



NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

**Friday, August 27, 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
Member Richards
Member Turner

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Member Salcido
Member Stern

SPCSA STAFF MEMBERS

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

Jackie Working, Education Programs Professional
Megumi Cramer, Education Programs Professional
Alissa Troxell, Grants Analyst

PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY

Samuel Finkelstein	Melissa Almazan	Cesserly Rice	David Sabey
Lisa Schwartz	Cherise Coleman	April Tidwell	Amy Spero
Dayana Videll	Nic Ciccone	Jennifer Ridosh	Candy Farthing
Chris Fartwig	Truman Rowley	Shelly Edwards	Jonathan Cooper
Christina Saenz	Erik Simpkins	Kalohe Danbara	Molly Sircher
Kristi Duenas	Greg Marrero	Nathan Atkins	

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

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

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

1. Jennifer Ridosh
2. Cesserly Rice
3. Truman Rowley
4. Nic Ciccone

Agenda Item 3 - Approval of Consent Agenda [00:03:20]

- a. July 31, 2026, SPCSA Board Meeting Action Minutes for approval
- b. July 31, 2026, SPCSA Order following the public hearing in compliance with the procedures for adjudication under NRS 233B regarding the Termination 100 Academy DBA FuturEdge Charter School
- c. July 31, 2026, SPCSA Public Hearing Action Minutes
- d. Charter School Contract Amendment Applications – Discovery Charter School Request to Change the Name of the School

Motion for Agenda Item 3 – Vice Chair Whitaker made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Member Addis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 4 – SPCSA Charter School Governing Body Governance Standards. [00:03:42] Member Stern of the Authority discussed Governance Standard 1, Focus on Student Growth, Achievement, and Social and emotional Wellbeing. She encouraged board members to lean into Standard 1 when considering approving new charter schools' applications.

Agenda Item 5 – Executive Director's Report. [00:06:11] SPCSA Executive Director Mackedon provided the Authority with information and updates regarding the following:

a. School Highlight

Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas (CASLV) Sandy Ridge Campus received significant recognition in the U.S. News & World Report 2025 Best High Schools rankings, improving substantially in both state and national standings. CASLV credited the achievement to the collective efforts of its students, educators, staff, families, administrators, and Board of Governors, with special recognition for Sandy Ridge Principal Mr. Adem and the campus leadership, teachers, and staff.

b. Delinquent schools PERS Update

The SPCSA received an updated Outstanding Charter Contribution Balances Report on August 3, 2026. For the first time, the report identified Innovations Charter School as having an outstanding balance of \$223,665.60. SPCSA staff promptly contacted the school regarding the reported balance and received a written response. The school's response is included with the Executive Director's Report materials for the Board's review.

c. Current events in charter space

The SPCSA appeared before the Interim Finance Committee on September 13 and the Audit Subcommittee on September 20. A separate agenda item detailing the results and outcomes of the Audit Subcommittee meeting will be included on the next SPCSA Board meeting agenda.

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Melissa Mackedon has been participating in Governor Lombardo's Governor's Organizational Leadership Development (GOLD) Program, an executive leadership development initiative for State of Nevada leaders. The program combines a Hogan Personality Inventory and individualized assessment debrief, executive coaching, and six full-day leadership workshops.

Agenda Item 6 – Closing administrator. [00:13:30]

6a. & 6b. – Final closure report for TEACH & Eagle Charter Schools. Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director of the SPCSA reported that since the July meeting all remaining creditors and payment obligations have been paid. The only remaining work is administrative. The final report demonstrates that earlier intervention is necessary when schools experience significant financial distress. Ms. Mackedon thanked Josh Kern and the staff of The Ten Square Group for the work that they completed. Mr. Kern identified the final closure steps to take place within a week by paying the SPCSA settlement of \$18,000 to cover legal and court fees for the Eagle Charter School closure and return the balance to the Nevada Department of Education and close the bank accounts.

Agenda Item 6c. – Sage Collegiate closure update. [00:20:03]

Josh Kern provided an update with regards to the \$25,000 that was taken from Sage's bank account by former school leader Sandra Kinne. On August 13th, Mr. Kern filed the police report in person with the Las Vegas Metro Police Department. The offence is considered embezzlement and due to the large amount of funds it is classified as a felony. The case has been assigned to the Financial Crimes section.

