



NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

Friday, May 15, 2026
9:00AM

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Thigpen
Member Addis
Member Richards
Member Shauntee Rosales
Student Representative Odalis Ayala

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Vice Chair Whitaker
Member Dr. Aldaba
Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton
Member Stern

SPCSA STAFF MEMBERS

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

PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Cesserly Rice | Leondrus Wright | Candy F. | Nathan Atkins |
| Lewis Perlin | Abbe Mattson | Dr. Tara Raines | Brandi Adams |
| Josh Kern | | | |

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Roll Call. [00:08:37]

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

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment #1. [00:10:31] Written Public Comment is posted online with board documents. Public Comment in person:

1. Leondrus Wright (Agenda Item #5)

Agenda Item 3 – Consent Agenda. [00:14:09] The following items were reviewed:

- a. April 17, 2026, SPCSA Board Meeting Action Minutes for approval.

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- b. Updated condition deadlines for new schools approved during the 2026 New Charter Application Cycle and deferring opening to the 2027-28 school year.
 - i. Northern Nevada Wildflower Montessori
- c. Charter School Contract Amendment Applications – reduction to enrollment caps.
 - i. Democracy Prep at the Agassi Campus
 - ii. Explore Knowledge Academy
- d. FY27 Transportation Grant
 - i. Alpine Academy

Motion on Agenda Item 3. Member Richards made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Member Shauntee Rosales seconded the motion. Member Addis recused herself from this vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 4 – SPCSA Charter School Governing Body Governance Standards. [00:15:14] Member Richards discussed the Governance Standards adopted by the Authority pursuant to NRS 388A.224 (2024). She reviewed the Standard #6 (bullets 2 & 3)

- Develop and consider school policies and critical decisions transparently and in collaboration with the school community
- Establish effective communication systems and proactively seek robust input and feedback from the school community.

This year we had a wonderful student member, and I would like to say the importance of student voice, it is essential because our students are directly impacted by the decisions we make here (SPCSA Board). It is the students that help us better understand the real experience, challenges, and their needs. When we speak with students and we work towards helping them, it creates a strong connection between leadership, community, transparency, and trust. It drives student engagement, leadership, and responsibility. This governance standard provides opportunity for us to actively listen to our community, listen to their voices, listen to our students, and engage in seeking feedback and alignment to them to align to governance standard six. Our role here is to support our students and our community in operating service of them. So, with that I'd just like to also say thank you for your work this year. We appreciate you. Governance standard #6 really is the work towards making sure our community hears what we think was best for our students and staff, and more importantly that we serve the students that we work every day.

Agenda Item 5 – Executive Director's Report. [00:16:54] SPCSA Executive Director Mackedon provided the Authority with information and updates regarding the following:

a. **School Highlight**

SPCSA staff would like to highlight Explore Academy's peer mediation program, which was observed in action by the site evaluation team during a recent campus visit. The program provides students with a structured and supportive process for resolving conflicts and repairing relationships in a constructive manner. During the student focus group, students spoke confidently and thoughtfully about the mediation process, explaining that it is used frequently and has been effective in helping peers communicate openly, practice active listening, and develop mutually respectful solutions to disagreements.

The peer mediation program not only supports positive conflict resolution but also promotes important student leadership and accountability skills. By emphasizing communication, empathy, and problem-solving, the program contributes to a positive school culture where students feel heard, respected, and better equipped to manage challenges productively. The site evaluation team was

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impressed by the level of student ownership and the meaningful role the program plays in fostering a calm and supportive learning environment.

b. Delinquent schools PERS contributions

Executive Director Mackedon reviewed the schools on the delinquent PERS list.

c. Current events in charter space

SPCSA employee Karen Gordon was recognized by Governor Lombardo during Nevada State Employee Appreciation Week. Karen Gordon has served the SPCSA as an Educational Programs Professional for seven years. Her experience from teaching in the Washoe County School District to holding leadership roles at the Nevada Department of Education brings valuable depth and perspective to her work supporting schools. Karen is a dedicated educator whose commitment goes beyond compliance; she is deeply invested in student success and continuous improvement. She approaches her work with integrity, thoughtfulness, and a solutions-oriented mindset. In addition to her technical expertise, Karen is a trusted colleague and collaborator. She consistently supports her team with professionalism and positivity and meaningfully contributes to agency initiatives. Her impact is evident in the quality of her work and the respect she has earned from both internal and external stakeholders.

