



NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

Friday, April 18, 2025
9:00AM

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Dr. Holmes-Sutton
Vice Chair Thigpen
Member Shantee Rosales
Member Haddad Bennett
Member Whitaker
Student Representative Birru

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Member Stern
Member Salcido
Member Richards

AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT IN-PERSON OR VIRTUALLY

Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director
Samantha King Powell, Esq., General Counsel
Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing
Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III
Nate Hanson, Management Analyst IV
Michael Gawthrop-Hutchins, Management Analyst III

PRESENTER/PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY

Abraham Gomez	Freddie Rossen	AJ Ellis	Tiffani Curtis
Stephanie Han	John Haynal	Patrice Tew	Travis Keys
Tim Lorenz	Emily Bassier	Paul Ballou	Tim Nichols
Brett Willis	Michelle Alarie	Tam Shear	Shellie Guthrie
Julie Carver	Abbe Mattson	Gabe Shirey	Gayle Jefferson
Renee Fairless	Shambrion Treadwell	Jonathan Johnson	Katie Rarick
Merina Hansen	Dr. Gainous	Dusty Casey	Karli Casto
Michelle Gieg	Kristin Dietz	Christina Saenz	Karen Woerner
Sandra Kinne			

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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 9:15 am (meeting started late due to technical difficulties) and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment #1. Public Comment in person provided by:

Patrice Tew Freddie Rossen Jackson Olsen
Tamara Shear John Haynal

Public Comment sent in writing are posted with the meeting materials on the SPCSA website.

Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda

- a. March 14, 2025, SPCSA Board Meeting Action Minutes.
- b. Charter School Contract Amendment Applications – reduction to enrollment caps:
 - i. Signature Preparatory Academy
 - ii. Silver Sands Montessori

Motion on Consent Agenda Item 3: Vice Chair Thigpen made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Member Shante Rosales seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

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

Vice Chair Thigpen reviewed Governance Standard #3, Manage Financial Resources Responsibly, in particular “Regularly monitor financial performance to ensure the short- and long-term financial health of the school and to monitor progress towards the State Public Charter School Authority’s performance expectations.” “It is something that we are all responsible for, whether it is all of us up here (SPCSA Board) or members of our schools’ governing board”.

Agenda Item 5 – Executive Director’s Report

Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director, provided the Authority Board with the Executive Director’s report.

- a. One of the most notable strengths of Discovery Charter School Sandhill is its improved star rating. According to the 2023-24 Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF), the school has achieved a three-star rating, marking a considerable improvement of twenty index points from the previous year.
- b. Reviewed delinquent schools’ PERS contributions.
- c. TEACH & Eagle Closure Update.

Update from March.

Eagle: We discovered in January that Eagle's payroll system contained inaccurate information. As a result, the W2s generated by the payroll system were also inaccurate. We spent much of the last month fixing the information in the payroll system so that corrected W2s could be sent to former employees. We also had to correct and resubmit the Employer’s Quarterly Federal Payroll Tax Reports (941s). We are now updating the school's books to reflect the corrected amounts so that we can send accurate information to CLA (auditor). Additionally, we are in the process of calculating adjusted payments to vendors. Unfortunately, PERS denied Eagle's appeal to waive the penalty at last week's Board meeting. We will continue to work with PERS to find a mutually agreeable compromise.

TEACH has the statement of work (scope of work) for the closeout audit and we have the procedures in place to audit the opening balance. (The audit of the opening balance is necessary because we are not auditing SY 23-24.) We are in the process of responding to the initial set of audit requests. Most of the

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audit procedures will happen in March and April. We are hoping to make the Closeout Audit period 7/1/24-2/28/25 though this might get pushed back to 3/31/25. Unfortunately, PERS denied TEACH's appeal to waive the penalty at last week's Board meeting. We will continue to work with PERS to find a mutually agreeable compromise.

Update from April.

All the required tax forms (e.g., 940s and 941s) that were either incorrectly filed or not filed last year have now been filed. Unfortunately, the audits had to be paused until these forms were filed because payments (i.e., liabilities) to the government take priority over all other creditors. As of April 9, 2025, all of those issues have been resolved, and the audit process will be restarted. Correcting the payroll issues at Eagle has been especially challenging. Hopefully, this is the last material issue from last year that we will need to address as part of the wind-down process.