Motion on Agenda Item 6a. & 6b. – Member Stern made a motion to accept the Closure Report TEACH and Eagle; determine that Joshua M. Kern has satisfactorily completed all duties assigned to him as Closing Administrator for TEACH Las Vegas Charter School and Eagle Charter Schools of Nevada, except for transferring the remaining funds to NDE and closing the schools' bank accounts; and discharge him from all other duties and future liability to the SPCSA arising from those appointments. His remaining duties will end upon completion of the bank-account closures without further Board action. Member Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7 – SPCSA Performance Framework Revisions. [00:25:22] Danny Peltier, Management Analyst Supervisor, provided an overview of the proposed changes to the Organizational Performance Framework. Discussion ensued and board members asked questions.

Motion on Agenda Item 7 – Vice Chair Whitaker made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the 2025 – 2026 Organizational Framework ratings as presented. Member Addis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8 – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). [00:47:35] Jackie Working, Education Programs Professional, Megumi Cramer, Education Programs Professional, Alissa Troxell, Grant Analyst, provided an overview of services that are provided to support the charter schools in the SPCSA portfolio with special education as required by IDEA. Discussion ensued and board members asked questions.

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Agenda Item 9 – State Public Charter School Authority New Charter Applications. [01:29:20]. SPCSA staff presented an overview of the new charter applications and staff recommendations. The SPCSA board may approve or deny the new charter school applications.

9.a. – Legal Prep Charter Academy. [01:29:25] Danny Peltier, Management Analyst Supervisor, provided a detailed overview of the application and ratings by section. Discussion ensued with school leaders, SPCSA board members and SPCSA staff. Sam Finkelstein, Founder and CEO of Legal Prep Charter Academy, and Erik Simpkins, School Leader, were available to provide additional information about the school to the SPCSA board.

Motion on Agenda Item 9a.: Member Salcido made a motion to approve the Legal Prep Charter Academy application as submitted during the 2026 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 November 1, 2026, establish a board in full compliance with the requirements of NRS 388A.320. 2. By November 1, 2026, provide an updated Financial Plan Workbook reflecting the receipt of the Charter School Program (CSP) grant, if awarded. The updated workbook must include the final, confirmed grant award amount. If the grant is not awarded, provide an updated Financial Plan Workbook that includes only confirmed sources of revenue and demonstrates that the school is able to remain fiscally solvent throughout the charter term. 3. By January 1, 2027, provide evidence that the board has approved a Charter Management Organization (CMO) contract that outlines the specific roles and responsibilities of all parties during the incubation year and the first year of operation. This contract must be in compliance with all relevant Nevada laws and regulations. 4. By June 1, 2027, submit a fully executed lease for a facility that will meet the needs of the school for the 2027 – 2028 school year to serve the 89121, 89119, 89120, and 89169 zip codes. 5. At the conclusion of the New School Enrollment audit in June 2027, provide evidence that Legal Prep Charter Academy has at least 68 students enrolled for the 2027 – 2028 school year. 6. By June 8, 2027, 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. Upon approval of any additional grants or the receipt of any additional funding sources, provide an updated Financial Plan Workbook to SPCSA staff. 8. 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 2027-28 school year. Member Turner seconded the motion. Chair Thigpen requested a vote by roll call. Chair Thigpen – Yes; Vice Chair Whitaker – Yes; Member Addis – No; Member Richards – Yes; Member Salcido – Yes; Member Stern – Yes; Member Turner – Yes; 6 Yes and 1 No.

The motion was approved.

Chair Thigpen announced a change in the agenda order.

9d. – Pathways in Education - Las Vegas. [03:38:16] Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing, provided a detailed overview of the application and ratings by section. Discussion ensued with the school leader, SPCSA board members and SPCSA staff. Lisa Schwartz, proposed director, spoke to the board about the school.

Motion on Agenda Item 9d. – Member Richards made a motion to deny the Pathways in Education – Las Vegas application as submitted during the 2026 Application Cycle based on a finding that the applicant has failed to satisfy the requirements contained in NRS 388A.249(3) in that the applicant has failed to demonstrate

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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. Designate Director Mackedon to meet and confer with the applicant. Member Salcido seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The motion was approved.