As the majority of SPCSA sponsored charter schools conclude their school years this month, we would like to extend our appreciation to both students and staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the year, and wish everyone a safe, restful, and well-deserved summer break.

d. New Charter Applications Update

SPCSA staff will provide an official verbal update at the May 15, 2026, board meeting upon conclusion of the completeness check process. We received 10 new charter school applications. As a result, 6 legally compliant applications will move forward to a full review. Member Addis had a few questions regarding the application process. With regards to the 48 hours offered to complete revisions or corrections if they're needed, how the feedback is provided to the applicants? Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing, responded that it's important to note that within that both within the application document and guidance document, at the end of the documents we have a table that lists all the attachments and all the narrative sections that guide our completeness check. It is something we also share with applicants that they can utilize. Dr. Broughton provided a detailed overview of the process with more detail around the Committee to Form, Board Members and Disclosure forms. We also provide 5 trainings applicants and anyone can participate.

e. Sage Collegiate OML Violation Corrective Action

The SPCSA would like to clarify for the record that the Open Meeting Law violation at issue was committed by the governing body of Sage Collegiate and was not attributable to the SPCSA. The Authority takes compliance with Nevada's Open Meeting Law requirements very seriously and provides annual training to charter school governing bodies and school leaders regarding Open Meeting Law obligations, governance responsibilities, and public transparency requirements. In addition, SPCSA staff remain available throughout the year to answer questions and provide technical assistance related to compliance matters. The information included with the ED report and being read into the record today is being provided solely for purposes of public transparency and to fulfill the corrective action requirements established by the Nevada Attorney General's Office in connection with its resolution of the complaint involving Sage Collegiate.

f. Student Representative Term Ends

May 15, 2026, will be Student Representative Odalis Ayala's final meeting with the SPCSA Board. The SPCSA would like to publicly thank Odalis for her dedicated service during her tenure. Serving on the SPCSA Board is a significant commitment that requires substantial time, preparation, and engagement. Board members must quickly become familiar with complex topics including Nevada charter school law and regulation, academic and organizational performance frameworks, governance

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responsibilities, and accountability systems. Odallis approached these responsibilities with professionalism and thoughtfulness. The SPCSA extends its sincere appreciation for her service and wishes her continued success in her future endeavors.

Agenda Item 6 – Sage Collegiate and NV Prep Closure Plans. [00:29:31] The appointed administrator, Josh Kern, provided a progress report on the closure plans to the Authority pursuant to NRS 388A.306(1)(c). At the time of appointment both schools only had a fraction of the funds necessary to meet their financial obligations to continue operations to the last day and wind down operations. Because of this we need to ensure that priority creditors such as teachers and staff are paid in full before we pay other “unsecured” creditors. Josh Kern stated that because of this he cannot pay “unsecured” creditors until the priority creditors are paid in full. He understands that although this may not seem fair, he wanted to apologize to those creditors and knows this is a hardship to those providing services and to the entire charter school ecosystem. Member Stern had some questions regarding teacher/staff salaries that usually continue after the last day and through the summer. Mr. Kern stated he would do his best to ensure that teachers and staff will be paid in full, so long as funds are available. Executive Director Mackedon commented on why the SPCSA staff have rigid and strict requirements for charter contract authorization and do what we can to avoid these types of situations. When a school is financially struggling, students and staff are losing, as well as small businesses across the state, it is bad for the sector throughout the state.

Agenda Item 7 – Proven Provider Update. [00:42:05] Brandi Adams, COO, provided updates regarding AMS’s work on NV Prep School. Hired founding Principal, she has accelerated our staffing. Twenty positions filled or in an offer status. Had a few positions still open. One open Admin role for Assistant Principal. We think we will be completely staffed by mid-June. As for enrollment, we are at 385 and think we’ll be at the 400 mark by the end of the day. We have 270 outstanding applications. We have room in our Kindergarten classroom for more enrollments. Having our 5th parent meeting coming up. Our 4th parent meeting was mostly attended by new parents. Member Richards asked about the enrollment? We have 800 applications and have 385 fully enrolled, 270 are still outstanding. Our goal is 600 on Day 1, and we are two-thirds of the way there. Member Addis asked what efforts are you doing to get your name out in the community? Dr. Andrea Tee has shifted focus to more outreach by visiting organizations to develop more partnerships. Boy’s & Girl’s Club will be providing before and after school care.

Agenda Item 8 - Feedback solicitation of the SPCSA Language Access Plan as required by SB318. [00:50:29] Executive Director Mackedon presented an overview of the changes to the Language Access Plan for 2026. This plan is to serve constituents working with the SPCSA and are limited in their English proficiency. Any changes to this plan are highlighted in grey. Most of our access is through our complaint process. Today we will solicit any feedback the board may have and open up our public comment period. Please email feedback to Marinna Cutler, Director of School Support at marinnacutler@spsca.nv.gov. We will bring the plan back to the SPCSA Board at our June meeting. Member Stern asked a clarifying question on the first data set, how are we identifying refugees on the second data set. Also, ELL & Language that is spoken what is the data. Executive Director Mackedon will bring back that information at our next board meeting. ELL & Lanuage is identified at the October 1, validation day.

Agenda Item 9 – Long-Range Calendar. [00:55:31] Executive Director Mackedon reminded board members to keep us posted if you have any planned absences.

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Agenda Item 10 – Public Comment #1. [00:56:02] Written Public Comment is posted online with board documents. Public Comment in person or telephonically:

1. Joseph Ferosco – Support Learning Purpose Academy
2. Dr. Dwight Reynolds – Support Learning Purpose Academy
3. Dr. Melvin King – Support Learning Purpose Academy

Agenda Item 11 – Adjournment. [01:04:53] The meeting adjourned at 10:04 am.