



NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

Friday, July 31, 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
Vice Chair Whitaker
Member Addis (Left at 12:55 pm)
Member Turner

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Member Aldaba
Member Salcido
Member Stern

SPCSA STAFF MEMBERS

Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director
Samantha King Powell, Esq., General Counsel
Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing
Marinna Cutler, Director of School Support
Selcuk Ozdemir, Director of Monitoring & Evaluation

Connie Zeller, Nevada Ready Pre-K Consultant
Paige Peck, Fiscal Grants Analyst
Gretchen Pfahler, Education Programs Professional
Dr. Denise Shaw, Education Programs Professional
Todd Weiss, Senior Deputy Attorney General

PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY

Brandi Adams	Josh Kern	Kristen "KC" Guthrie	Kevin Cannon
Michael Martial	Seth Klemper	Teresa Hernandez	Erik Greenberg
Charlie Heaton			

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Roll Call. [00:00:05]

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. [00:01:12] Written Public Comment is posted online with board documents. Public Comment in person or telephonically:

1. None

Agenda Item 3 – Public Hearing [00:01:52] See Board Hearing Action Minutes.

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Agenda Item 4 – Appoint a Closing Administrator. [00:01:19] Samantha King Powell, General Counsel for the SPCSA, was seeking board approval to petition the district court to appoint a receiver pursuant to NRS 388A.303. This will give legal authority to the person appointed as the closing administrator. Ms. King Powell provided information and reviewed the qualifications for Brandi Adams Bressler to be appointed as closing administrator for 100 Academy d/b/a FuturEdge Academy Charter School. Ms. Adams Bressler answered questions from the board. SPCSA board members asked about school leadership, the governing board, and what was planned for the bond issue? The school leadership will remain with KC Guthrie as Principal. There will not be a governing board for FuturEdge during the closure phase. AMS is working with Rosemawr to develop an agreement for the bond.

Motion for Agenda Item 4 – Member Addis made a motion to approve the appointment of Brandi Adams Bressler as the closing administrator for 100 Academy of Excellence, doing business as FuturEdge Charter Academy and authorize the SPCSA staff to petition the district court to convert the closing administrator to a court appointed receiver. Vice Chair Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 5 – Consent Agenda. [01:45:32] The following item(s) were reviewed:
5.a. June 26, 2026, SPCSA Board Meeting Action Minutes for approval.

Motion for Agenda Item 5a – Member Aldaba made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Member Addis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 6 – Executive Director’s Report. [01:46:12] SPCSA Executive Director Mackedon provided the Authority with information and updates regarding the following:

a. School Highlight

The SPCSA congratulated the schools in their portfolio that successfully met the enrollment growth threshold required for the Enrollment Growth and Expansion Adjustment (EEGA) audit. To be eligible for an EEGA funding adjustment, a school must demonstrate at least a 25% increase in enrollment over the prior year. EEGA audits were conducted between June 15-18, 2026, to verify qualifying enrollment growth. The following schools listed below successfully met the eligibility requirements, along with their verified EEGA enrollment counts:

- Vegas Vista Academy 219
- Do and Be Arts Academy of Excellence 211
- WYLEES 229
- Nevada Classical Academy Elko 120
- Academies of Math and Science 444

b. Delinquent schools PERS contributions

The SPCSA announced that both Nevada Preparatory and Sage Collegiate have paid off their PERS balances.

c. Current events in charter space

The SPCSA released the 2026 Proven Provider Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for both in-state and out-of-state charter school operators. The Proven Provider pathway is intended to identify high-quality organizations with a demonstrated record of academic success and organizational effectiveness that are well-positioned to expand educational opportunities for Nevada students. Applications from in-state operators are due September 30, 2026. Out-of-state operators participate in

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a two-phase qualification process designed to ensure that only the highest-performing organizations advance. The Phase I submission is due September 30, 2026. Applicants that successfully meet the Phase I requirements will be invited to participate in Phase II and will have until November 15, 2026, to submit the required materials. The SPCSA established rigorous qualification standards for out-of-state applicants during the initial Proven Provider RFQ process, and that approach successfully identified organizations with strong records of performance.

