



## NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

**Friday, November 14, 2025  
9:00AM**

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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING – VIRTUAL MEETING**

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY**

Chair Thigpen  
Member Dr. Aldaba  
Member Richards  
Member Shantee Rosales  
Student Representative Ayala

Vice Chair Whitaker  
Member Dr. Holmes Sutton  
Member Stern  
Member Salcido

#### **SPCSA STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY**

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

Brandon Gaytán, Education Programs Supervisor  
Mary Holsclaw, Education Programs Professional

#### **PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE VIRTUALLY**

Ignacio Prada	Renee Fairless
Miadora Nelson	Richard Santigate
Flynn Stern	Ali Taylor
Jamie Combs	Jeremy Christensen
Dr. Andi Morency	Nichole Shaffer
Bruce Eldridge	Tiffani Curtis
Gia Maraccini	Amanda Safford
Yolanda Hamilton	Samantha Morris
Sandra Kinne	Jennifer Braster
Denise Olmos-Green	John Bentham
Teresa Myro	Andrea Damore
Jennifer Roberts	Justin Brecht

Jessica Medina
Dr. Biante Gainous
Karen Woerner
Kristen Guthrie
Christen Winkler
Natalie Burgess
Dr. Chris McBride
Dr. Denson
Sheila Palombo
Jessica Scobell
Marykay Bellinger
Steven Washington

Ercan Aydogdu
Tara Raines
James Kuzma
Greta Peay
Amanda Campbell
Tony Davis
Dr. Scott Harrington
Janelle Veith
Jonathan Valencia
Dan Triana
Ashley Perkins
Jami Austin

#### **Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Roll Call**

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Kurt Thigpen, Chair of the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA), called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

### **Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment #1. Written Public Comment is posted online with board documents. Public Comment in person or telephonically by:**

1. Ignacio Prado commented on Agenda Item #6

### **Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda**

- a. October 10, 2025, SPCSA Board Meeting Action Minutes

**Motion on Consent Agenda Item 3:** Member Salcido made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

### **Agenda Item 4 – Executive Director’s Report**

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

- a. School Highlight – The SPCSA was subject to the NDE Special Education Monitoring protocol in place for all LEAs during the 24-25 school year. As an agency, we are starting to inform schools of those results. This is a very comprehensive monitoring process, and I would like to acknowledge the special education teams at our schools, as well as the SPCSA staff who oversee this work. We maintained 100% compliance on 21 metrics and achieved 100% compliance on 23 metrics for the first time. This is a significant accomplishment and improvement for our schools.
- b. Reviewed delinquent PERS payments as of 11/3/25.
- c. New Schools Update – The SPCSA officially kicked off our pre-opening process the week of November 3-7 with the three schools in their incubation year. As a reminder, two schools, Somerset Academy Carson City and Wildflower Montessori, are scheduled to open in the 2026-2027 school year. One school, Citizens of the World, opted for a two-year incubation period, so its timeline has been adjusted accordingly.
- d. Pre-K Schools - The SPCSA has nearly doubled its Pre-K efforts for the 2025-26 school year, with approximately 450 students and their families' receiving services at 9 of our charter schools. All schools returning from the 2024-25 school year have a 5-star designation awarded by Nevada’s Early Childhood Quality Rating Scale, and our newly participating schools are receiving support and guidance from SPCSA staff and state systems to offer the same high-quality services.
- e. National Association of Charter School Authorizers 2025 Conference - SPCSA staff and board members attended the NACSACon conference from October 20 to 23. This leadership conference brings together charter school authorizers from around the country, allowing participants to gain actionable insights and practical tools.

**Agenda Item 5. – Charter School Contract Amendment Applications.** Danny Peltier provided the Authority with recommendations related to charter school contract amendment applications.

- a. Mater Academy of Nevada – East campus and Cactus Park campus Enrollment Cap Increase.
- b. Pinecrest Academy of Nevada – Springs campus Relocation and Enrollment Cap Increase.

**Motion on Agenda Item 5.a. -** Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton proposed a motion to Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve Mater Academy of Nevada’s requests to: increase the enrollment cap at the East campus and Cactus campus as detailed in the recommendation memo. Member Shantee Rosales seconded the motion.

