



NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

**Friday, January 23, 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
Student Representative Ayala

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Member Dr. Aldaba
Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton
Member Richards (2nd half of the meeting)

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

Erik Greenberg	Katie Determan	Eric Duran-Valle	Krista Waters
Brandi Adams	Robert Briggs	Gilbert Lopez	Kat Kruper
Tiffany Howard	Lindsay Kilburn	Benjamin Feinstein	Josh Kern
Amy Davis	Melissa McCormick	Jonathan Via	Ali Taylor
Emily Polich	John Tira	Christa Fiakiewicz	Andrew Davis
Abraham Gomez	Lewis Perlin	Jami Austin	Andrew Scott
Shambrion Treadwell	Kaylene Talens	Renisha O'Donnell	Sandra Kinne
Jennifer Braster	Flynn Stern	Tiffany Curtis	Dr. Tara Raines
Michelle Caird	Carl C. Romm	Josh Padilla	

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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 9:00 am.

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

1. No public comment

Agenda Item 3 – Hearing for the Adoption of Regulations of the State Public Charter School Authority as proposed in LCB File #R080-24. Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director, reviewed the changes in provisions and language for the SPCSA.

Motion on Agenda Item 3: Vice Chair Whitaker made a motion to adopt the Regulations as proposed in LCB File #R080-24. Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 4 – Consent Agenda

- a. December 12, 2025, SPCSA Board Meeting Action Minutes
- b. Acing Accountability Report
Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton had some questions about how the SPCSA handles the areas in the report that fell short of meeting goals. SPCSA staff responded that NDE collects information directly from the charter schools, so there isn't much context in the reports. The response for the two areas that were below standard: Charter Schools are not required to use curriculum on the state approved list. The curriculum Charter Schools use does align with state standards. As for the other item - having a specific number of licensed teachers, a problem across the state. We hope that teacher raises will help improve the rate of licensed teachers at Charter Schools.
- c. Charter School Contract Amendments
 - i. Do and Be Arts Academy of Excellence
 - ii. Vegas Vista Academy

Motion on Consent Agenda Item 4: Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice Chair Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 5 – SPCSA Charter School Governing Body Governance Standards. Chair Thigpen reviewed Governance Standards Purpose and focused on standard #2, Ensure an Effective and Well-Run Organization, ensure the school has strong operational plans for facilities, food services, transportation, security, and emergency preparedness.

Agenda Item 6 – Executive Director's Report

Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director, provided the Authority Board with the Executive Director's report and introduced the SPCSA's newest board member, Janelle Addis. Member Addis introduced herself and provided a brief background for the record.

- a. This month, we would like to highlight Coral Academy of Science, specifically the Eastgate campus. A notable strength at CASLV Eastgate is the recent purchase of the school building, which provides long-term stability and a stronger sense of permanence for the school community. In addition, the development of a new playground has been a highly collaborative effort. Leaders intentionally sought input from students, families, and staff on the playground design, incorporating their ideas on safety,

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accessibility, and opportunities for active play. Students and community members were also involved in aspects of the playground's construction and implementation, further deepening their connection to the campus.

- b. Delinquent PERS payments as of 1/25/26. 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. New Schools Update. Somerset Academy Carson City has requested, and I have approved, a deferral until the 2027-2028 school year. The board has not been able to find a suitable facility. They are actively looking at multiple properties, but none of them will be ready for an August 2026 start.
- d. Pre-K. The SPCSA applied for \$1,555,000 in Early Childhood Facilities Grant funding from the Nevada Department of Education and was awarded \$1,339,471. The money will be distributed among five schools to develop, expand, or improve pre-k facilities. There are several facility requirements that can be a barrier for charter schools that don't receive any facilities funding. Board members had some questions for SPCSA staff. Melissa Mackedon will bring additional information to the next scheduled board meeting.
- e. Growth Management Plan. In 2019, the Nevada Legislature passed AB 462, which updated the authorizing practices for charter school sponsors, including a requirement for the SPCSA to establish a plan to manage the growth of charter schools in Nevada. In response, the SPCSA Growth Management Plan was created, which sets forth the status of existing charter schools and a 5-year projection of anticipated growth in the number of charter schools. This plan must be updated every 2 years. In the January 2026 update, staff projects growth in new charter schools and additional campuses for existing schools, grade-level and other enrollment expansion, and anticipated charter renewals over the next five years. In addition, as required by statute, statewide student academic performance is considered. Also included is an assessment of relevant policies, procedures, capacity, and resources to support growth management. The Growth Management Plan will support SPCSA in maintaining strong academic performance across its schools while continuing to expand statewide charter school options that serve students from all backgrounds.