d. Executive Branch Audit

On July 9, 2026, the Governor's Finance Office, Division of Internal Audits, released its audit of the State Public Charter School Authority, which examined the Authority's oversight of charter school administrative reporting requirements and opportunities to reduce the cost of charter school transportation. The audit's objective was to develop recommendations that improve transparency related to contracted administrative support and reduce transportation costs for Nevada charter schools. The audit included two recommendations, both of which SPCSA accepted. The first recommendation calls for the Authority to strengthen enforcement of charter school reporting requirements. While the audit recognizes improvements in school compliance over the past three years, it concludes that the SPCSA should make greater use of its existing accountability framework to ensure that required reports and certifications are submitted accurately and on time. The SPCSA recognizes the significant compliance responsibilities placed on charter schools, many of which submit more than 200 required reports, certifications, and other deliverables each year. The Authority understands the challenges associated with the volume of reporting required of charter schools and has historically exercised reasonable flexibility when schools encountered isolated delays. The audit underscores, however, that SPCSA must apply its accountability framework more consistently to recurring or material reporting deficiencies. Going forward, the Authority will strive to maintain an appropriate balance between supporting schools in meeting their obligations and ensuring compliance with statutory requirements. The second recommendation encourages the SPCSA to pursue legislation exempting charter schools from vehicle taxes and registration fees. The Authority is actively working in partnership with the Governor's Office and the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles to advance this recommendation during the 2027 Legislative Session. I appeared before the Board of Examiners on July 9, 2026, to answer questions regarding the audit and the Authority's implementation plan. While the audit findings themselves were discussed, many of the questions from the Board centered on broader issues related to charter school oversight and operations rather than the specific audit recommendations.

e. New Member, Victoria Turner

Victoria holds a master's degree in Elementary Education and currently serves as an elementary school principal within the Clark County School District. She is well-known for being a champion of student achievement by restructuring schoolwide systems to ensure safe, transparent learning environments. She has dedicated her career to enhancing professional learning communities, implementing progressive restorative practices, and utilizing data-driven multi-tiered systems of support. As a proven turn-around instructional leader, Victoria has a track record of growing underperforming schools through rigorous progress monitoring, data analysis, and student accountability strategies. She successfully increased her school's star rating under the Nevada School Performance Framework for the first time in her school's history within a two-year time period.

f. Member Shauntee-Rosales

As Member Shauntee-Rosales concludes her service on the SPCSA Board of Directors, we extend our deepest gratitude for her years of dedicated leadership and service to Nevada's students, educators, and families. Member Shauntee-Rosales was first appointed to the SPCSA Board by the Senate Majority Leader in January of 2020. She dedicated over six years to serving on the Authority board.

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Agenda Item 7 a & b – Appointed closing administrator report. [02:08:14] Josh Kern provided final reports for TEACH & Eagle Charter Schools of Nevada. The board will review and discuss the final report at the next scheduled SPCSA Board Meeting. Mr. Kern provided a summary of the school's condition when he was appointed as the closing administrator. Mr. Kern has completed the statutory requirements for school closure. Both schools carry a financial balance in their accounts. He would like feedback on the distribution of the balance. Chair Thigpen asked about using funds from Eagle to offset SPCSA's legal costs. Board members also asked what happens with remaining funds? Mr. Kern let them know that he will leave the decision with what to do with remaining funds to the SPCSA Board and Staff. One issue raised in the report is that both schools' paid principle owed to PERS but did not pay late penalties 9K & 4K. Usually per Nevada law, remaining funds are returned to the state.