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The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Motion on Agenda Item 5.b.** – Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton made a motion to Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve Pinecrest Academy of Nevada’s requests to: increase the enrollment cap at the Springs campus and relocate the Springs campus to 2850 South Lindell Road, Las Vegas NV, 89146 with the following condition: That the school complete the SPSCA pre-opening process for new schools and campuses for occupation of the new facility space for the Springs campus. Member Shantee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 6** – Academic Performance Ratings. Brandon Gaytán and Mary Holsclaw provided the Authority with an overview and results under the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) and SPCSA Academic Performance Framework for the 2024-25 school year.

- a. Overview of 2024-25 Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) scores and star ratings as issued by the Nevada Department of Education.
- b. Overview of the 2024-25 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework results and ratings.

Board had question to clarify scoring comparison of Title I performance, 74% of schools scored 3 stars or higher? Does this include the CCSD transfer? SPCSA staff responded, correct with the scoring interpretation and none of the CCSD transfers are included with the data.

**Motion on Agenda Item 6** – Member Dr. Aldaba made a motion to adopt the 2024-25 SPCSA Academic Performance Framework results. Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 7 – Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas.**

- a. Remove the Notice of Breach from Nellis Air Force Base elementary school. Katie Broughton provided an overview and provided recommendations to the Authority.

**Motion on Agenda Item 7.a.** – Member Dr. Aldaba made a motion to remove the academic Notice of Breach for Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas Nellis Air Force Base elementary school and return the school to good standing for the 2024-2025 school year. Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 8.a. & 8.b. – CIVICA Nevada Career & Collegiate Academy.** Remove the Notice of Concerns from the elementary school and the middle school. Katie Broughton provided an overview and recommendations to the Authority.

**Motion on Agenda Item 8.a. & 8.b.** – Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton made a motion to remove the academic Notices of Concern for CIVICA Nevada Career & Collegiate Academy elementary and middle schools and return the school to good standing for the 2024-2025 school year. Member Salcido seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 9.a. & 9.b. – Democracy Prep Nevada.** Continue Notice of Breach for elementary school and remove Notice of Concern from the middle school. Katie Broughton provided an overview and

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recommendations to the Authority. Questions from SPCSA Board: Legally we are required to terminate a charter contract if it is three consecutive years, what happens when it only applies to the elementary school? Is there anything that the SPCSA could do to help? SPCSA staff replied: The school and the board have the option to choose to close the elementary school and leave the middle school open. Dr. Gainous would welcome any feedback to help improve the school.

**Motion on Agenda Item 9.a. & 9.b.** – Member Shauntee Rosales made a motion to continue the academic Notice of Breach for Democracy Prep Nevada elementary school for the 2024-2025 school year. Additionally, remove the academic Notice of Concern for Democracy Prep Nevada middle school and return the school to good standing for the 2024-2025 school year. Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 10 – Discovery Charter School.** Issue Notice of Concern to the Hillpointe middle school. Katie Broughton provided an overview and recommendations to the Authority.

**Motion on Agenda Item 10** – Shantee Rosales made a motion to issue an academic Notice of Concern for Discovery Charter School Hillpointe middle school for the 2024-2025 school year. Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 11 – Explore Academy.** Continue Notice of Breach for the middle school. Katie Broughton provided an overview and recommendations to the Authority. Questions from the board: The representative from the school mentioned they are on the right trajectory, but could you briefly share what action steps you are working on? School leadership responded: Teachers are revamping lesson plans expectations, data collections and strategies to help students grow. Building partnerships with our families, we are offering parents/guardians quarterly conferences, also offering forums for our families to provide input. Addressing chronic absenteeism as well. SPCSA Board question: Why hasn't the high school received a rating? SPCSA staff responded: Graduating class has not big enough to receive a star rating.

**Motion on Agenda Item 11** – Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton made a motion to continue the academic Notice of Breach for Explore Academy middle school for the 2024-2025 school year. Member Salcido seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 12 – Founders Classical Academy of Las Vegas.** Issue Notice of Concern to the elementary school. Katie Broughton provided an overview and recommendations to the Authority.

**Motion on Agenda Item 12** – Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton made a motion to issue an academic Notice of Concern for Founders Classical Academy of Las Vegas elementary school for the 2024-2025 school year. Member Dr. Aldaba seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 13 – Freedom Classical Academy.** Reduce Notice of Breach to Notice of Concern for the elementary school. Katie Broughton provided an overview and recommendations to the Authority.

