



## NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

Friday, April 12, 2024  
9:00AM

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

### MINUTES OF MEETING

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN-PERSON**

Chair Tonia Holmes-Sutton  
Member Jackson Olsen  
Member Kurt Thigpen  
Member Lee Farris

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

Member Sandra Kinne  
Vice Chair Cindi Rivera  
Member Tamika Shauntee Rosales  
Member Victor Salcido  
Member Ty Whitaker

#### **AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT & VIRTUAL**

Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director  
Dr. Katherine Broughton, Director of Authorizing  
Michael Dang, Management Analyst III  
Daniel Peltier, Management Analyst III  
Samantha King Powell, Esq., General Counsel

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

Andrew Plotkin          Gil Lopez  
Shambrion Treadwell      Renisha O'Donnell

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

Lani Luo	Jasmin Graciano
Dr. Benjamin Feinstein	Jose Herrera
Jasmin Graciano	Bryan Weeks
Eric Duran	Tamara Hudson
J. Mallory	Kara Hendricks
Jacob Allen	Shubham Pandey
Andrea Shorter	Erin Phillips
Annette Dawson Owens	

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Roll Call**

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Tonia Holmes-Sutton, Chair of the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA), called the meeting to order at 9:36 am (due to a technical issue the meeting started late), and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment #1**

No public comment.

**Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of Consent Agenda, March 1, 2024, SPCSA Board Meeting Minutes
- b. Growth Management Plan Updated – additional school added to Plan
- c. Transportation Plans and Charter School Contract Amendment Applications
- d. Charter School Contract Amendment Applications – reduction to enrollment caps.

**Motion on Consent Agenda:** Member Farris made the motion to approve the consent agenda and the March 1, 2024, board meeting action minutes. Member Olsen seconded the motion.

Member Thigpen and Member Kinne recused from voting on the consent agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 4 – SPCSA Charter School Governing Body Governance Standards**

Member Olsen discussed the Governance Standard pursuant to Assembly Bill 419 (2021). Discussed the first standard: Focus on Student Growth, Achievement, and Social and Emotional Wellbeing.

**Agenda Item 5 – SPCSA Executive Director’s Report.** Melissa Mackedon, reported on the following:

- a. Introduction to two new members of the SPCSA team, Samantha King Powell, General Counsel & Teresa Potter, Administrative Assistant.
- b. Delinquent schools PERS contributions – Three schools are on the list; two schools have payment plans in place and are scheduled to pay outstanding balance within 18 – 24 months. The other school is scheduled to pay PERS balance by next week.
- c. New Charter School Enrollment and Facility update – It is that time of year where schools are focusing on enrollment. Not all of our schools are where they would like to be with enrollment.
- d. Update on Performance Framework – Opportunity 180 leveraged some Charter Schools Program (CSP) funding that we are able to use to update all of the Performance Frameworks. We hope to have the updated Performance Frameworks to the SPCSA Board for approval at our meeting on July 26, 2024.
- e. Revolving Loan Update – Schools often apply for a loan to have the upfront capital needed for their schools prior to opening. Due to COVID, we were required to put \$400,000 back into the General Fund. The remaining \$350,000 was depleted from the Revolving Loan account. During a Governor’s Education Cabinet meeting the Executive Director of SPCSA flagged this as “being a concern.” As a result, the Nevada Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation loaned the SPCSA \$400,000 for the Revolving Loan account, allowing the SPCSA to fund more loans. The SPCSA extended the application deadline to April 14, 2024.

**Agenda Item 6 – New School Updates**

Shambrion Treadwell and Renisha O’Donell gave information on the progress of the Do and Be Arts Academy. Discussions/Questions from the SPCSA Board ensued after the presentation.