Agenda Item 7 c & d – Appointed closing administrator update. [02:28:00] *Chair Thigpen authorized a change in the agenda to remove the Nevada Prep update for another board meeting.* Josh Kern provided an overview of the timeline of the school closure. On 4/14/26, Sage's board voted to relinquish their charter contract. On 4/17/26 the SPCSA governing board appointment him as closing administrator. Every financial decision was made under thoughtful review. Mr. Kern was the sole authorized signatory on the bank accounts. He provided testimony 6/26/26 at the SPCSA board meeting that he had significant concerns regarding a decision by the Sage board to accelerate compensation payment to school leader. However, that decision was made after the appointment of Josh Kern and was not lawful under Nevada law. Also, those actions were inconsistent with the financial troubles that Sage was experiencing. On 5/15/26, Mr. Kern stopped the expedited payments to the school leader. Despite this the school leader prepared checks totaling 25K payable to herself. On 7/6/26, Mr. Kern received an email from the school leader informing him of her actions. Mr. Kern stated that the school leader did not have authority or authorization to make the withdrawals. Mr. Kern requested that the school leader repay the funds immediately and filed a police report on 7/7/26. To date the funds have not been repaid. SPCSA board members asked what the role is for SPCSA staff or board members in this matter? Samantha King Powell, General Counsel for SPCSA, responded by stating that the SPCSA would support Mr. Kern's efforts in the filing with Las Vegas Metro Police and the SPCSA will file a complaint with the Nevada Attorney General's office. SPCSA board members also asked about access to the checkbook and bank accounts. Mr. Kern responded that all operational accounts have been frozen and the bank must receive approval from Mr. Kern's for all transactions. Board members also asked if there is any other way that unauthorized person can obtain access to those accounts and does this cause any delays moving forward? Mr. Kern stated that it shouldn't cause a delay with closing administration actions. He also stated that Nevada State Bank may not have followed protocols. The school leader has been terminated. Board members wanted to know what the SPCSA staff would do going forward? Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director, answered that when we have an extraordinary event, we update our internal processes. The SPCSA is also looking into updating the NRS so we can intervene sooner when we see red flags.

Chair Thigpen announced that the next few agenda items will be taken out of order.

Agenda Item 9 – Proven Provider Updates. [02:55:40] Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director introduced Academies of Math & Science (AMS) to provide their final update. SPCSA gave thanks to AMS for the work that they have done to re-open the school. SPCSA staff will monitor the school's progress. Brandi Adams provided an enrollment update; they have 520 pupils currently enrolled and another 50 viable applications are in progress. Staffing is strong with only 3 vacancies currently. The school held a "Meet the Teacher" night. Parents and families were invited to the school to meet their teachers. They have many upcoming events on the calendar including a Ribbon cutting event on Wed. 8/5/26. Ms. Adams invited the board and staff to attend. The campus is ready and we are very excited about our new playground. SPCSA

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board members had questions regarding financial concerns prior to the AMS re-opening the school. Ms. Adams stated that they have been very careful to keep the budget tight, and with the strong enrollment numbers and building costs, AMS is confident about its financial health. Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director stated that AMS did submit an amended budget that the SPCSA was able to review. Also, AMS completed an Exception Expansion Growth Audit which supports their financial position as well.

Agenda Item 8 – Proven Provider to restart FuturEdge. [03:01:46] Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director, stated that earlier in the meeting we voted to terminate the charter contract with 100 Academy of Excellence d/b/a FuturEdge and appointed Brandi Adams Bressler as closing administrator. Samatha King Powell, General Counsel for the SPCSA reviewed the legal authority that authorizes the SPCSA to take this action. Nevada law authorizes SPCSA to restart a charter school after terminating the charter contract under NAC 388A.347. AMS has been identified as a proven provider. AMS is the only entity approved through the statewide request for qualifications process. The SPCSA board needs to review and vote on the Restart Plan and add a location to AMS' charter contract. The AMS team consisting of Erik Greenberg, CEO; Dr. Charlie Heaton, VP of schools; Dr. Hernandez, Brandi Adams and the current school leader KC Guthrie, are here to answer any questions regarding the restart plan. AMS provided the SPCSA board with a presentation regarding highlights of the restart proposal plan. Phase I - Stabilize, Reset, Rebuild; Phase II - Execute & Align; Phase III - Sustain & Excel. SPCSA board members asked to clarify when year 1 starts for AMS? The response is that Year 1 is the 27-28 SY. The board also wanted to know who the school is for the 26-27 school year. The school will remain FuturEdge this school year.

