  
Michael Dang, Management Analyst IV  
Selcuk Ozdemir, Manager of Academic Performance  
Brandon Gayton, Education Programs Professional

#### **AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN-PERSON:**

Jesse Welsh  
Dennis Holmes  
Melissa Mackedon  
Patrick Carter  
Paul Ballour

#### **AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE VIRTUALLY:**

Jessica Hoban  
Stephanie Snyder

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance [00:00:30]**

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.

**Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment #1 [00:03:05]**

There was no public comment.

**Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda [00:03:24]**

- a. Approval of August 25, 2023, September 11, 2023, and October 3, 2023 SPCSA Board Meeting Action Minutes. The Authority will review and possibly approve the action minutes from the August 25, 2023, September 11, 2023 and October 3, 2023 Authority Board meetings.
- b. Transportation Plans and Charter School Contract Amendment Applications.
  - i. **EIAA**

**Motion:**

1. Approve the EIAA Transportation Plan, along with eligible 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 EIAA 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.

**ii. Explore Academy**

**Motion:**

1. Approve the Explore Academy Las Vegas 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 Explore Academy Las Vegas 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.

**iii. Founders Classical Academy of Las Vegas**

**Motion:**

1. Approve the Founders Classical Academy of Las Vegas Transportation Plan, along with funding to implement the Plan and allow SPCSA staff to work with the school to make 4 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 Founders Classical Academy of Las Vegas 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.

**iv. Honors Academy of Literature**

**Motion:**

1. Approve the Honors 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 Honors 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.

**v. Legacy Traditional Schools**

**Motion:**

1. Approve the Legacy Traditional Schools Cadence Campus 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 Legacy Traditional Schools Cadence Campus 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.

**vi. Nevada Rise**

**Motion:**

1. Approve the Nevada Rise 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 Nevada Rise 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.

**vii. Quest**

**Motion:**

1. Approve the Quest 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 Quest 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.

The August 25, 2023 board meeting action minutes were approved. The September 11, 2023 and October 3, 2023 board meeting action minutes will be approved at the November meeting.

**Motion:** Member Thigpen made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item 4 – SPCSA Executive Director’s Report [00:04:39]**

- a. Staffing
- b. Transportation Funding

Jennifer Bauer, Interim Executive Director, provided the update regarding the staffing report and transportation funding. There was brief discussion between Ms. Bauer and the Authority.

**Agenda Item 5 – Charter School Amendment Applications [00:14:33]**

- a. Doral Academy of Northern Nevada – Enter into an affiliation agreement with the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education, on behalf of the University of Nevada Reno’s Early Head Start Program; Change Lottery Policy Preferences

Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, said Doral Academy of Northern Nevada (DANN) is requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption request and approve the school to

adopt an updated enrollment lottery priority in accordance with an affiliation agreement with the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education, on behalf of the University of Nevada Reno's (UNR) Early Head Start Program. SPCSA staff has reviewed the application and recommends that the Authority grant the Good Cause Exemption and approve the amendment request. More information can be found in staff's recommendation memo and the charter school's amendment application within the supporting materials.

**Motion:** Member Kinne made the motion to grant Doral Academy of Northern Nevada a Good Cause Exemption and approve the request adopt an updated enrollment lottery priority to include any child who is currently enrolled in the UNR Head Start Program or has been enrolled in the program at any time in the past. Vice Chair Rivera seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**b. Nevada State High School – Relocate a Facility (no impact on enrollment) [00:15:31]**

Mr. Peltier said Nevada State High School Flagship (NSHS) has submitted an amendment application requesting that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) grant a Good Cause Exemption and approve the school to relocate the Las Vegas Summerlin campus. SPCSA staff has reviewed the application and recommends that the Authority grant the Good Cause Exemption and approve the amendment request. More information can be found in staff's recommendation memo and the charter school's amendment application within the supporting materials.