Agenda Item 7 – Nevada Prep Update

- a. Greenflash Forensic Auditors presented the findings of its forensic audit based on "whistleblower allegations". Many of the allegations included in the whistleblower complaints were unsupported by the evidence. The audit was impeded by the lack of documentation, overall lack of quality and record keeping. Whistleblowers were not forthcoming with requested information.
- b. Josh Kern, Closing Administrator, with the TenSquare Group presented his Preliminary Report. Three areas stood out: 1) NV Prep was insolvent and operating with numerous unsafe conditions and unlawful activities. 2) NV Prep faces significant staffing, human resource, and capacity challenges. Some of these issues have been addressed while others are ongoing. 3) Prior to the Closing Administrator appointment misconduct by the former leadership and Board members placed the school in an untenable situation and raise legal and ethical questions that must be addressed. Authority Board Members, SPCSA Staff and Josh Kern had in depth dialogue. Josh Kern will attend the next board meeting with another update and is continuing to meet with SPCSA staff daily.

Agenda Item 8 – Academies of Math and Science (AMS). Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director, introduced AMS and stated that SPCSA staff have reviewed the restart plan and will make recommendations. AMS was approved at the SPCSA's December 12, 2025, board meeting as a "proven provider". AMS presented a plan specifically for restarting Nevada Prep Charter School pursuant to NAC 388A.270. AMS representatives Brandi Adams, COO, Katie Determan, CFO, Kristina Winters, CAO/Superintendent, along with Board Members were present. Also present from AMS was Erik Greenberg & Robert Briggs. AMS presented

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their academic plan and approach. Board Members for AMS also spoke in support of the school and restart plan.

Motion on Agenda Item 8 – Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton made a motion to approve Academies of Math and Science as the restart provider for Nevada Preparatory Charter School, subject to the execution of a new charter contract and completion of all pre-opening requirements and conditions. Unique conditions include:

1. By April 1, 2026, establish a board in full compliance with the requirements of NRS 388A.320.
2. By May 1, 2026, provide evidence that a school leader has been identified, and hired at a public meeting compliant with Nevada Open Meeting Law NRS 241.
3. By June 1, 2026, provide evidence that the board has approved a CMO contract that outlines the specific roles and responsibilities of all parties during the incubation period and through the original terms of the contract. This contract must be in compliance with all relevant Nevada laws and regulations
4. By June 1, 2026, submit a fully executed lease or purchase agreement for the facility.
5. By June 8, 2026, 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.
6. At the conclusion of the New School Enrollment audit in June 2026, provide evidence that AMS Nellis has at least 450 students enrolled for the 2026 – 2027 school year.
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.

Member Addis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9 – Financial Performance Framework Ratings for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year. Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing, presented the ratings for 2024-25. Dr. Broughton provided an overview of the ratings and metrics, and high-level rating analysis and summary.

Motion on Agenda Item 9 – Vice Chair Whitaker made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2025 SPCSA Financial Performance Framework results provided in the 2024-25 Financial Performance Ratings Report. Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 10 - Alpine Academy – Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing and SPCSA staff recommended a Notice of Concern be issued to Alpine Academy due to the ratings on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework for fiscal year 2024-2025.

- a. Issue a financial Notice of Concern to Alpine Academy

Motion on Agenda Item 10 – Member Dr. Aldaba made a motion to Issue a Notice of Concern under the Financial Performance Framework for Alpine Academy. Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 11 - Discovery Charter School – Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing and SPCSA staff recommended the Notice of Concern be removed from Discovery Charter School due to the improved ratings on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework for fiscal year 2024-2025.

