

SPCSA Public Comment — Nevada State High School

Chair and Members of the Board,

My name is Dr. Wendi Hawk. My husband, John, and I have actively supported charter schools in Nevada for more than 25 years. I co-founded Nevada State High School and served as its CEO for 18 years before retiring. We are currently litigating against NSHS, which I disclose for transparency.

Please accept the accompanying supplemental letter for inclusion in the public record, providing supporting evidence and my specific requests for SPCSA action.

I ask the SPCSA to address documented governance failures at NSHS that are separate from our litigation.

- **Open Meeting Law:** The Attorney General found that NSHS violated the Open Meeting Law during the CEO selection process. Three of the five Succession Advisory Team members had professional or financial ties to Melissa McCormick. She was announced as CEO before the Board's subsequent confirmation.
- **Ethics concerns:** Nevada Ethics Commission Stipulated Consent Order 25-148C concerned ethics proceedings involving McCormick and her spouse's contract with the school. I ask the SPCSA to review the underlying records, not merely the resolution.
- **Accountability:** Concerns about retaliation against a staff member, unresolved governance complaints, and access to public records further warrant scrutiny.
- **Prior notice:** The NSHS Governing Body and its legal counsel were alerted to these concerns before proceeding. The SPCSA should examine whether their response reflected a failure of oversight or disregard of known legal obligations.

I request an independent review of these matters, a record identifying the documents reviewed, independent Board training on governance responsibilities, ethics, and open-meeting requirements, and a public determination of what corrective action is warranted.

These concerns were raised with the NSHS Board before it acted, and official findings now exist. The question is not whether the SPCSA has reason to examine this matter, but what action it will take to ensure NSHS complies with the law and protects the students, families, staff, and taxpayers it serves. When a charter school fails to meet its legal and governance obligations, it undermines public trust and damages the credibility of Nevada's charter school sector as a whole.

Thank you for your time.

Supplemental Submission: Request for Independent Review of Governance and Compliance Concerns at Nevada State High School

Chair and Members of the State Public Charter School Authority:

I submit this supplemental letter for inclusion in the public record alongside my public comment concerning governance and legal compliance at Nevada State High School (NSHS). This letter identifies relevant records and clarifies the review and accountability I am requesting.

My husband, John Hawk, and I have supported and helped charter schools in Nevada for nearly 30 years. I co-founded NSHS and served as its CEO for 18 years before retiring. I acknowledge that we are currently litigating against NSHS. The matters raised in my public comment, however, concern NSHS governance and compliance obligations that warrant regulatory scrutiny independent of that litigation.

Individuals Involved

Individuals involved with this complaint include: Melissa McCormick, the NSHS Governing Body members present at the August 7, 2025 meeting - Astrid Perez, Beth Prior, Andy Donahue, Jonathan Via, and Darrell Ward. The five-member Succession Advisory Team involved in the CEO selection process consisted of Board members Jonathan Via and Darrell Ward, and staff members Amy Davis, Tristan Gallego, and contractor, Judy Gugino.

Relevant Records

I respectfully direct the SPCSA to the following records:

1. **Nevada Attorney General's findings — File No. 13897-558, dated September 30, 2026.**
The findings address Open Meeting Law violations associated with the NSHS CEO selection process. Although the findings are not currently posted online, I ask the SPCSA to obtain and review the complete report.
2. **Nevada Commission on Ethics — Stipulated Consent Order 25-148C, dated August 19, 2026.** The order documents two agreed, nonwillful violations of NRS 281A.400(3), involving the execution of the interim CEO's own employment contract and the approval of continued payments under her spouse's contract for medical services to students. The order also specifies remedial measures. I ask the SPCSA to review the order and consider its implications for NSHS governance, ethics compliance, and oversight.

Order: <https://www.ethics.nv.gov/siteassets/ethics.nv.gov/content/opinions/25-148-orders-in-re-mccormick-consent-order-25-148c-2026-08-19-2026.pdf>

Commission opinions and orders: <https://www.ethics.nv.gov/opinions/>

3. **NSHS Governing Body meeting records — August 7, 2025.** These records include the meeting minutes and public comments concerning the CEO confirmation process. John

Hawk submitted concerns regarding the CEO selection process at least three days before the Board's action. His statement documents concerns raised before the confirmation.

Meeting records: <https://nevadastatehs.com/nevada-state-high-school-public-meetings-24/>

Flagship meeting minutes, pages 3–6: <https://nevadastatehs.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Approved-Board-Meeting-Minutes-Flagship-08.07.2025.pdf>

These records document concerns raised before the Board's actions, as well as subsequent official findings. I ask the SPCSA to review the evidence and determine whether further action is needed.

Requested Review and Written Response

I respectfully request that the SPCSA:

- Independently review these concerns and the relevant Attorney General's findings in File No. 13897-558, Ethics Commission Stipulated Consent Order 25-148C, and NSHS Board records.
- Provide a written response identifying its findings, the records reviewed, and actions taken or planned, and provide access to the reviewed materials as permitted by law.
- Evaluate whether the Board's actions and response demonstrate adequate oversight and compliance with applicable legal and regulatory obligations.
- Determine whether, corrective action, additional oversight, Board reconstitution, or independent Board training on ethics, open-meeting requirements, and governance responsibilities is warranted.

I ask that this submission and the accompanying public comment be retained as part of the official public record.

These concerns were raised before the relevant Board actions, and official findings now exist regarding Open Meeting Law compliance and ethics violations. I ask the SPCSA to assess these matters independently and explain what further action, if any, is necessary to protect students, families, staff, and Nevada taxpayers. Failures to meet legal and governance obligations at an individual charter school undermine public trust and weaken confidence in Nevada's charter school system as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Wendi Hawk

Co-Founder and Retired CEO

Nevada State High School

702-332-5063

Hawkw1970@gmail.com