



NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

Friday, August 23, 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 Dr. Tonia Holmes-Sutton
Vice Chair Kurt Thigpen
Member Ty Whitaker

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Member Farris (joined at 9:24 am)
Member Dr. Ivet Aldaba
Member Courtney Stern

AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT & VIRTUAL

Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director
Samantha King Powell, Esq., General Counsel
Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing
Dr. Selcuk Ozdemir, Education Programs Supervisor
John Pilotin, Education Programs Professional
Gretchen Pfahler, Education Programs Professional
Karen Gordon, Education Programs Professional
Dr. Denise Shaw, Education Programs Professional
Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN-PERSON

Cesserly Rice
Tamara Shear
Lori Reifenneiser
Amy Sparo
Elizabet Perez
S. Kelly
Melissa Mullin
Kim Izume
Elizabeth Perez
Tom Nichols
Mike Tack
Andy Lott
Reggie Gates
Lia Mendoza
Frank Endellicate
Shaoan Zhang
Rich Gonzalez

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE VIRTUALLY

Tara Meierkord
Dwight R.
Rick Meyers
Lisa Becker
John Peace
Joanna Zirbes
Ariana
Dr. Brandolyn Thran
Felisha Gonzales
Colin Izumo

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Roll Call

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Dr. Tonia Holmes-Sutton, Chair of the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA), called the meeting to order at 9:19 am (late start due to technical difficulties) and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment #1

Public comment submitted via email is posted on the SPCSA website. Provided Public Comment in person: Cesserly Rice; Tom Shear; Amy Sparo; Lia Mendoza; Reggie Gates.
Public Comment on-line: Dr. Olsen Jackson; John Peace;

Agenda Item 3 – Portrait of a Learner Presentation. Andy Lott, Director of Youth Innovation, ed.Xtraordinary, presented to the SPCSA Board.

Agenda Item 4 – Proposed Regulatory Changes – Legislative Counsel Bureau File No. R080-24

At 9:51 am Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director reviewed the proposed Regulatory changes.

Motion on Agenda Item 4: Member Thigpen made a motion to approve and accept the proposed regulatory changes in R080-24. Member Whitaker seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 5 – Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of July 26, 2024, SPCSA Board Meeting Action Minutes.
- b. Approval of August 2-3, 2024, SPCSA Order following the public hearing.
- c. Approval of August 2-3, 2024, SPCSA Public Hearing Action Minutes.
- d. TEACH Las Vegas 2022-23 Financial Performance Ratings

Motion on Consent Agenda: Vice Chair Thigpen made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Member Aldaba seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 6 – Josh Kern provided SPCSA Board with an update on the school closures for TEACH Las Vegas and Eagle Charter Schools of Nevada.

Agenda Item 7 – SPCSA Charter School Governing Body Governance Standards.

Member Farris discussed the Governance Standard 3 – Manage Financial Resources Responsibly which reads “Establish and uphold financial policies and procedures that protect the school’s resources”.

Agenda Item 8 – SPCSA Executive Director’s Report. Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director provided a report to the State Public Charter School Authority Board on the following:

- a. School Highlight – Nevada Rise. Academic outcomes were outstanding.
- b. Delinquent schools PERS contributions – continue monitoring PERS information via Epicenter.
- c. Update on the Student Representative serving on the SPCSA Board. All 7 applications were exceptional. SPCSA Chair and Leadership made a decision on appointing Mathew Birri as a student representative for the SPCSA Board.

Agenda Item 9 – Approval of Opening Requirements for Schools that Deferred Opening until 2025-26.

Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director presented. Discussed some changes to the process by having metrics in place for the schools to target.

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- a. Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy
- b. Rooted School Las Vegas
- c. Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence

Motion on Agenda Item 9a: Member Whitaker made a motion to approved Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy of Nevada to open in the 2025-26 school year with conditions. Member Farris seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 9b: Member Aldaba made a motion to approve Rooted School Las Vegas to open in 2025-26 school year with conditions. Member Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 9c: Member Farris made a motion to approve Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence to open in the 2025-26 school year with conditions. Vice Chair Thigpen seconded the motion. Member Stern abstained from the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 10 – New School Charter Applications:

- a. Nevada Classical Academy Elko
- b. Nevada Early College & Career Academy (Necca Academy)
- c. Western Youth Leadership, Engagement, and Empowerment Middle School (WYLEES)

Motion on Agenda Item 10a: Member Farris made a motion to approve the Nevada Classical Academy Elko application as submitted during the 2024 Charter Application Cycle, with the conditions as permitted by NAC 388A.410 as outlined in the memo, based on a finding that the applicant has met the requirements contained in RS 388A.249(3) in that the applicant has demonstrated competence in accordance with the criteria for approval prescribed by the SPCSA that will likely result in a successful opening and operation of a charter school. Member Aldaba seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 10b: Member Whitaker made the motion to deny the Nevada Early College & Career Academy (Necca Academy) Charter School application as submitted during the 2024 Application Cycle based on a finding that the applicant has failed to satisfy the requirements contained in NRS 388A.249(3) in that the applicant has failed to demonstrate competence in accordance with the criteria for approval prescribed by the SPCSA that will likely result in a successful opening and operation of the charter school. Member Farris seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 10c: Vice Chair Thigpen made the motion to approved the Western Youth Leadership, & Empowerment (WYLEES) charter application as submitted during the 2024 Application Cycle, with conditions as permitted by NAC 388A.410 and as outlined in the memo based on a finding that

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the applicant has met the requirements contained in NRS 388A249(3) in that the applicant has demonstrated competence in accordance with the criteria for approval prescribed by the SPCSA that will likely result in a successful opening and operation of the charter school. Member Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 11 – Proposed Changes to Site Evaluation Process and Site Evaluation Schedule for 2024-

25. Presented by Dr. Selcuk Ozdemir, Education Programs Supervisor; Karen Gordon, Education Programs Professional; Dr. Denise Shaw, Education Programs Professional; John Pilotin, Education Programs Professional; Gretchen Pfahler, Education Programs Professional.

Motion on Agenda Item 11: Member Whitaker made the motion to approve all five of the proposed changes to the site evaluation report. Member Farris seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 12 – Executive Director, Melissa Mackedon presented the Charter Sponsor Transfer Application. Proposed 4 additional submission dates for the CCSD charter schools that are transferring sponsorship to the SPCSA.

Motion on Agenda Item 12: Vice Chair Thigpen made a motion to approve the Charter Sponsorship Transfer Application as it was presented. Member Aldaba seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 13 – Review of expenses and fees incurred from Eagle Charter Schools of Nevada public hearing. Samantha King Powell, Esq., shared the expenses and fees from the Eagle hearing.

Motion on Agenda Item 13 – Vice Chair Thigpen made a motion to grant the prevailing party, the SPCSA's fees and costs incurred for the August 2nd and August 3rd, 2024, Public Hearing. Member Stern seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 14 – Long Range Calendar.

Agenda Item 15 – Public Comment #2

No Public Comment.

Agenda Item 16 – Adjournment at 1:41 pm.