**Motion on Agenda Item 13** – Vice Chair Whitaker made a motion to reduce the academic Notice of Breach for Freedom Classical Academy elementary school to an academic Notice of Concern for the 2024-2025 school

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year. Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 14 – FuturEdge Charter Academy.** Issue Notice of Breach to the elementary school. Katie Broughton provided an overview and recommendations to the Authority. SPCSA board members commented and thanked the school for being accountable and appreciate the school plans on moving forward.

**Motion on Agenda Item 14 –** Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton made a motion to issue an academic Notice of Breach to FuturEdge Charter Academy elementary school for the 2024-2025 school year. Member Shantee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 15 – Honors Academy of Literature.** Reduce Notice of Breach to Notice of Concern for the elementary school. Katie Broughton provided an overview and recommendations to the Authority.

**Motion on Agenda Item 15 –** Member Stern made a motion to reduce the academic Notice of Breach for Honors Academy of Literature elementary school to an academic Notice of Concern for the 2024-2025 school year. Member Dr. Aldaba seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 16 – Imagine Schools at Mountain View.** Remove Notice of Breach from the elementary school. Katie Broughton provided an overview and made recommendations to the Authority.

**Motion on Agenda Item 16 –** Member Dr. Aldaba made a motion to remove the academic Notice of Breach for Imagine Schools at Mountain View elementary school and return the school to good standing for the 2024-2025 school year. Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 17 – Learning Bridge Charter School.** Elevate Notice of Concern to Notice of Breach for the elementary school. Katie Broughton provided an overview and recommendations to the Authority.

**Motion on Agenda Item 17 –** Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton made a motion to elevate the academic Notice of Concern for Learning Bridge Charter School elementary school to an academic Notice of Breach for the 2024-2025 school year. Vice Chair Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 18 – Legacy Traditional Schools.** Remove Notice of Concern for the North Valley elementary school. Remove Notice of Concern for the North Valley middle school. Reduce Notice of Breach to Notice of Concern for the Cadence elementary school. Katie Broughton provided an overview and recommendations to the Authority.

**Motion on Agenda Item 18 –** Member Salcido made a motion to remove the academic Notice of Breach for Legacy Traditional Schools North Valley elementary school and the academic Notice of Concern for its middle school and return both campuses to good standing for the 2024–2025 school year. Additionally, reduce the academic Notice of Breach for Legacy Traditional Schools Cadence elementary school to an academic Notice of Concern for the 2024–2025 school year. Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

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**Agenda Item 19** – Mater Academy of Northern Nevada. Remove Notice of Concern from the elementary school. Katie Broughton provided an overview and recommendations to the Authority.

**Motion on Agenda Item 19** – Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton made a motion to remove the academic Notice of Concern for Mater Academy of Northern Nevada elementary school and return the school to good standing for the 2024-2025 school year. Vice Chair Whitaker seconded the motion. Member Salcido abstained from voting. The vote is as follows: Member Stern, Yes; Member Richards, Yes; Member Shantee Rosales, Yes; Vice Chair Whitaker, Yes; Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton, Yes; Member Dr. Aldaba, Yes; Chair Thigpen, Yes.

7 yes, 0 nays, 1 abstention.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item #20 – Nevada Connections Academy.** Remove Notice of Concern from the high school. Katie Broughton provided an overview and recommendations to the Authority.

**Motion on Agenda Item 20** – Member Dr. Aldaba made a motion to remove the academic Notice of Concern for Nevada Connections Academy high school and return the school to good standing for the 2024-2025 school year. Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 21 – Nevada Prep Charter School.** *Agenda item deferred as School Leaders would like to appear in person at the December 12, 2025, SPCSA Board Meeting.*

**Agenda Item 22 – Nevada Virtual Charter School.** Continue Notice of Concern for the middle school. Katie Broughton provided an overview and recommendations to the Authority.

**Motion on Agenda Item 22** – Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton made a motion to continue the academic Notice of Concern for Nevada Virtual Charter School middle school for the 2024-2025 school year. Member Salcido seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 23 – Quest Preparatory Academy.** Remove Notice of Breach from the elementary school. Katie Broughton provided an overview and recommendations to the Authority.