- d. Reviewed updates to the Organizational Performance Framework Quality Indicators. Provided overview and examples of quality indicators. Technical Guides have been updated and can be found on the SPCSA website.
- e. Legislative Update – tracking 86 bills. The SPCSA's bill is [AB39](#) was introduced in Assembly Education on February 18, 2025, and was well-received. Both the City of Henderson and North Las Vegas supported the bill. The bill passed unanimously out of committee on March 18, 2025. We are hopeful it will have a hearing in Senate Education in late April, early May. Additionally, the SPCSA presented its budget on February 11, 2025, to the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and Senate Committee on Finance, Subcommittees on K-12 Education. The same committee held a budget closing for the SPCSA on April 7, 2025. The full committee held the budget closing on Saturday, April 12, 2025. The majority of our requested positions were approved.
- f. Provided updates on bills that may have an effect on Charter Schools

Agenda Item 6 - New School updates. School leadership provided updates regarding the school's progress on the pre-opening items & conditions.

- a. Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence
- b. Rooted Las Vegas

Agenda Item 7 - Charter School Contract Amendment Applications. Danny Peltier, Management Analyst III, provided an overview of the amendment applications and recommendations to the SPCSA Board.

- a. Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence
- b. Rooted Las Vegas

Motion on Agenda Item 7a. – Member Haddad Bennett made a motion to grant Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence a Good Cause Exemption request and approve DBAE's request to modify grade level offerings with conditions.

Member Shante Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 7b - Member Salcido proposed a motion to grant Rooted School Las Vegas' Good Cause Exemption request and approve Rooted's request to modify grade level offerings with conditions. Vice Chair Thigpen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

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Agenda Item 8 – Clark County School District Charter Transfer. Leadership from the schools provided an overview of the charter’s schools to the SPCSA board.

- a. Odyssey Charter Schools of Nevada
- b. Explore Knowledge Academy

Agenda Item 9 – pilotED Cactus Park Elementary School and Mater Academy of Nevada. Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director, provided historical context and reviewed highlights of the acquisition agreement. Questions and discussions ensued.

Motion on Agenda Item 9 – Member Whitaker made a motion to approve the acquisition of pilotED Cactus Park Elementary by the Mater Academy network; Authorize pilotED Cactus Park to advertise as a Mater Academy school upon formal approval of the Acquisition Agreement by the governing boards of both pilotED Cactus Park and Mater Academy. Pursuant to the Acquisition Agreement, move to approve the following transition timeline:

- Termination of the pilotED Cactus Park charter contract effective June 30, 2025;
- Commencement of operations under Mater Academy beginning July 1, 2025, through an amendment to Mater’s current charter contract to include this acquisition.
- Finally, move to authorize SPCSA staff to collaborate with pilotED Cactus Park and Mater Academy to finalize and execute the Acquisition Agreement.

Member Shante Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 10 – Financial Performance Ratings for the 2023-24 Fiscal Year. Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing, provided the charter holder results for 2023-24 SPCSA Financial Performance Framework results.

Motion on Agenda Item 10 – Vice Chair Thigpen made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2024 SPCSA Financial Performance Framework results provided in the 2023-24 Financial Performance Ratings Report. Member Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 11 – Removal of Prior Notices for Financial Performance. Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing, provided information to the SPCSA Board.

- a. CIVICA Nevada Career and Collegiate Academy
- b. Democracy Prep Nevada
- c. Mater Academy of Nevada
- d. Signature Preparatory
- e. Sports Leadership and Management Academy Nevada

Motion on Agenda Item 11a – Member Salcido proposed a motion to remove the financial Notice of Concern from CIVICA Nevada Career and Collegiate Academy and return the school to financial good standing. Vice Chair Thigpen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

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Motion on Agenda Item 11b – Vice Chair Thigpen proposed a motion to remove the financial Notice of Concern from Democracy Prep Nevada and return the school to financial good standing. Member Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 11c – Member Whitaker proposed a motion to remove the financial Notice of Concern from Mater Academy of Nevada and return the school to financial good standing. Member Shante Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 11d -Member Haddad Bennett proposed a motion to remove the financial Notice of Concern from Signature Preparatory and return the school to financial good standing. Member Shante Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Motion on Agenda Item 11e – Member Whitaker proposed a motion to remove the financial Notice of Concern from Sports Leadership and Management Academy Nevada and return the school to financial good standing. Member Stern seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 12 – Battle Born Academy. SPCSA staff recommends the Notice of Concern be continued for the specified charter holder due to the ratings on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework for fiscal year 2023-2024.

Motion on Agenda Item 12 – Vice Chair Thigpen made a motion to continue the Notice of Concern under the Financial Performance Framework for Battle Born Academy. Member Salcido seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 13 – Discovery Charter School. SPCSA staff recommends the Notice of Concern be continued for the specified charter holder due to the ratings on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework for fiscal year 2023-2024.

Motion on Agenda Item 13 – Member Whitaker proposed a motion to continue the Notice of Concern under the Financial Performance Framework for Discovery Charter School. Member Shante Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 14 – Equipo Academy. SPCSA staff recommends the Notice of Concern be continued for the specified charter holder due to the ratings on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework for fiscal year 2023-2024.

