



NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

Friday, January 24, 2025
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
Member Salcido
Member Whitaker
Member Aldaba
Member Richards
Student Representative Birru

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Member Stern

AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT & VIRTUAL

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

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN-PERSON

Shelli Guthrie	Timothy Lorenz
Matthew Loren	Benjamin Feinstein
Eric Duran-Valle	Bryon Richardson
Traci Mitchell	Kyle Konold
KC Guthrie	Gil Lopez
Sebastian Rios	Elver Alvarez Flores
Mackenzie Coughlin	Stephanie Grime
Andrew Plotkin	Larry Moulton
Janice Henry	

PRESENTER IN ATTENDANCE VIRTUALLY

Nikisha Bangerter	Michelle Alarie	Abbe Mattson	Dr. LeAnn Putney
Elena Fabunan	Mario Rezai	Dr. Greta Peay	Kristy Borg
Connie Malin	Kasey Eyre	Sharon Rushforth	Tom Nichols
Yolanda Hamilton	Mark Viera	Monica Ford	Michelle Ramer
Robert Handwerker	Samantha Morris	Donna Childers	Rachelle Hulet

**NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES**

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 9:00 am and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment #1

Sebastian Rios – Chair, Nevada Youth Legislature
Mackenzie Coughlin – Nevada Youth Legislator – District 1
Elver Alvarez Flores – Youth Legislator – District 2
Andrew Plotkin – The Should Project
Stephanie Grime – The Should Project

Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda

- a. December 13, 2024, SPCSA Board Meeting Action Minutes
- b. Annual Report to Nevada’s Department of Education (NDE)

Motion on Consent Agenda Item 3: Member Salcido made a motion to approve December 13, 2024, Board Meeting Action Minutes and Annual Report to NDE. Member Shantee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

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

Member Dr. Aldaba reviewed Governance Standard 4, Commit to Long-Term Success.

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. Introduced new board member Rosanne Richards
- b. School Highlight: Nevada State High School’s leadership.
- c. Reviewed delinquent schools PERS contributions as of 1/2/2025:
 - i. Nevada Prep
 - ii. Equipo Academy
- d. Reviewed SPCSA Historic Enrollment Data
- e. Legislative Session Update – Executive Director Mackedon discussed tracking and monitoring bills that are related to educational. Review the SPCSA’s bill AB39 and pointed out highlights of the bill. Will continue to provide updates to the Authority Board.
- f. TEACH and Eagle closure update.
 - i. TEACH – Working with Clifton Larson Allen to conduct the financial audit of the wind-down. Satisfied PERS obligation except for penalties. Also, sent out W-2’s to employees.
 - ii. Eagle – Received outstanding CSP payment from Opportunity 180. Eagle made additional payments to vendors. Satisfied PERS obligation except for penalties. Eagle is working with Clifton Larson Allen to complete financial audit of the wind-down.Questions and Discussion ensued.

Agenda Item 6 – Charter School Contract Amendment Applications.

Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III provided the Authority with recommendations related to charter school contract amendment applications, for the Authority to approve or deny the following charter school amendment applications based on NRS 388A.276 and NRS 388A.279

- a. Amplus – Request to Increase Enrollment Cap in Existing Grades and Facilities
- b. Leadership Academy of Nevada – Request to Add Grade Levels and Increase Enrollment Cap

**NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES**

- c. Nevada Virtual Charter School – Request to Reduce Enrollment Cap and Change Enrollment Policy
- d. Vegas Vista Academy – Request to Reduce Enrollment Cap and Modify Grade Level Offerings in Future School Years

