



NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

Friday, November 15, 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. Holmes-Sutton
Vice Chair Thigpen
Member Shauntee Rosales
Member Haddad Bennett
Student Representative Birru

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Member Stern
Member Salcido (Absent from 11:30 am –1:33 pm)
Member Whitaker
Member Aldaba (Absent)

AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT & VIRTUAL

Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director
Todd Weiss, Esq., Attorney General Office
Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing
Dr. Selcuk Ozdemir, Education Programs Supervisor
Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III
Mary Holsclaw, Education Programs Professional
Brandon Gaytan, Education Programs Professional

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN-PERSON

Apu Betcher	Tracy Schroeder
AJ Ellis	Nathalie Burgess
Brian Campbell	Freddie Rosser
John Haynal	Jeff McAlpine
Phil Bateman	Ercan Aydogdu
Gil Lopez	Autumn Nourse
Jennifer Emlag	Nichole Shaffer
Christen Winkler	Eric Duran-Valle
RJ Santigate	Maria Montero
Selena Torres	Benjamin Feinstein
Kristofer Jacobson	Mia Nelson
Jennifer Cosby	Cynthia Romero
Laronka Mauer	Jill Cribari
Marlo Tsuchiyama	Jonathan Valencia
Sheila Palambo	Andrew Bennett

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PRESENTER IN ATTENDANCE VIRTUALLY

Patrice Tew	Milo Jury	Jeremy Christensen	Mindi Palomeque
Sandra Kinne	Steve Popper	Duncan Scherer	Yolanda Hamilton
Ali Taylor	Karli Castro	Andi Morency	Jessica Scobell
Adam Johnson	Dr. Gainous	Andre Denson	Ben Contine
Gia Maraccini	Amber Lane	Janelle Veith	Jason Guinasso
Natalia Nival	Karen Tanaka	Lance Bohne	Feyzi Tandogan
Kathy Rudd	Karen Woerner	Mindi Palomeque	Abraham Gomez
Natalie Burgess	Kristen Conway	Danette Olmos-Green	Chris McBride

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Roll Call

Dr. Holmes-Sutton, Chair of the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA), called the meeting to order at 9:08 am and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment #1

Autumn Nourse made comment regarding Coral Academy – Sandy Ridge

Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda

- a. October 4, 2024, SPCSA Board Meeting Action Minutes

Motion on Consent Agenda Item 3: Vice Chair Thigpen made a motion to approve the October 4, 2024, Board Meeting Action Minutes. Member Shantee Rosales seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

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

Member Shantee Rosales discussed the Governance Standard 5, “Ensure strong leadership and effective partnerships”. Proactively plan for the development of future leaders and for succession.

Agenda Item 5 – 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
- b. Delinquent schools PERS contributions
- c. TEACH and Eagle Charter School closure update
- d. Legislative Session Preview
- e. Update on Open Meeting Law training and Performance Framework training
- f. National Association of Charter School Authorizers 2024 Conference

Questions and Discussion ensued.

Agenda Item 6 – GEMS Final Closure Report

Jason Guinasso provided the SPCSA Board with the final closure report for Girls Empowerment Middle School. Discussion and questions ensued.

Agenda Item 7 – Charter School Contract Amendment Applications. Danny Peltier provided an overview of the application for facility relocation contract amendment for Vegas Vista to the Authority Board.

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Motion on Agenda Item 7: Vice Chair Thigpen made the motion to grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve Vegas Vista Academy’s request to relocate its facility to 4660 North Rancho Drive with the following conditions: That Vegas Vista Academy work with SPCSA staff to identify and complete pre-opening requirements that pertain to the occupation of the 4660 North Rancho Drive facility. Member Shantee Rosales seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8 – SPCSA 2025-2030 Strategic Plan draft. Executive Director Mackedon provided the SPCSA Board with an overview of the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. Solicited feedback from various stakeholders to develop the draft. Discussion ensued and SPCSA Board Members provided additional feedback. The updated Strategic Plan will be presented at the next SPCSA Board meeting.