9b. – Nevada Early College & Career Academy (NECCA). [04:00:50] Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing, provided a detailed overview of the application and ratings by section. Discussion ensued with school leaders, SPCSA board members and SPCSA staff. Amy Spero, Director of Operations, Candy Farthing, proposed Executive Director, April Tidwell, Proposed Board Member, Nathan Atkins, Proposed Board Chair, were available to provide additional information about the school to the SPCSA board.

Motion on Agenda Item 9b. - Member Addis made a motion to approve the Nevada Early College and Career Readiness Academy application as submitted during the 2026 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 November 1, 2026, provide an executed loan agreement documenting the terms and repayment schedule for the \$150,000 loan. Additionally, submit an updated Financial Plan Workbook that incorporates repayment of the loan and demonstrates the school's continued fiscal solvency throughout the charter term. 2. By November 1, 2026, provide an updated Financial Plan Workbook reflecting the receipt of the Charter School Program (CSP) grant, if awarded. The updated workbook must include the final, confirmed grant award amount. If the grant is not awarded, provide an updated Financial Plan Workbook that includes only confirmed sources of revenue and demonstrates that the school can remain fiscally solvent throughout the charter term. 3. By June 1, 2027, submit a fully executed lease for a facility that will meet the needs of the school for the 2027 – 2028 school year to serve the 89030, 89031, 89032, and 89108 zip codes. 4. At the conclusion of the New School Enrollment audit in June 2027, provide evidence that Nevada Early College & Career Academy has at least 135 students enrolled for the 2027 – 2028 school year. 5. By June 8, 2027, 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. 6. Upon approval of any additional grants or the receipt of any additional funding sources not included in the application, provide an updated Financial Plan Workbook to SPCSA staff. 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. This includes but is not limited to ensuring that appropriate school staff members attend relevant trainings related to serving at risk students and special populations, and that the school has approved policies and procedures, including but not limited to parent and student handbook, Special Education, McKinney-Vento, Foster Care, and a staff handbook. Pursuant to NAC 388A.410, all conditions set forth above must be met for the school to open for the 2027-28 school year. Member Salcido seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The motion was approved.

9c. – Nexus Charter School. [05:01:20] Danny Peltier, Management Analyst Supervisor, provided a detailed overview of the application and ratings by section. Discussion ensued with school leaders, SPCSA board members and SPCSA staff. Dr. David Sabey, proposed Executive Director, was available to provide additional information about the school to the SPCSA board.

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Motion on Agenda Item 9c. - Vice Chair Whitaker made a motion to approve the Nexus Charter School application as submitted during the 2026 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 September 25, 2026, if approved by both the SPCSA and City of Henderson, provide written notification to both the City of Henderson and SPCSA identifying which charter school authorizer the Committee to Form intends to proceed with. 2. By November 1, 2026, provide an updated Financial Plan Workbook reflecting the receipt of the Charter School Program (CSP) grant, if awarded. The updated workbook must include the final, confirmed grant award amount. If the grant is not awarded, provide an updated Financial Plan Workbook that includes only confirmed sources of revenue and demonstrates that the school is able to remain fiscally solvent throughout the charter term. 3. By June 1, 2027, submit a fully executed lease for a facility that will meet the needs of the school for the 2027 – 2028 school year to serve the 89015, 89011, 89122, and 89121 zip codes. 4. At the conclusion of the New School Enrollment audit in June 2027, provide evidence that Nexus Charter School has at least 134 students enrolled for the 2027 – 2028 school year. 5. By June 8, 2027, 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. 6. Upon approval of any additional grants or the receipt of any additional funding sources, provide an updated Financial Plan Workbook to SPCSA staff. 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 2027-28 school year. Member Addis seconded the motion. Chair Thigpen requested a vote by roll call. Chair Thigpen – Yes; Vice Chair Whitaker – Yes; Member Addis – Yes; Member Richards – Yes; Member Salcido – Yes; Member Stern – No; Member Turner – Yes; 6 Yes and 1 No.

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 10 – Long-Range Calendar. [06:01:53] Melissa Mackendon, Executive Director, reminded board members to let us know if there is something you would like to see come before the board, and of any planned absences.

Agenda Item 11 – Public Comment #2. [06:02:14] Written Public Comment is posted online with board documents. Public Comment in person or telephonically:

1. None

Agenda Item 12 – Adjournment. [06:02:24] The meeting adjourned at 3:17 pm.