



NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

Friday, December 13, 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

Member Whitaker
Member Shauntee Rosales
Member Haddad Bennett
Student Representative Birru

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Member Stern
Member Salcido
Chair Dr. Holmes-Sutton
Member Aldaba
Vice Chair Thigpen

AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT & VIRTUAL

Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director
Samantha King Powell, Esq., General Counsel
Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing
Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III
Brandon Gaytan, Education Programs Professional

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN-PERSON

Ercan Aydogdu	Mary Kay Bellinger
Rodney Saunders	Allison Marmer
Tambre Tondryk	Gil Lopez
Kelly Gerdes	Judy Piccininni
Steve Piccininni	Erin Bedich
Danielle McDowell	Julianna Turley
Gabe Shirey	Katrina Harhimot
Eileen Gilligan	Betheny Farmer
Carey Roybal-Benson	Deborah Earl
Andrea Damore	Gayle Jefferson
Michael Muenie	Renee Fairless
Bryon Richardson	James Kuzma
Nick Screar	John Hackmann

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PRESENTER IN ATTENDANCE VIRTUALLY

Mariella Bueno	Kim Jolly	Christina Saenz	Paul Ballou
Daniel Bonkobara	Becca Batista	Ron Flick	Drew Thomas
AJ Ellis	Jori Martin	Andrew Bennett	Stacey Coons
Sarah Barlow	Milo Jury	Dena Thompson	Rachelle Hulet
Nandini Vaishnav	Edward Ableser	Karli Casto	Feyzi Tandogan
Tiffany Alston	Navkaran Singh	Mark Gardberg	Molly Pecker
Ryan Anderson	Greta Seidman	Kasey Eyre	Charyl Lacombe
Jamey Lee Sparrow	Annette Christensen	Kim Ballou	Ryan Reeves

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Roll Call

Member Shantee Rosales, Member of the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA), called the meeting to order at 9:02 am and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment #1

No Public Comment.

Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda

- a. November 15, 2024, SPCSA Board Meeting Action Minutes
- b. COVID-19 Plan for the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction.

Motion on Consent Agenda Item 3:

Member Haddad Bennet made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Member Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

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

Member Stern discussed the Governance Standard #1. Looking at our focus on student growth, achievement and social-emotional well being.

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

Questions and Discussion ensued.

Agenda Item 6 – Four-Year Graduation Rates.

Brandon Gaytán, Education Programs Professional, presented the Four-Year Graduation Rates for the Class of 2023 – 2024.

Questions and Discussion ensued.

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Agenda Item 7 – 2024 – 2025 School Year Enrollment Data. Brandon Gaytán, Education Programs Professional, provided information related to validated enrollment data for SPCSA-sponsored charter schools for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

Questions and Discussion ensued.

Agenda Item 8 – pilotED – Cactus Park Elementary School Contract Amendment. Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing, provided the SPCSA Board with a request from Cactus Park Elementary School for a grace period to amend the charter contract due to transition from Charter Management Organization, pilotED Foundation.

Motion on Agenda Item 8: Member Haddad Bennett made a motion to allow pilotED Cactus Park a grace period until April 18, 2025, to rectify their breach of charter contract due to the extenuating circumstances of the pilotED Foundation CMO sunseting on December 31, 2024. Directed pilotED Cactus Park to work with SPCSA to submit an amendment request with the following conditions: • That pilotED Cactus Park Elementary submit a board-approved charter amendment application by March 28, 2025, specifically detailing the transition plan for the 2025 – 2026 school year through the remainder of their charter contract. Member Salcido seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9 – Charter School Contract Amendment Applications. Danny Peltier, Management Analysis III, provided the Authority with recommendations related to charter school contract amendment applications, and the Authority may approve or deny the following charter school amendment applications based on NRS 388A.276 and NRS 388A.279.

