



NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

**Friday, May 30, 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 Dr. Aldaba
Member Haddad Bennett
Member Richards
Member Shantee Rosales
Member Whitaker
Student Representative Birru

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Member Salcido (at 9:35 am)
Member Stern

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
Jennifer Bauer, Administrative Officer III

PRESENTER/PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Jeffrey McAlpine | Ray Powell | Wes Olsen | John Haynal |
| Ray Fraser | Veronica Ramirez | Jessica Scott | Andrew Scott |
| Kristy Borg | Cypress Lin Perkins | Janice Henry | Freddie Rosser |
| Jenni Weinstein | Melisa Posey | Dr. Lusha Fredricks | Patrice Tew |
| Dr. Jackson Olsen | Dusty Casey | Mackenzi Creel | Connie Malin |
| Sandra Kinne | Mike Taack | A. Cole | Timothy Gadson |
| Rudy Pamintuan | Artur Glants | Shubham Pandey | Derrick Love |
| KC Guthrie | Joshua Kern | Jeffrey Hernandez | Shambrian Treadwell |
| Nick Didier | Renisha O'Donnell | Brandolyn Thran | Katherine Hearon |

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.

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

Wes Olson, Raymond James & Asso.
Freddie Rosser, NV Prep

Ray Powell, NV Prep
Shawn McCormick, EFF

Jeff McAlpine, NV Prep
Antonia Bryant, DBAE

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

Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda

- a. April 18, 2025, SPCSA Board Meeting Action Minutes.
- b. Sage Collegiate Public Charter School enrollment reduction amendment.

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

Member Haddad Bennett seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

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

Member Shantee Rosales reviewed Governance Standard #6, “Operate in Service of your School Community”. Particularly focusing on bullet point 4 – “To collaborate with stakeholders to address concerns and challenges”. Governing Boards should use information from stakeholders to help solve issues. Governing Boards should use information from stakeholders to help solve issues. Stakeholders are parents, students (the students are really big stakeholders), businesses, community leaders, teachers and other schools in the area. Look to them to help solve problems.

Agenda Item 5 – Executive Director’s Report

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

- a. School Highlight – Pinecrest Academy of Nevada Springs campus. Positive school culture and climate foster a positive learning environment, as evidenced by interactions from SPCSA staff with focus groups (staff, parents/families and students).
- b. Employee Appreciation Month and special recognition for Danny Peltier and Karie Sarabia. Governor Joe Lombardo issued a proclamation for Jennifer Bauer, Administrative Service Officer III, for her 29 years of dedicated service to the State of Nevada.
- c. Reviewed delinquent PERS contributions. Included historical estimated amounts per the request of the SPCSA Board Chair.
- d. The SPCSA’s bill, Assembly Bill 39, has passed the Senate Floor and is on the Governor’s desk for approval.
 - Assembly Bill 398 passed out of the Assembly. Section 8 of the bill provides \$19,314,297 each year of the biennium for charter schoolteachers and education support professional salary increases.
 - Senate Bill 418 is on the Governor’s desk for signature. This bill requires NDE to deduct from the charter schools’ PCFP payments the amount the school is delinquent on PERS payments when the school is 90 days delinquent.
 - Senate Bill 470, the SPCSA revolving loan, was heard in the Assembly on May 27, 2025.
 - Senate Bill 468, charter school transportation bill, passed out of Senate Finance on May 27, 2025.
 - Senate Bill 500 is the education funding bill, which addresses the following for charter schools:
 - * Funding for Pupils with Disabilities \$24,608,056
 - * Base funding for FY26 \$9,416 and FY27 \$9,486
 - * Weighted funding for English Learns 0.45, totaling \$27,050,440
 - * Weighted funding for at-risk pupils 0.35, totaling \$6,614,302
 - * Weighted funding for gifted and talented pupils 0.12, totaling \$1,684,719

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- e. New charter school applications. The SPCSA is pleased to announce that seven new charter applications are currently being reviewed. During the next few months, these applications will undergo a rigorous evaluation of the written application by internal SPCSA staff and external reviewers who engage in this work throughout the country. We will then have capacity interviews, in which we evaluate the capacity of the proposed team. Of the seven applications being reviewed, one is located in Washoe County, one in Carson City, one in Nye County, and the remaining four are within Clark County.
- f. The SPCSA received 5 applications to serve as the student representative on the SPCSA board. All the applicants were exceptionally impressive, leading to a very close decision. Odalis Ayala from Equipo Academy will serve as our student representative in the coming school year.
- g. Current Events in Public Education: On May 22, 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a 4–4 decision in the case concerning the establishment of the St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School in Oklahoma. This tie vote leaves the lower court's ruling in place, effectively halting the launch of what would have been the nation's first publicly funded religious charter school. While the decision does not set a national precedent, it reinforces the principle that charter schools remain secular public institutions.