Motion on Agenda Item 6a: Member Dr. Aldaba made a motion to approve Amplus Academy’s request to increase its enrollment cap beginning in the 2025-26 school year with condition: That Amplus Academy work with SPCSA staff to identify and complete pre-opening requirements that pertain to the expansion of the Durango campus. Vice Chair Thigpen seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 6b: Member Haddad Bennett made a motion to approve Leadership Academy of Nevada’s request to increase its enrollment cap beginning in the 2025-26 school and expand grade level offerings to include 4th and 5th grade. Member Shantee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 6c: Member Shantee Rosales made a motion to Grant the Good Cause Exemption request of Nevada Virtual Charter School and approve the school’s request to reduce the enrollment cap and change the enrollment policy as detailed in the amendment recommendation memo. Member Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 6d: Vice Chair Thigpen made a motion to Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve Vegas Vista Academy’s request to reduce its enrollment cap for the 2024-25 school year and future school years and to modify grade level increase as detailed in the amendment application. Member Dr. Aldaba seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7 – SPCSA Annual Review and Overview of SPCSA-Sponsored Public Charter Schools. Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director, provided the Authority with the SPCSA’s Annual Report regarding SPCSA-sponsored public charter schools and progress towards meeting strategic goals. Discussion ensued.

Agenda Item 8 - Charter Sponsorship Transfer Applications. Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing and Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III provided the Authority with SPCSA staff’s recommendations related to Clark County School District charter school applications to transfer to SPCSA sponsorship.

- a. Delta Academy
- b. Explore Knowledge Academy
- c. FuturEdge Charter Academy
- d. Innovations International Charter School of Nevada
- e. Odyssey Charter Schools
- f. Rainbow Dreams Academy

Motion on Agenda Item 8a: Member Haddad Bennett made a motion to approve the Delta Academy application to transfer charter school sponsorship from Clark County School District to the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority with a 3-year charter contract with the following condition and enrollment caps: 1. Delta Academy will work with SPCSA staff to review student enrollment as it pertains to eligibility for the

**NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES**

Alternative Performance Framework. Vice Chair Thigpen seconded the motion. Member Richards abstained from voting due to a professional conflict. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 8b: Member Shantee Rosales made a motion to approve the Explore Knowledge Academy application to transfer charter school sponsorship from Clark County School District to the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority with a 3-year charter contract with enrollment caps. Member Dr. Aldaba seconded the motion. Member Richards abstained from voting due to a professional conflict. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 8c: Member Dr. Aldaba made a motion to approve FuturEdge Charter Academy application to transfer charter school sponsorship from Clark County School District to the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority with a 3-year charter contract with the following conditions and enrollment caps: 1. By July 1, 2025, provide evidence that FuturEdge Academy has added a parent of an enrolled student to the governing board and that the board is in full compliance with NRS 388A.320, and the enrollment cap as outlined in the SPCSA recommendation memo. Member Shantee Rosales seconded the motion. Member Richards abstained from voting due to a professional conflict. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 8d: Member Dr. Aldaba made a motion to approve the Innovations International Charter School of Nevada application to transfer charter school sponsorship from Clark County School District to the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority with a 3-year charter contract and enrollment caps as outlined in the SPCSA Recommendation Memo. Member Shantee Rosales seconded the motion. Member Richards abstained from voting due to a professional conflict. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 8e: Member Haddad Bennett made a motion to approve the Odyssey Charter School application to transfer charter school sponsorship from Clark County School District to the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority with a 6-year charter contract as outlined in the SPCSA Recommendation Memo. Member Salcido seconded the motion. Member Richards abstained from voting due to a professional conflict. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 8f: Member Haddad Bennett made a motion to approve the Rainbow Dreams Early Learning Academy application to transfer charter school sponsorship from Clark County School District to the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority with a 3-year charter contract with the following conditions and enrollment caps: 1. Rainbow Dreams Early Learning Academy will work with SPCSA staff on developing metrics on which to measure and analyze the school's academic performance. 2. Rainbow Dreams Early Learning Academy will work with SPCSA staff to define the roles and responsibilities of the Local Education Agency (LEA) and Rainbow Dreams Early Learning Academy as they related to Pre-K and Pre-K quality outlined in the SPCSA Recommendation Memo. Member Salcido seconded the motion. Member Richards abstained from voting due to a professional conflict. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

**NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES**

Agenda Item 9 – Long-Range Calendar. Reviewed and discussed the long-range calendar and upcoming meeting agendas.

Agenda Item 10 – Public Comment #2
No Public Comment.

Agenda Item 11 – Adjournment at 12:13 pm