**Motion:** Member Thigpen made the motion to grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve NSHS Flagship's request to relocate the Summerlin campus to 250 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 150, Las Vegas, NV 89146 with the following conditions:

1. That by January 15, 2024, Nevada State High School provide a fully executed lease;
2. That NSHS provides SPCSA staff with Certificate of Occupancy or Temporary Certificate of Occupancy demonstrating compliance with NRS 388A.360, which requires a school facility to be inspected at least 30 days prior to occupancy.
3. That NSHS work with SPCSA staff to identify and complete pre-opening requirements that pertain to the occupation of the 6250 West Charleston Boulevard facility

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

**Agenda Item 6 – Academic Performance Discussion [00:21:40]**

Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing, provided the update as it relates to identifying the threshold to issuing notices related to academic performance that will be presented at the November meeting including information about which schools will receive notice based upon the threshold chosen today.

Selcuk Ozdemir, Manager of Academic Performance, started with outlining the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) and then outlined the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework and then dove into details regarding star-ratings. Ms. Broughton shared the details regarding formal notices should school demonstrate underperformance (as defined in NAC 388A.350, NRS 388A.300, and NRS 388A.330. The presentation can be found within the supporting materials. She talked through the memo issued by the Nevada Department of Education that was issued after this year's NSPF results were published. Brandon Gayton, Education Programs Professional and Ms. Broughton provided the options for issuing academic notices recommended by SPCSA staff. Staff's memo and presentation can be found within the supporting materials. There was further discussion between the Authority and SPCSA staff. Chair Holmes-Sutton requested that the Authority table this agenda item to the end of the agenda today in order to obtain more information. A 5-minute break was taken.

**Agenda Item 7 – SPCSA Executive Director Search and Recruitment [01:15:07]**

Interviews were conducted by the Authority with the following applicants:

1. Jessica Hoban
2. Dennis Holmes
3. Melissa Mackedon
4. Patrick Carter

The candidate Sione Thompson was not present and therefore not interviewed for the Executive Director position. The Authority was in alignment with submitting the first two names to the Governor's office:

1. Melissa Mackedon
2. Dennis Holmes

A roll call vote was taken in order to select the third candidate:

Member Kinne: Jessica Hoban  
Member Salcido: Jessica Hoban  
Member Thigpen: Jessica Hoban  
Member Olsen: Jessica Hoban  
Member Farris: Patrick Carter  
Member Shauntee Rosales: Jessica Hoban  
Vice Chair Rivera: Jessica Hoban  
Chair Holmes-Sutton: Jessica Hoban

**Motion:** Member Thigpen made the motion to submit the three candidates to the Governor's office for consideration to make the final appointment for the SPCSA's Executive Director:

1. Melissa Mackedon
2. Dennis Holmes
3. Jessica Hoban

Member Salcido seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Agenda Item 6 – Academic Performance Discussion (continued from being tabled during the meeting) [04:47:30]**

Staff's presentation was updated, as requested by the Authority, (and can be found in the supporting materials) to include another option for the issuing of notices for the Academic Performance. Ms. Broughton talked through option four. Dr. Gayton provided further context regarding the academic notices. There was further discussion between the Authority and SPCSA staff.

**Motion:** Member Farris made the motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff regarding option 1: to issue notices to any schools demonstrating underperformance (schools with 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND Below or Does Not Meet Standard in the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework) and to lift existing academic notices for schools that reviewed a 3-star or higher rating in the 2023 NSPF AND Meets or Exceeds Standard in the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework. Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. Member Kinne abstained from the motion. The motion carried.

**Agenda Item 8 – Long-Range Calendar [00:05:0:10]**

Executive Director Bauer shared the potential agenda items for the next 3 months from the long-range calendar.

**Agenda Item 9 – Public Comment #2 [05:12:03]**

Member Tonia Holmes-Sutton shared the public comment that was submitted.

**Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment [05:12:21]**

Member Holmes-Sutton adjourned the meeting.