Agenda Item 9 – Academic Performance Ratings. SPCSA staff provided the Authority with results under the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) and SPCSA Academic Performance Framework for the 2023-24 school year. Possible action includes accepting the 2023-24 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework ratings.

- a. Overview of 2023-24 Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) scores and star ratings as issued by the Nevada Department of Education.
- b. Overview of the 2023-24 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework ratings.

Motion on Agenda Item 9: Vice Chair Thigpen made a motion to adopt the 2023-24 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework results. Member Haddad Bennett seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 10 - Removal of Prior Notices for Academic Performance. SPCSA staff recommended Notices of Concern be removed from the specified charter schools due to the school achieving a 3-star or higher NSPF rating OR a Meets or Exceeds Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

- a. Discovery Charter School – Sandhill elementary school (3-star and Meets Standard)
- b. Nevada Rise Academy – elementary school (3-star and Meets Standard)

Motion on Agenda Item 10a: Member Shantee Rosales made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to remove the Notice of Concern for Discovery Charter School Sandhill Campus elementary school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year and return the school to good standing. Member Salcido seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 10b: Member Shantee Rosales made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to remove the Notice of Concern for Nevada Rise Academy for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year and return the school to good standing. Member Haddad Bennett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 11 – Battle Born Academy. SPCSA staff recommended Notices of Concern and Breach be issued to the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

- a. Issue a Notice of Breach to the elementary school (1-star and Does Not Meet Standard).
- b. Issue a Notice of Concern to the middle school (1-star and Does Not Meet Standard).

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Motion on Agenda Item 11a and 11b: Vice Chair Thigpen made the motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff as stated herein to issue a Notice of Breach to Battle Born Academy elementary school and a Notice of Concern to Battle Born Academy middle school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Member Shantee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 12 – Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas – SPCSA staff recommended Notice of Breach be issued to the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Motion on Agenda Item 12: Member Shantee Rosales made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to issue a Notice of Breach to Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas Nellis Air Force Base elementary school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Vice Chair Thigpen seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 13 - CIVICA Nevada Career & Collegiate Academy – SPCSA staff recommended Notices of Concern be issued to the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Motion on Agenda Item 13: Member Shantee Rosales made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff as stated herein to issue a Notice of Concern to CIVICA Nevada Career & Collegiate Academy elementary school and middle school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Vice Chair Thigpen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 14 - Democracy Prep Nevada – SPCSA staff recommended Notices of Concern and Breach be issued to the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Motion on Agenda Item 14: Vice Chair Thigpen made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to issue a Notice of Breach to the Democracy Prep elementary school and a Notice of Concern to the Democracy Prep middle school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Member Shantee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 15 - Explore Academy – SPCSA staff recommended Notice of Breach be issued to the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Motion on Agenda Item 15: Member Haddad Bennett made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff as stated herein to issue a Notice of Breach to Explore Academy middle school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Vice Chair Thigpen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

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Agenda Item 16 - Freedom Classical Academy – SPCSA staff recommended Notice of Breach be continued for the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Motion on Agenda Item 16: Vice Chair Thigpen made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to continue the Notice of Breach for Freedom Classical Academy Elementary School for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Member Shantee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 17 - Honors Academy of Literature – SPCSA staff recommended Notice of Breach be issued to the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Motion on Agenda Item 17 – Vice Chair Thigpen made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff as stated herein to issue a Notice of Breach to Honors Academy of Literature elementary school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Member Shantee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 18 - Imagine Schools at Mountain View – SPCSA staff recommended a Notice of Breach be issued to the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Motion on Agenda Item 18: Vice Chair Thigpen made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff as stated herein to issue a Notice of Breach to Imagine Schools at Mountain View elementary school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Member Shantee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 19 - Learning Bridge Charter School – SPCSA staff recommended a Notice of Concern be issued to the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Motion on Agenda Item 19: Vice Chair Thigpen made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff as stated herein to issue a Notice of Concern to Learning Bridge Charter School elementary school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Member Salcido seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 20 - Legacy Traditional Schools – SPCSA staff recommended Notices of Concern and Breach be issued and continued to the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