Motion on Agenda Item 14 – Vice Chair Thigpen proposed a motion to continue a Notice of Concern under the Financial Performance Framework to Equipo Academy. Member Haddad Bennet seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

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Agenda Item 15 – Explore Academy.

SPCSA staff recommends the Notice of Breach be continued for the specified charter holder due to the ratings on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework for fiscal year 2023-2024.

Motion on Agenda Item 15 – Member Whitaker proposed a motion to continue the Notice of Breach under the Financial Performance Framework for Explore Academy. Member Shante Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 16 – Mater Academy of Northern Nevada. SPCSA staff recommends no action for the specified charter holder due to the ratings on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework for fiscal year 2023-2024. **No action/removal of notice.**

Agenda Item 17 - Nevada Prep Charter School. **Agenda item was taken out of order and moved after Agenda Item 22.**

Agenda Item 18 – pilotED Cactus Park Elementary School. SPCSA staff recommends a Notice of Breach be issued to the specified charter holder due to the ratings on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework for the fiscal year 2023-2024.

Motion on Agenda Item 18 – Vice Chair Thigpen proposed a motion to issue a Notice of Breach under the Financial Performance Framework to pilotED Cactus Park Elementary School. Member Shante Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 19 – Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada. SPCSA staff recommends the Notice of Concern be continued for the specified charter holder due to the ratings on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework for fiscal year 2023-2024.

Motion on Agenda Item 19 – Vice Chair Thigpen proposed a motion to continue to Notice of Concern under the Financial Performance Framework for Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada. Member Shante Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 20 – Sage Collegiate Public Charter School. SPCSA staff recommends a Notice of Breach be issued to the specified charter holder due to the ratings on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework for the fiscal year 2023-2024.

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Motion on Agenda Item 20 – The recommendation is for the board to Move and Approve the following motion as read by SPCSA General Counsel: “Move to postpone this agenda item until the May board meeting, contingent upon Sage Collegiate bringing all key financial stakeholders and a bond representative to address questions regarding the bonding requirements, terms of the bond, bonding timeline, contingencies, and any metrics to be reviewed prior to granting a bond.

Further, Sage Collegiate is directed to work with SPCSA staff to provide any missing financial information for analysis, including but not limited to a FY 26 budget based on accurate enrollment with a positive end-fund balance per NAC 387.730. Member Haddad Bennett made a motion to approve. Vice Chair Thigpen seconded the motion. The motion carries unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 21 – Southern Nevada Trades High School. SPCSA staff recommends a Notice of Concern be issued to the specified charter holder due to the ratings on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework for the fiscal year 2023-2024.

Motion on Agenda Item 21 – Vice Chair Thigpen proposed a motion to issue a Notice of Concern under the Financial Performance Framework to Southern Nevada Trades High School. Member Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 22 – Young Women’s Leadership Academy. SPCSA staff recommends a Notice of Concern be issued to the specified charter holder due to the ratings on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework for the fiscal year 2023-2024.

Motion on Agenda Item 22 – Member Salcido proposed a motion to issue a Notice of Concern under the Financial Performance Framework to Young Women’s Leadership Academy. Member Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 17 – Nevada Prep Charter School. SPCSA staff recommends a Notice of Breach be issued to the specified charter holder due to the ratings on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework for the fiscal year 2023-2024.

Motion on Agenda Item 17 – The recommendation is for the board to Move and Approve the following Motion as Read by SPCSA General Counsel: “Move to postpone this agenda item until the May board meeting, contingent upon NV Prep bringing all key financial stakeholders and a bond representative to address questions regarding the bonding requirements, bonding timeline, and metrics to be reviewed prior to granting a bond.

Further, NV Prep is directed to provide staff any missing financial information for analysis, including but not limited to: the financial policies that are past due, a FY 26 budget based on accurate enrollment with a positive end-fund balance per NAC 387.730, an accurate PCFP and weights, realistic incoming federal grant dollars, an accounting of all grant monies received thus far, and evidence of enrollment numbers and projections.”

Vote: Chair Holmes-Sutton: Yay; Vice Chair Thigpen: Yay; Member Haddad Bennett: Yay; Member Whitaker: Nay; Member Shante Rosales: Yay; Member Salcido: Nay; Member Stern: Yay. The motion carried 5 Yays/2 Nays.

Motion was approved.

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Agenda Item 23 – Long-Range Calendar. The SPCSA board reviewed and discussed the Long-Range Calendar.

Agenda Item 24 – No Public Comment.

Agenda Item 25 – Adjournment at 3:51 pm.