



## NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

**Friday, December 12, 2025  
9:00AM**

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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

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

Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton  
Member Stern  
Member Salcido

#### **SPCSA STAFF MEMBERS**

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

Todd Weiss, Esq., Senior Deputy Attorney General  
Mary Holsclaw, Education Programs Professional

#### **PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY**

AJ Ellis	Adam Johnson	Andrew Scott	Veronica Ramirez
Gil Lopez	Brandi Adams	Erik Greenberg	Linda Jones Easton
Biante Gainous	Maliq Hendricks	Janelle Addis	Josh Kern
LaRita Williams	Mark Gardberg	Sable Mirandi	Grant Hewitt
Mr. Lewis Perlin	Michelle Caird	Jeremy C. Christensen	Justin Brecht
Selena Torres	Patrice Tew	Dr. Tara Raines	Ali Taylor
Nakie Bremmer			

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

Kurt Thigpen, Chair of the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA), called the meeting to order at 9:06 am.

**Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment #1. Written Public Comment is posted online with board documents.**

**Public Comment in person or telephonically by:**

1. Veronica Ramirez, Nevada Prep
2. Samantha Carnavano, Nevada Prep
3. Jennifer Perate, Nevada Prep
4. Ray Fraizer, O180 for Nevada Rise

**Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda**

- a. November 14, 2025, SPCSA Board Meeting Action Minutes

**Motion on Consent Agenda Item 3:** Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Member Salcido 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. The SPCSA site visit team has completed site visits at all six of the former CCSD charter schools, now in the SPCSA portfolio. We want to highlight one of those schools, Odyssey Charter School. Odyssey Charter School serves 2,391 students from K-12. One of the major bright spots for Odyssey is its strong performance on the Nevada School Performance Framework. Both the middle and elementary schools are showing impressive results, with the middle school earning a five-star rating and an index score of 84.5 out of 100. The elementary school also performed very well, receiving a four-star rating with a score of 76.1. What really stands out is that both schools earned a perfect 10 out of 10 on the Closing Opportunity Gaps Indicator in English Language Arts, showing the school’s commitment to supporting all students and helping them grow. Another strength is Odyssey’s expanding Career and Technical Education program. The school currently offers pathways in graphic design and cybersecurity, giving students hands-on experience in high-demand fields. Even more exciting, Odyssey is preparing to introduce a video game design pathway in the near future, creating additional opportunities for students to explore creative and technical career interests
- b. Delinquent PERS payments as of 12/1/25. For a complete accounting of payments, please refer to the “Outstanding Charter Contribution Balance” sheet provided by PERS and included in the board materials.
- c. We officially kicked off our new school’s training on December 11, 2025, with a fiscal policies and procedures training. Next week, we will provide a bylaws training and have our first monthly check-ins with the schools. In January, before our next SPCSA board meeting, we will also have governance standards, student enrollment, and Nevada Open Meeting Law trainings.
- d. Included as a supplemental document to the Executive Director’s report is the “20251212\_SPCSA\_4YrGraduationRate\_final.pdf” document. This presentation provided an overview of graduation rates, specifically examining SPCSA versus state trends, SPCSA outcomes compared to other Nevada districts, and specific metrics for SPCSA schools, including student group trends and Advanced and College and Career Ready diploma rates.

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**Agenda Item 5 – SPCSA Revolving Loan Applications.** Danny Peltier, Management Analyst IV, provided the Authority with recommendations regarding the revolving loan application.

a. Alpine Academy

**Motion on Agenda Item 5.a.** – Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton made a motion to approve the Alpine Academy Loan Fund Application for \$117,000 with the following conditions:

- Allow SPCSA staff to work with the school to make budget revisions based on the available balance in the Revolving Loan account and the number of students enrolled, as long as the total funding does not exceed the lesser of \$200,000 or \$500 per student enrolled at time of funds disbursement;
- By January 15, 2026, submit to SPCSA staff a monthly pro forma budget for each year of repayment (FY27, FY28, and FY29) showing overall cash flow and loan payments;
- By January 15, 2026, provide to SPCSA staff credit references from both the Private Lender (\$300,000 principal issued 2025) and Landlord (RBK Investments LLC);
- By January 15, 2026, provide a detailed contingency plan, identifying potential cost reduction plans (such as potential rent abatement and/or staff reduction), dollar amounts, and applicable timing in the event that aggressive enrollment growth projections do not fully materialize during the loan repayment period;
- Allow SPCSA staff to work with the school to make budget revisions based on the available balance in the Revolving Loan account and the number of students enrolled, as long as the total funding does not exceed the lesser of \$200,000 or \$500 per student enrolled at time of funds disbursement.

Member Shantee Rosales seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 6** – Pahrump Valley Academy Resubmitted New Charter School Application. Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing, provided an overview of the changes to the charter application and made recommendations to the Authority Board. The SPCSA Board had concerns regarding a) Teacher Supervision & Training plans; b) Location of the school leader's residence; c) Financial viability of the school. Dialogue ensued with the school leader, SPCSA staff and the SPCSA Authority Board. SPCSA staff noted that there are conditions in place that the school must meet in order to open. The school leader assured the staff that she would be residing at her residence in Pahrump.

