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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO:	SPCSA Board
FROM:	Melissa Mackedon
SUBJECT:	Executive Director Report
DATE:	November 13, 2026

School Highlight

Doral Academy of Northern Nevada Recognized for Excellence in Civic Education

In September 2026, Doral Academy of Northern Nevada (DANN) was recognized as the inaugural recipient of the Nevada School of Civic Excellence Award, becoming the first school in the state to receive this distinction. The award recognizes DANN's commitment to civic education, meaningful student discourse, and preparing students to become informed and engaged citizens.

Adding to this recognition, DANN educator Sophia Blair was named Nevada's 2026 Gilder Lehrman History Teacher of the Year, further highlighting the school's dedication to excellence in history and civic education.

Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada Students Connect with NASA Astronauts

On November 9, 2026, nine middle school students from Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada are scheduled to participate in a unique educational experience, connecting virtually with astronauts aboard the International Space Station through the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program.

The students will have the opportunity to ask questions directly to astronauts in space, bringing classroom learning to life and inspiring curiosity about science, technology, and space

exploration. This experience highlights the innovative learning opportunities SPCSA-sponsored charter schools provide to students and the importance of fostering meaningful connections between classroom instruction and real-world experiences.

Delinquent PERS Update

The SPCSA received an updated Outstanding Charter Contribution Balances Report on November 2, 2026.

Innovations	
$223,665.60	08/01/2026
$207,218.99	10/01/2026
$228,052.08	11/02/2026

The report also identified Vegas Vista Academy as having an outstanding balance of $161,121.57. SPCSA staff promptly contacted the school.

Democracy Prep Charter School was no longer in the report, indicating that they paid off the outstanding $185,425.92 reported last month.

New Schools Update

The SPCSA is currently supporting six new charter schools in their Year Zero (incubation year) as they prepare for opening in the 2027–2028 school year. These schools include:

- Northern Nevada Wildflower
- Citizens of the World
- Nevada Education and Career Center Academy (NECCA)
- Legal Prep
- Pahrump Valley Academy
- Somerset Carson City

To support a successful opening, SPCSA staff have established recurring monthly meetings with each school, beginning December 1, 2026. These meetings will provide opportunities to monitor pre-opening progress, address challenges, provide technical assistance, and ensure schools remain on track to meet key operational and compliance milestones, including unique conditions set in each charter schools approval.

Additionally, all six schools are required to participate in the SPCSA's 2026–2027 Pre-Opening Training Series, designed to equip school leaders, governing board members, and key staff with the knowledge and tools necessary for a successful launch.

The training series covers critical areas including school governance, open meeting law, ethics, fiscal management, student enrollment, special education, English language learners, federal grants, accountability frameworks, and reporting requirements. Trainings are generally conducted virtually, with attendance and completion tracked by the SPCSA.

Together, the monthly check-ins and required trainings reflect the SPCSA's commitment to proactive oversight and supporting new charter schools in establishing strong academic, operational, and financial foundations before welcoming students.

Current Events

NACSACon 2026

SPCSA staff, Vice Chair Richards, and Member Addis attended the 2026 National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) Leadership Conference, held October 27–29 in Nashville, Tennessee.

This year's conference centered on the theme “Balancing the Equation: Agency, Accountability, and Excellence,” bringing together charter school authorizers and education leaders from across the country to share best practices and strengthen charter school authorizing. Sessions focused on key areas including new school authorization, performance-based accountability, school oversight and evaluation, governance, and decisions related to school expansion, renewal, restructuring, and closure.

The conference provided valuable opportunities for SPCSA staff and Board members to learn from national experts, exchange ideas with fellow authorizers, and explore strategies to strengthen Nevada's charter school authorization and oversight practices.

The SPCSA would also like to congratulate Dr. Katie Broughton on her successful completion of the NACSA Leaders Program, which culminated in conjunction with this year's conference. This nationally recognized professional development program is designed for current and emerging leaders in charter school authorizing and emphasizes leadership development, effective authorizing practices, collaboration, and applied learning. Dr. Broughton's accomplishment reflects her commitment to professional growth and continued excellence in charter school authorizing.

We congratulate Dr. Broughton on this achievement and appreciate her continued contributions to the SPCSA and Nevada's public charter schools.

Upcoming Site Evaluations

The SPCSA encourages Board members to participate in school site evaluations as their schedules permit. Board members are welcome to attend for the full day or for a portion of the evaluation, even if only for an hour.

Our goal is to provide opportunities for each Board member to visit at least two schools during the school year, recognizing that schedules and other commitments may limit availability. We greatly appreciate the significant time and dedication required to serve on the SPCSA Board and value your continued engagement in this important work.

If you are interested in attending any portion of the upcoming site evaluations listed below, please contact Dr. Selcuk Ozdemir at selcuk@spcsa.nv.gov to coordinate arrangements.

Democracy Prep (DPAC)	17-Nov
Futuro Academy	18-Nov
Freedom Classical Academy	19-Nov
Nevada State HS - Henderson/Downtown	1-Dec
Nevada State HS - Northwest	
Nevada State HS - Southwest	2-Dec
Nevada State HS - Sunrise	
Nevada State HS - North Las Vegas	3-Dec
Nevada State HS - Summerlin	
Sports Leadership & Mgmt Academy (SLAM)	8-Dec
Strong Start Academy (ABBREVIATED)	9-Dec
SNTHS	15-Dec