Motion on Agenda Item 8. Vice Chair Whitaker made a motion to select Academies of Math and Science (AMS) as the entity to restart FuturEdge Academy pursuant to NAC 388A.347(1); Move to approve Academies of Math and Science's FuturEdge Restart Plan as an expedited request to amend the existing SPCSA-sponsored charter contract for expansion pursuant to NAC 388A.347(1)(a); approve the addition of the restarted FuturEdge Academy as an AMS campus beginning with the 2027–28 school year; and authorize SPCSA staff to finalize the charter contract amendment. The charter contract term applicable to the restarted FuturEdge campus will commence with the 2027–28 school year. Approval is subject to timely execution of the amendment and satisfaction of all applicable pre-opening requirements, including the following school-specific conditions: Unique conditions include: 1. By May 1, 2027, provide evidence that a school leader has been identified, and hired at a public meeting compliant with Nevada Open Meeting Law NRS 241. 2. By June 1, 2027, provide evidence of a repayment plan acceptable to Rosemawr addressing 100 Academy, d/b/a FuturEdge Academy's outstanding bond obligations and related facility arrangements. 3. By June 8, 2027, submit a board-approved Final Budget that includes revenue based on the fully enrolled student count at the time of the board approval and accurately incorporates expenses, including the facility costs. 4. Complete the SPCSA pre-opening process for new facilities for the AMS North Vegas campus. If approved, the AMS enrollment caps are outlined in the recommendation memo. Member Addis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 12 – Review of SPCSA Strategic Plan Initiatives and Key Initiatives for 2027 [03:56:05]. Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director, presented a review of the Strategic Plan Initiatives and Key Initiatives for 2027. Chair Thigpen was pleased to see the communication initiative.

Motion on Agenda Item 12 – Member Salcido made a motion to approve the Key Initiatives as presented. Vice Chair Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. **The motion was approved.**

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Agenda Item 10 – Pre-K Program [04:13:09] Marinna Cutler, Director of School Support, Connie Zeller, Nevada Ready Pre-K Consultant & Paige Peck, Fiscal Grants Analyst, presented an overview of the Pre-K programs within the SPCSA Portfolio. They provided statistics that support students attending a Pre-K program are better prepared to enter Kindergarten. Board members asked about the structure of the programs? Also, asked if Pre-K students get priority when enrolling into kindergarten? SPCSA staff responded that it depends on the school. Schools run their programs differently, but the grant requires to operate a minimum of 25 hours per week. Some schools go beyond the minimum requirement. Board members asked about enrollment priorities for students moving from Pre-K to Kindergarten. Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director, responded that Students in Pre-K get priority to enroll at a kindergarten program at their school. They follow their enrollment policies. Ms. Zeller also responded that there is also a vetting process for enrollment. Board members also asked what type of resources are provided for the families. Strong parent component and family engagement survey annually. Each school creates a Family Engagement Plan as well.

Agenda Item 11 – Charter School Application Process [04:32:44]. Dr. Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing, reviewed the Charter School Application Process for the authority board as required per NRS388A.155(2). Board members asked if the applicants are provided with any feedback during the process and what type of support a school receives during the thirty days that a Committee to Form has to correct deficiencies on a rejected charter application. Dr. Broughton stated that they provide feedback on the recommendation memo, and meet and confer with applicants, and are available to provide additional feedback as requested.

Agenda Item 13 – Report on Site Evaluation [05:02:54]. Dr. Selcuk Ozdemir, Director of Monitoring & Evaluation, Gretchen Pfahler, Education Programs Professional and Dr. Denise Shaw, Education Programs Professional reported on the 2026-27 School Year Site Evaluations. Dr. Ozdemir started off by inviting SPCSA board members to join the site evaluation during the school year. He will email a list of schools, dates & times for board members to attend a site evaluation.

Agenda Item 14 – Long-Range Calendar. [05:28:44]. Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director, reminded board members to let us know of any planned absences. On the 2027 calendar note that due to the legislative session, starting in January thru June our meetings will move to the NDE meeting room. Member Salcido asked about the August meeting occurring on a Thursday. Yes, the next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 27, 2026.

Agenda Item 15 – Public Comment #2. [05:30:64] Written Public Comment is posted online with board documents. Public Comment in person or telephonically:

1. Robert Diaz

Agenda Item 16 – Adjournment. [05:33:35] The meeting adjourned at 2:34 pm.