**Motion on Agenda Item 6** – Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton made a motion to approve the Pahrump Valley Academy application as submitted during the 2025 Application Cycle, with the conditions as permitted by NAC 388A.410 and as outlined below, based on a finding that the applicant has met the requirements contained in NRS 388A.249(3) in that the applicant has demonstrated competence in accordance with the criteria for approval prescribed by the SPCSA that will likely result in a successful opening and operation of the charter school. 1. By February 1, 2026, provide evidence that the school has secured a formal partnership with a high-quality classical education partner capable of supporting the faithful implementation of a strong classical education model. 2. By February 1, 2026, submit a revised incubation year budget that clearly reflects all anticipated expenses and is balanced and supported by documentation of any grant, fundraising, or private revenue. Additionally, submit a detailed 3-year financial forecast for the first three years of the charter contract (FY2027, FY2028, and FY2029) that includes enrollment projections, revenue, expenses, and ending fund balances. 3. By March 15, 2026, submit a revised professional development plan that includes staff training in the classical education model delivered by the selected classical education partner. 4. By June 1, 2026, submit a fully executed lease for a facility that will meet the needs of the school for the 2026-2027 school year located in the 89041 89048, 89060, or 89061 zip codes. 5. At the conclusion of the New School Enrollment audit in June 2026, provide evidence that Pahrump Valley Academy has at least 223 students enrolled for the 2026-2027

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school year. 6. By June 8, 2026, submit a board-approved Final Budget that includes revenue based on the fully enrolled student count at the time of board approval and accurately incorporates expenses for the identified facility. 7. Complete the SPCSA pre-opening process for new charter schools, which includes meeting document submission deadlines as required by SPCSA staff, participating in required trainings, and attending monthly meetings. Pursuant to NAC 388A.410, all conditions set forth above must be met for the school to open for the 2026-27 school year. Member Salcido seconded the motion.

Chair Thigpen called for a roll call vote. Chair Thigpen voted no; Vice Chair Whitaker voted yes; Member Dr. Aldaba voted No; Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton voted yes; Member Richards voted yes; Member Salcido voted yes; Member Shantee Rosales voted yes; Member Stern voted no. The motion carries 5 yes & 3 no.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 7 – Charter School Contract Amendment Applications.** Danny Peltier, Management Analyst IV, provided an overview of the application to the SPCSA Authority Board.

- a. Nevada Rise – Request to relocate to a new facility.

**Motion on Agenda Item 7.a.** – Member Richards proposed a motion to Grant the Good Cause Exemption request and approve Nevada Rise's request to relocate to 2101 East Owens Avenue beginning in the 2026-27 school year with the following condition:

- That the school complete the SPCSA pre-opening process for new schools and campuses for occupation of the new facility space.

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

**Motion was approved.**

**Chair Thigpen announced that we will be taking Agenda Items out of order. The order is as follows:**

- a. **Agenda Item 8**
- b. **Agenda Item 10a. & 10b.**
- c. **Agenda Item 15.e.**
- d. **Agenda Item 16**

**Agenda Item 8 – Academies of Math and Science (AMS).** Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director, provided a review of the AMS application to approve AMS as a proven provider under NAC388A.270. SPCSA Board members had questions, asked why AMS is interested in operating in Nevada. AMS, CEO, Erik Greenberg responded that AMS wanted to take their model to areas of need, which they found a need in Clark County.

**Motion on Agenda Item 8** – Member Shauntee Rosales made a motion to designate AMS as a proven provider pursuant to NAC388A.270. Member Dr. Aldaba seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 10.a. & 10.b. – Nevada Prep Charter School.** Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing, provided history and an overview of staff recommendations regarding the academic Notices of Concern be elevated to Notices of Breach for the specified charter school due to the school receiving a 1-star NSPF rating.

- a. Elevate Notice of Concern to Notice of Breach for the elementary school (1-star and *Below Standard*)
- b. Elevate Notice of Concern to Notice of Breach for the middle school (1-star and *Does Not Meet Standard*)

**Motion on Agenda Item 10.a. & 10.b.** – Member Dr. Aldaba proposed a motion to Elevate the academic Notices of Concern for Nevada Prep Charter School's elementary and middle school to academic Notices of

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Breach for the 2024-2025 school year. Vice Chair Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 15.e. – Charter School Contract Renewal Applications.** SPCSA staff provided the Authority with SPCSA staff's recommendations related to charter school contract renewal applications, and the Authority may approve or deny the following charter school renewal applications:

e. Nevada Prep Charter School

**Motion on Agenda Item 15.e. -** Member Dr. Aldaba made a motion for The State Public Charter School Authority, pursuant to its authority under NAC 388A.415(11), to deny the renewal application for Nevada Preparatory Charter School. This determination is based on the documented academic, organizational, and financial performance of the school as set forth in the staff report herein, renewal application materials, performance framework results, site evaluation findings, and all supporting documentation contained in the board packet for this agenda item. The record reflects: (1) a sustained and material decline in academic performance, including multiple consecutive 1-star ratings; (2) repeated failures to meet organizational standards, including Notices of Concern and findings of non-compliance; and (3) failure to meet financial performance expectations, including significant and ongoing fiscal instability, negative fund balances, substantial outstanding liabilities, violations of required financial policies, and Notice of Breach under the financial performance framework. Based on the totality of this evidence and giving greatest weight to academic performance as required by Nevada law, Nevada Preparatory Charter School has not met the standards necessary for renewal under the charter contract and applicable statutes and regulations. Accordingly, Nevada Prep's application for charter contract renewal is denied, and no subsequent charter contract shall be issued to Nevada Prep. Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 16 - Appoint closing administrator** for any schools that were denied a charter contract renewal in agenda item 15 pursuant to NRS 388A.306. Samantha King Powell, Esq., General Counsel provided a review of Josh Kern's qualifications as a closing administrator.

**Motion on Agenda Item 16 –** Member Shauntee Rosales made a motion to appoint Josh Kern of the TenSquare Group as closing administrator for Nevada Preparatory Charter School pursuant to NRS 388A.306, effective immediately upon passage of this motion. With authority vested by this board to carry out all duties required under Nevada law for orderly and compliant closure of the school. The school shall remain open and continue operations through the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year. Member Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Chair Thigpen announced that we would now return to the items on the rest of the agenda.**

**Agenda Item 9 – Young Women's Leadership Academy.** Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing, provided recommendations to the SPCSA Authority to remove the academic Notice of Concern from the middle school.

**Motion on Agenda Item 9 –** Member Shantee Rosales proposed a motion to remove the academic Notice of Concern for Young Women's Leadership Academy 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

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unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 11 – Charter Application and Rubric for 2026 Applications.** Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing, reviewed recommendations regarding revisions to the New Charter School Application and Rubric. The board documents contain a redline version available for review.

**Motion on Agenda Item 11** – Member Richards proposed a motion to approve the New Charter School Application and Rubric effective for the 2026 application cycle. Approve SPCSA staff to add information from and a link to the 2026 Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment once approved. Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 12 – 2026 Demographic and Academic Needs Assessment.** Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director provided the Authority Board with an overview of the 2026 Demographic and Academic Needs Assessment pursuant to NRS 388A.220.

**Motion on Agenda Item 12** – Member Salcido made a motion to approve the 2026 Demographic and Academic Needs Assessment as provided in the attachments to the agenda item. Member Dr. Aldaba seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 13 –TEACH & Eagle Closure Update.** Josh Kern, Closure Administrator, reported on the status of the school closures. Finally nearing completion of responsibilities for TEACH & Eagle. Reviewed closing financial issues regarding PERS. Will send a final report to the SPCSA. Apologized for the delay in closing schools, most of the vendors have accepted the settlement agreements, but there are a few that are still being negotiated.

**Agenda Item 14 – 2025-26 School Year Enrollment Data.** Mary Holsclaw, Education Programs Professional, provided information related to validated enrollment data for SPCSA-sponsored charter schools for the 2025-2026 school year.

**Agenda Item 15 – Charter School Contract Renewal Applications.** SPCSA staff provided the Authority with SPCSA staff's recommendations related to charter school contract renewal applications, and the Authority may approve or deny the following charter school renewal applications:

- a. Democracy Prep at the Agassi Campus
- b. Explore Academy
- c. Freedom Classical
- d. Legacy Traditional Schools

**Motion on Agenda Item 15.a.** – Member Richards made a motion to approve the renewal of the charter contract for Democracy Prep at the Agassi Campus (DPAC) for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2026, as an independently operated charter school, subject to the following conditions:

- By March 2, 2026, DPAC must submit to SPCSA staff evidence of a current, valid agreement with the facility owner or operator and ensure the budget reflects this agreement;
- By March 2, 2026, DPAC must submit to SPCSA staff a sustainable transition plan detailing how the school will secure, preserve, and maintain access to all DPAC historical and operational data, including but not limited to Infinite Campus and related systems.

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- By March 2, 2026, DPAC must:
  - a. Identify all services currently performed by the national CMO; and
  - b. Submit a sustainable transition plan for each service, specifying whether the school will assume the service in-house or transition the service to another qualified provider;
- By March 2, 2026, DPAC must submit to SPCSA staff a sustainable, board-approved operating budget for FY 2027.

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

**Motion was approved.**

**Motion on Agenda Item 15.b.** - Member Shantee Rosales made a motion to approve the Explore Academy renewal application for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2026, and the enrollment caps outlined 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.**

**Motion on Agenda Item 15.c.** - Member Dr. Aldaba made a motion to approve the Freedom Classical Academy Renewal Application for a four-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 Dr. Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Motion on Agenda Item 15.d.** - Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton proposed a motion to approve the Legacy Traditional School Renewal Application for a five-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 Shantee Rosales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was approved.**

**Agenda Item 17 - Long-Range Calendar.** The Board reviewed and discussed its long-range calendar.

**Agenda Item 18 – Public Comment.**

No public comment.

**Agenda Item 19 – Adjournment at 12:43 pm.**