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Motion on Agenda Item 20: Vice Chair Thigpen made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to take action on the following academic Notices for academic performance for the 2023-24 school year:

- Continue the Notice of Breach for the Legacy North Valley elementary school;
- Issue a Notice of Concern for the Legacy North Valley middle school; and
- Issue a Notice of Breach for the Legacy Cadence elementary school. Member Haddad Bennett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 21 - Mater Academy of Northern Nevada – SPCSA staff recommended a Notice of Concern be issued to the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Motion on Agenda Item 21: Vice Chair Thigpen made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff as stated herein to issue a Notice of Concern to Mater Academy of Northern Nevada elementary school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Member Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 22 - Nevada Connections Academy – SPCSA staff recommended a Notice of Concern be issued to the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Motion on Agenda Item 22: Vice Chair Thigpen made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff as stated herein to issue a Notice of Concern to Nevada Connections Academy high school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Member Salcido seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 23 - Nevada Prep Charter School – SPCSA staff recommended a Notices of Concern be issued to the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Motion on Agenda Item 23: Vice Chair Thigpen made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff as stated herein to issue a Notice of Concern to Nevada Prep Charter School elementary school and middle school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Member Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 24 - Nevada Virtual Academy – SPCSA staff recommended a Notice of Concern be issued to the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Motion on Agenda Item 24: Member Shantee Rosales made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff as stated herein to issue a Notice of Concern to Nevada Virtual Charter School middle school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Member Haddad Bennett seconded the motion. The

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motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 25 - pilotED Cactus Park Elementary – SPCSA staff recommended a Notice of Concern be issued to the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Motion on Agenda Item 25: Member Shantee Rosales made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff as stated herein to issue a Notice of Concern to pilotED Cactus Park Elementary for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Vice Chair Thigpen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 26 - Quest Preparatory Academy – SPCSA staff recommends Notice of Breach be issued to the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Motion on Agenda Item 26: Vice Chair Thigpen made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff as stated herein to issue a Notice of Breach to Quest Preparatory Academy elementary school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Member Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 27 - Sage Collegiate Public Charter School – SPCSA staff recommends Notices of Concern be issued to the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Motion on Agenda Item 27 – Vice Chair Thigpen made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff as stated herein to issue a Notice of Concern to Sage Collegiate Public Charter School elementary school and middle school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Member Salcido seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 28 - Silver Sands Montessori Charter School – SPCSA staff recommends Notice of Breach be issued to the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Motion on Agenda Item 28 – Member Salcido made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff as stated herein to issue a Notice of Breach to Silver Sands Montessori Charter School elementary school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Vice Chair Thigpen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 29 - Somerset Academy of Las Vegas – SPCSA staff recommends Notices of Concern be issued to the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Motion on Agenda Item 29: Vice Chair Thigpen made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff as stated herein to issue a Notice of Concern to Somerset Academy of Nevada Losee elementary and

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middle school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Additionally, remove the Notice of Concern for Somerset Academy of Las Vegas North Las Vegas elementary school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year and return the school to good standing. Member Shantee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 30 - Sports Leadership & Management of Nevada – SPCSA staff recommends Notice of Concern be continued for the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Motion on Agenda Item 30: Member Haddad Bennett made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff as stated herein to continue the Notice of Concern to Sports Leadership & Management of Nevada elementary school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Member Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 31 - Young Women’s Leadership Academy of Nevada – SPCSA staff recommends Notices of Concern be issued to the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1- or 2-star NSPF rating AND a Below or Does Not Meet Standard rating on the SPCSA Academic Performance Framework.

Motion on Agenda Item 31: Vice Chair Thigpen made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff as stated herein to issue a Notice of Concern to Young Women’s Leadership Academy middle school for academic performance for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Member Haddad Bennet seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 32 – Long-Range Calendar. Reviewed and discussed the long-range calendar and upcoming meeting agendas.

Agenda Item 33 – Public Comment #2

No Public Comment.

Agenda Item 34 – Adjournment at 3:50 pm