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**Agenda Item 7 – SPCSA Revolving Loan Applications**

Pursuant to NAC388A.665 and NRS 388A.435, Dr. Broughton, Director of Authorizing and Michael Dang, Manager of Financial Performance, provided the SPCSA with an analysis and overview of the SPCSA Revolving Loan Applications for:

- A. pilotED Cactus Park Public Charter School
- B. Vegas Vista Academy
- C. Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence

**Motion A. pilotED Cactus Park Public Charter School:** Member Farris made a motion to approve the SPCSA Revolving Loan Fund application for pilotED Cactus Park Public Charter School in the amount of \$150,000 and to allow SPCSA staff to work with the school to make budget revisions based on the available balance in the Revolving Loan account and the number of students enrolled as long as the total funding does not exceed the lesser of \$200,000 or \$500 per student enrolled at time of funds disbursement. Member Kinne seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

**Motion was approved.**

**Motion B. Vegas Vista Academy:** Member Olsen made a motion to approve the SPCSA Revolving Loan Fund application for Vegas Vista in the amount of \$100,000 and to allow SPCSA staff to work with the school to make budget revisions based on the available balance in the Revolving Loan account and the number of students enrolled as long as the total funding does not exceed the lesser of \$200,000 or \$500 per student enrolled at time of funds disbursement.

Member Thigpen recused himself from the vote.

Member Farris seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

**Motion was approved.**

**Motion C. Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence:** Member Thigpen made a motion to approve the SPCSA Revolving Loan Fund application for Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence in the amount of \$90,000 and to allow SPCSA staff to work with the school to make budget revisions based on the available balance in the Revolving Loan account and the number of students enrolled as long as the total funding does not exceed the lesser of \$200,000 or \$500 per student enrolled at time of funds disbursement. Member Kinne recused herself from the vote.

Vice Chair Rivera seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 8 – Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy Nevada (PTAAN)**

The SPCSA recommended PTAAN defer opening to the 2025-26 school year, given the difficulties PTAAN has had in identifying the appropriate facility and its impact on potential student enrollment.

**Motion for Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy:** Member Farris made a motion to approve the request of Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy Nevada to defer the school's opening to the 2025-26 school year and require the school to complete the pre-opening process and fulfill all outstanding, unique conditions attached to the school's approval from August 2023.

Member Rosales seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 9 – Eagle Charter School**

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Eagle Charter School - Issue a financial Notice of Concern to the charter school, including but not limited to the following issues:

- a. The overpayment funds owed to the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) totaling over \$800,000 as of April 5, 2024.

Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director, provided a summary, background information and an overview of correspondence, communications, along with timelines of communications and activities between the SPCSA and Eagle Charter School leadership and Board Members. Discussion ensued.

**Motion Eagle Charter School:** Member Thigpen moved to approve placing Eagle Charter School under a financial Notice of Concern as referenced in the financial memo from the SPCSA. Further motion to have Eagle Charter School appear before the SPCSA Board in May with an update, and in June to review the budget plan and make a final decision about Eagle's financial viability moving forward.

Member Farris seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 10 – Long-Range Calendar** – The SPCSA October 4, 2024, Board Meeting will be located in Northern Nevada, along with site visits the day prior to the meeting. Melissa Mackedon Executive Director will provide information regarding timelines for facility applications at the June SPCSA Board Meeting.

Member Farris would like to see how the CSP Grant Process works. Melissa Mackedon will request Opportunity 180 to present the process to the Board Chair and Members.

Member Olsen requested putting data/reviewing Performance Ratings on the calendar. Melissa stated we will probably review November – December time frame.

Chair Sutton-Holmes inquired about the Board Members whose terms are ending in June, 2024.

**Agenda Item 11 – Public Comment #2**

Written public comment can be found within the supporting materials.

Andrew Plotkin, founder of The Should Project provided an overview of his mission to cut down on food waste, by saving the left-over prepacked food from the USDA's School Breakfast Program and transporting it to local non-profits. He is looking for three more schools to participate. He has refrigerators and staff to transport the food. For more information, visit The Should Project website.

Gil Lopez, Charter Association of Nevada. Announced a few open positions and invited the SPCSA Board to provide recommendations.

**Agenda Item 12 – Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.