Agenda Item 6 – School Closure Updates for TEACH & Eagle. Josh Kern, with the TenSquare Group, provided a wind down update and addressed issues that have contributed to the delays. Final report will include recommendations on how to remedy issues.

Eagle – reconstructing payroll records due to issues with incorrect wages reported and payroll withholdings. Another challenge was correctly identifying secure and priority creditors. Eagle doesn't have enough funds to cover all expenses. NDE suggested that it be treated as a general unsecured creditor. TEACH & Eagle both have insufficient funds to satisfy all their financial obligations. Final payments will be made in June. Mr. Kern should have the final wind down report by September.

Agenda Item 7 – Nevada Facility Fund Update. Ray Fraser, Managing Director of Operations at Opportunity 180 provided information about the Nevada Facility Fund. Shared different ways that they are able to assist charter schools to support facilities and provide better outcomes for students. Questions and discussion ensued.

Agenda Item 8 – New School Updates. School leaders provided the SPCSA Board with a progress update on the school's readiness to open. Reviewed updates on enrollment, staffing and facilities.

- a. Nevada Classical Academy Elko
- b. WYLESS

Agenda Item 9 – Charter School Amendment Applications. Danny Peltier, Management Analyst, III provided the SPCSA with an overview and recommendations for Do & Be Arts Academy of Excellence's request to alter grade level offerings.

Motion on Agenda Item 9 – Member Shantee Rosales 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 the following conditions: • By Jun 1, 2025, provide evidence that DBAE has 60 or more students fully enrolled for the 2025-2026 school year. • By June 1, 2025, submit a fully executed lease for a facility that will meet the needs of the school for the 2025-2026 school year. • By June 8, 2025, submit a board approved Final Budget that includes revenue based upon the confirmed enrollment and expenses that incorporate the cost of the identified facility. • Complete the SPCSA pre-opening process for new charter schools. Member Dr. Aldaba seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The motion carried.

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Agenda Item 10 – CCSD School Transfers to SPCSA Presentation. Charter School leaders provided an overview of CCSD Schools that are transferring to SPCSA sponsorship.

- a. Delta Academy
- b. Rainbow Dreams Early Learning Academy
- c. FuturEdge
- d. Innovations International Charter School

Questions and discussion ensued.

Agenda Item 11 – Opportunity 180. Dr. Olsen Jackson provided a presentation on the Good to Great program for year 1 and projections of working with 14+ schools for year 2. They have also added partners to help support the schools. Dr. Jackson provided data and explained the outcomes.

Agenda Item 12 – Nevada Prep Charter School. Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing provided information on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework from the 2023-24 school year and recommendation on continuing a Notice of Concern to Nevada Prep Charter Schools.

Motion on Agenda Item 12 – Member Haddad Bennett proposed a motion to continue the Notice of Concern under the Financial Performance Framework for Nevada Prep Charter School. As part of this Notice of Concern, the school will be required to participate in heightened monitoring, directed by SPCSA Staff, including but not limited to: Submitting and amending budgets; Submitting of monthly budget to actual reporting; Providing monthly evidence of payment to PERS; and Providing ongoing access to accounting and financial records, as requested by SPCSA staff, as part of the heightened financial monitoring. Failure to provide requested documentation by the deadline set by SPCSA staff, or failure to respond to SPCSA inquiries within three (3) business days, will result in a subsequent appearance before the Board and a possible escalation to a Notice of Breach under the Financial Performance Framework. Member Dr. Aldaba seconded the motion. 8 Yays; 1 No (Member Salcido).

The motion carried.

Agenda Item 13 – Sage Collegiate Public Charter School. Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing provided information on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework from the 2023-24 school year and recommendation on continuing a Notice of Concern to Nevada Prep Charter Schools.

Motion on Agenda Item 13 – Member Haddad Bennett proposed a motion to continue the Notice of Concern under the Financial Performance Framework for Sage Collegiate Public Charter School. As part of this Notice of Concern, the school will be required to participate in heightened monitoring, directed by SPCSA Staff, including but not limited to: • Submitting and amending budgets; • Submitting of monthly budget to actual reporting; • Providing monthly evidence of payment to PERS; Submitting payment plan to PERS by May 30, 2025 and • Providing ongoing access to accounting and financial records, as requested by SPCSA staff, as part of the heightened financial monitoring. Failure to provide requested documentation by the deadline set by SPCSA staff, or failure to respond to SPCSA inquiries within three (3) business days, will result in a subsequent appearance before the Board and a possible escalation to a Notice of Breach under the Financial Performance Framework. Member Shantee Rosales seconded the motion.

8 Yays; 1 No (Member Salcido).

The motion carried.

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Agenda Item 14 – Long-Range Calendar. The SPCSA board reviewed and discussed the Long-Range Calendar.

Agenda Item 15 – No Public Comment.

Agenda Item 16 – Adjournment at 12:43 pm.