**Motion on Agenda Item 23** – Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton made a motion to remove the academic Notice of Breach for Quest Preparatory Academy elementary school and return the school to good standing for the 2024-2025 school year. Vice Chair Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 24 – Sage Collegiate Public Charter School.** Elevate Notice of Concern to Notice of Breach for the elementary school. Remove Notice of Concern for the middle school. Katie Broughton provided an overview and recommendations to the Authority.

**Motion on Agenda Item 24** – Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton made a motion to elevate the academic Notice of Concern for Sage Collegiate Public Charter School elementary school to an academic Notice of Breach for the 2024-2025 school year. Additionally, remove the academic Notice of Concern for Sage Collegiate Public Charter School middle school and return the school to good standing for the 2024-2025 school year. Member Dr. Aldaba seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

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**Agenda Item 25 – Silver Sands Montessori Charter School.** Remove Notice of Breach from the elementary school. Katie Broughton provided an overview and recommendations to the Authority.

**Motion on Agenda Item 25** – Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton made a motion to remove the academic Notice of Breach for Silver Sands Montessori Charter School elementary school and return the school to good standing for the 2024-2025 school year. Vice Chair Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.  
**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 26 – Somerset Academy of Las Vegas.** Remove Notice of Concern from the Losee elementary school. Remove Notice of Concern from the Losee middle school. Katie Broughton provided an overview and recommendations to the Authority.

**Motion on Agenda Item 26** – Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton made a motion to remove the academic Notices of Concern for Somerset Academy of Las Vegas Losee Campus elementary and middle schools and return the school to good standing for the 2024-2025 school year. Vice Chair Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.  
**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 27 – Sports Leadership & Management of Nevada.** Continue Notice of Concern for the elementary school. Katie Broughton provided an overview and recommendations to the Authority.

**Motion on Agenda Item 27** – Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton made a motion to continue the academic Notice of Concern for Sports Leadership & Management of Nevada elementary school for the 2024-2025 school year. Member Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.  
**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 28 – Young Women’s Leadership Academy - Agenda item deferred as School Leaders would like to appear in person at the December 12, 2025, SPCSA Board Meeting.**

**Agenda Item 29 – Charter School Contract Renewal Applications.** Danny Peltier provided an overview of the charter renewal applications for the following schools and proposed recommendations:

- a. Beacon Academy of Nevada
- b. Elko Institute for Academic Achievement
- c. Futuro Academy
- d. Nevada Rise
- e. Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada
- f. Somerset Academy of Las Vegas

**Motion on Agenda Item 29.a.** – Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton made a motion to approve the Beacon Academy Renewal Application for a six-year term beginning July 1, 2026, 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.**

**Motion on Agenda Item 29.b.** – Member Stern made a motion to approve the Elko Institute for Academic Achievement Renewal Application for an eight-year term beginning July 1, 2026, and the enrollment caps as outlined above in the recommendation memo. In the event of academic, financial or organizational underperformance, the Authority may impose additional oversight. Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton seconded the

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motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Motion on Agenda Item 29.c.** – Member Dr. Aldaba made a motion to approve the Futuro Academy Renewal Application for a six-year term beginning July 1, 2026, and the enrollment caps as outlined above in the recommendation memo. In the event of academic, financial or organizational underperformance, the Authority may impose additional oversight. Member Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Motion on Agenda Item 29.d.** – Member Stern made a motion to approve the Nevada Rise Academy Renewal Application for a four-year term beginning July 1, 2026, and the enrollment caps as outlined above in the recommendation memo. In the event of academic, financial or organizational underperformance, the Authority may impose additional oversight. Member Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Motion on Agenda Item 29.e.** – Member Stern made a motion to approve the Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada Renewal Application for a seven-year term beginning July 1, 2026, and the enrollment caps as outlined above 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.**

**Motion on Agenda Item 29.f.** - Member Salcido made a motion to approve the Somerset Academy of Las Vegas Renewal Application for a six-year term beginning July 1, 2026, and the enrollment caps as outlined above in the recommendation memo. In the event of academic, financial or organizational underperformance, the Authority may impose additional oversight. Vice Chair Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 30 – Long-Range Calendar.** SPCSA board reviewed the long-range calendar. Executive Director Mackdon encouraged board members to note the board meeting dates and if unable to attend, please let us know as soon as possible. We will let you know as soon as we know of the location for our December meeting.

**Agenda Item 31 – Public Comment #2.**

No public comments.

**Agenda Item 32 – Adjournment at 12:14 pm.**