- a. Remove the financial Notice of Concern from Discovery Charter School

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Motion on Agenda Item 11 - Vice Chair Whitaker proposed the financial Notice of Concern from Discovery Charter School and return the school to financial good standing. Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 12 – Equipo Academy. Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing and SPCSA staff recommends the Notice of Concern be removed from Equipo Academy due to the improved ratings on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework for fiscal year 2024-2025.

- a. Remove the financial Notice of Concern from Equipo Academy

Motion on Agenda Item 12 – Member Dr. Aldaba proposed a motion to remove the financial Notice of Concern from Equipo Academy and return the school to financial good standing. Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 13 - Explore Academy – Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing and SPCSA staff recommends the Notice of Breach be continued for Explore Academy due to the ratings on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework for fiscal year 2024-2025.

- a. Continue the financial Notice of Breach for Explore Academy

Motion on Agenda Item 13 – Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton proposed a motion to Continue the Notice of Breach under the Financial Performance Framework for Explore Academy and require the school to participate in ongoing financial oversight as outlined by SPCSA staff. Vice Chair Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 14 - Nevada State High School Flagship – Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing and SPCSA staff recommends a Notice of Concern be issued to Nevada State High School Flagship due to the ratings on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework for fiscal year 2024-2025.

- a. No action for Nevada State High School Flagship.

Agenda Item 15 - Nevada Prep Charter School – Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing and SPCSA staff recommends the Notice of Breach be continued for Nevada Prep Charter School due to the ratings on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework for fiscal year 2024-2025.

- a. Continue the financial Notice of Breach for Nevada Prep Charter School.

Motion on Agenda Item 15 – Member Dr. Aldaba made a motion to Continue the Notice of Breach under the Financial Performance Framework for Nevada Prep Charter School and require the school to participate in ongoing financial oversight as outlined by SPCSA staff. Dr. Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 16 - Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada – Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing and SPCSA staff recommends the Notice of Concern be removed from Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada due to the improved ratings on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework for fiscal year 2024-2025.

- a. Remove the financial Notice of Concern from Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada.

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Motion for Agenda Item 16 – Vice Chair Whitaker proposed a motion to Remove the financial Notice of Concern from Pinecrest Academy of Northern Nevada and return the school to financial good standing. Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 17 - Sage Collegiate Public Charter School – Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing and SPCSA staff recommends the Notice of Breach be continued for Sage Collegiate Public Charter School due to the ratings on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework for fiscal year 2024-2025.

- a. Continue the financial Notice of Breach for Sage Collegiate Public Charter School

Motion on Agenda Item 17 – Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton made a motion to Continue the Notice of Breach under the Financial Performance Framework for Sage Collegiate Public Charter School and require the school to participate in ongoing financial oversight as outlined by SPCSA staff. Member Dr. Aldaba seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 18 - Vegas Vista Academy – Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing and SPCSA staff recommends no action for Vegas Vista Academy due to the ratings on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework for fiscal year 2024-2025.

- a. No Action for Vegas Vista Academy

Agenda Item 19 - Young Women's Leadership Academy – Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing and SPCSA staff recommends the Notice of Concern be continued for Young Women's Leadership Academy due to the ratings on the SPCSA Financial Performance Framework for the fiscal year 2024-2025. Any school remarks under this item will be limited to a maximum of five minutes.

- a. Continue the financial Notice of Concern for Young Women's Leadership Academy

Motion on Agenda Item 19 – Member Dr. Holmes-Sutton made a motion to Continue the Notice of Concern under the Financial Performance Framework for Young Women's Leadership Academy. Vice Chair Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was approved.

Agenda Item 20 – SPCSA Annual Review and Overview of the SPCSA-Sponsored Public Charter Schools. Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director, provided the Authority with the SPCSA's Annual Report regarding SPCSA-Sponsored Public Charter Schools and progress towards meeting strategic goals. Information included a summary of Nevada's Department of Education's Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) results, state assessments, graduation rates, and demographic information compared to statewide and the school district information.

Agenda Item 21 – Long-Range Calendar. The Board reviewed and discussed the long-range calendar. Please note to give notice for planned absences. The SPCSA staff will assign board members for the review of Governance Standards.

Agenda Item 22 – Public Comment #2.
No public comment.

Agenda Item 23 – Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 1:11 pm.