- a. Beacon Academy of Nevada– Charter Amendment Request to:
 - i. expand Enrollment in Existing Grade Levels and Facilities
 - ii. Remove 3rd party Supplemental Alternative Performance Framework Requirement from the Charter Contract

Motion on Agenda Item 9: Member Haddad Bennett made a motion to approve Beacon Academy of Nevada’s request to • Increase enrollment at both the East and West Campus as detailed in the recommendation memo. • Remove the Supplemental 3rd party Alternative Performance Framework Requirement from the Charter Contract • That Beacon Academy work with SPCSA staff to identify and complete preopening requirements that pertain to the occupation of the additional building space at the existing West Campus location. Member Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 10 - Charter School Contract Renewal Applications. Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing and Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, provided the Authority with SPCSA staff’s recommendations related to charter school contract renewal applications, and the Authority may approve or deny the following charter school renewal applications:

- a. Amplus Academy
- b. Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas
- c. Doral Academy of Nevada
- d. Founders Classical Academy of Las Vegas
- e. Leadership Academy of Nevada

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- f. Learning Bridge Charter School
- g. Mater Academy of Nevada
- h. Signature Preparatory

Motion on Agenda Item 10a: Member Haddad Bennett made a to approve the Amplus Academy Renewal Application for an eight-year term beginning July 1, 2025, and the enrollment caps as outlined in the recommendation memo. In the event of academic, financial or organizational underperformance, the Authority may impose additional oversight. Member Stern seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 10b: Member Whitaker made a motion to approve the Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas Renewal Application for an eight-year term beginning July 1, 2025, and the enrollment caps as outlined in the recommendation memo. In the event of academic, financial or organizational underperformance, the Authority may impose additional oversight. Member Haddad Bennett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 10c: Member Salcido made a motion to approve the Doral Academy of Nevada Renewal Application for an eight-year term beginning July 1, 2025 and the enrollment caps as outlined in the recommendation memo. In the event of academic, financial or organizational underperformance the Authority may impose additional oversight. Vice Chair Thigpen seconded the motion. Member Aldaba recused herself from the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 10d: Member Aldaba made a motion to approve the Founders Classical Academy of Las Vegas Renewal Application for a six-year term beginning July 1, 2025, and the enrollment caps as outlined in the recommendation memo. In the event of academic, financial or organizational underperformance, the Authority may impose additional oversight. Member Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 10e: Member Whitaker made a motion to approve the Leadership Academy of Nevada Renewal Application for a seven-year term beginning July 1, 2025, and the enrollment caps as outlined in the recommendation memo. In the event of academic, financial or organizational underperformance, the Authority may impose additional oversight. Member Haddad Bennett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 10f: Member Stern made a motion to approve the Learning Bridge Charter School Renewal Application for a five-year term beginning July 1, 2025, and the enrollment caps as outlined in the recommendation memo. In the event of academic, financial or organizational underperformance, the Authority may impose additional oversight. Member Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

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Motion on Agenda Item 10g: Member Salcido made a motion to approve the Mater Academy of Nevada Renewal Application for a seven-year term beginning July 1, 2025, and the enrollment caps as outlined in the recommendation memo. In the event of academic, financial or organizational underperformance, the Authority may impose additional oversight. Member Aldaba seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 10h: Member Whitaker made a motion to approve the Signature Preparatory Renewal Application for a six-year term beginning July 1, 2025, and the enrollment caps as outlined in the recommendation memo. In the event of academic, financial or organizational underperformance, the Authority may impose additional oversight. Member Salcido seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 11 – Presentation of 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director, presented the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan to the SPCSA Board. Discussion and questions ensued.

Motion on Agenda Item 11: Member Whitaker made a motion to approve and adopt the SPCSA 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. Member Aldaba seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 12 - 2025 Demographic and Academic Needs Assessment. Melissa Mackedon provided the Authority Board with an update regarding the 2025 Demographic and Academic Needs Assessment pursuant to NRS 388A.220. Discussion and questions ensued.

Motion on Agenda Item 12: Member Whitaker made a motion to approve the 2025 Demographic and Academic Needs Assessment. Member Haddad Bennett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 13: Charter Application and Rubric for 2025 Applications. Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing provided the Authority Board with recommendations regarding revisions to the new charter school application and rubric.

Motion on Agenda Item 13: Member Aldaba made a motion to approve the revisions to the Charter Application and Rubric for the 2025 applications. Vice Chair Thigpen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 14 – Long-Range Calendar. Reviewed and discussed the long-range calendar and upcoming meeting agendas.

Agenda Item 15 – Public Comment #2
No Public Comment.

Agenda Item 16 – Adjournment at 11:35 am.