NEVADA STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

Friday, October 9, 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 Richards
Member Addis
Member Turner
Student Representative Noll

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY
Member Dr. Aldaba
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
Brettani Weinhold, Education Programs Professional
Alissa Troxell, Grants Analyst

PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY

Ryan Larson	Janice Henry	Erica O'Connor	Benjamin Feinstein
Deborah Earl	Carey Roybal-Benson	Eric Duran-Valle	Emily Bassier
Loren Graves	Wendi Hawk	Ryan Reeves	Tony Gerasi
Lewis Perlin	Brandi Adams	M. Jenkins	

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Roll Call. [00:00:14]
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. [00:02:10] Written Public Comment is posted online with board documents. Public Comment in person or telephonically:

1. Ryan Larson (Agenda Item 4)

Agenda Item 3 - Approval of Consent Agenda [00:06:20]

a. August 27, SPCSA Board Meeting Action Minutes for approval
b. Updated Financial Performance Framework Results for Fiscal Year 2025: Battle Born Academy.

c. Josh Kern provided written update to the Authority pursuant to NRS 388A.224 (2024) regarding Sage Collegiate & Nevada Preparatory Academy.

Motion for Agenda Item 3 – Member Addis made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Member Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 4 - SPCSA Charter School Governing Body Governance Standards. [00:07:02] Member Turner of the Authority discussed Governance Standard 1 – Focus on Student Growth, Achievement, and Social and Emotional Wellbeing. Charter Schools are responsible for academic achievement and student well-being. This should be the North Star for governing bodies. Standard 1 is the foundational anchor.

Agenda Item 5 – SPCSA Vice Chair Whitaker resigned his seat on the State Public School Authority Board. [00:09:50] Election of a Vice Chair for the SPCSA. Member Salcido made a motion to nominate Member Richards for the Vice Chair position.

Motion on Agenda Item 5 – Member Salcido made a motion to appoint Member Richards as the Vice Chair for the SPCSA. Member Dr. Aldaba seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 6 – Executive Director's Report. [00:12:27] SPCSA Executive Director Mackedon provided the Authority with information and updates regarding the following:

a. School Highlight

This year, the SPCSA recognized the significant academic progress demonstrated by several SPCSA sponsored schools. In 2026, 11 schools statewide improved by two or more stars on the Nevada School Performance Framework, and four of those 11 schools are SPCSA-sponsored schools:

- Learning Bridge Charter School
- Founders Academy of Las Vegas
- Discovery Charter School – Hillpointe
- Silver Sands Montessori

The SPCSA also celebrated Strong Start Academy Elementary School, which improved by one star and earned a 5-Star rating for the first time.

These accomplishments reflect much more than a change in a star rating. They represent the sustained work of school boards, leaders, educators, staff, students, and families who remained focused on improving outcomes for students. Significant academic improvement requires strong governance, thoughtful leadership, effective instruction, and a schoolwide commitment to continuous improvement.

The SPCSA recognizes the tremendous effort behind these results and congratulates each of these school communities on their progress. SPCSA is especially grateful to the board members and school staff who have maintained high expectations, responded to performance data, and continued the difficult day-to-day work necessary to improve opportunities and outcomes for Nevada students.

b. Delinquent schools PERS Update

Innovations & Democracy Prep Charter School have been identified as having delinquent PERS balances.

c. Executive Order 2026-003 and Review of Charter School Regulations.

Executive Director Mackedon provided an update on Governor Lombardo's Executive Order

2026-003 and the SPCSA's continuing review of regulations affecting Nevada's public charter schools.

Governor Lombardo issued Executive Order 2026-003 on August 17, 2026, directing state agencies to review existing regulations to ensure that they are concise, transparent, relevant, efficient, and streamlined. This builds on the regulatory review initiated under Executive Order 2023-003. The SPCSA is directly responsible for 13 regulations in the Nevada Administrative Code related to public charter schools. SPCSA staff previously reviewed those regulations as part of the earlier regulatory review, and the resulting amendments, R080-24, were approved by the Legislative Commission on February 26, 2026. Our review is initially focusing on two areas that are particularly relevant to charter school operations.

The first is charter school insurance requirements under NAC 388A.190. That regulation was last updated in 2014. We believe there is an opportunity to modernize those requirements so that schools continue to maintain appropriate levels of insurance protection while also ensuring that the requirements remain financially feasible.

The second area is charter school financial regulations under NAC 387.600 through 387.780. These regulations apply to charter schools and the University School for Profoundly Gifted Pupils, and many have not been updated since 2009 or 2014. Nevada's education funding system and financial practices have changed considerably since then, including the transition to the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan. We want to make sure the regulations accurately reflect the state's current funding structure, financial practices, and reporting requirements.

It is also important to note that some work in this area is already underway. NDE's regulatory index identifies proposed changes within this section of NAC Chapter 387, including the proposed repeal of NAC 387.710, concerning annual capital improvement reporting, amendments to NAC 387.715, concerning budget contents, and repeal of NAC 387.750, concerning reporting of lobbying expenditures. Those changes are currently identified as being in the drafting process under R163-26.

The SPCSA is also asking our charter school community and other stakeholders to participate in this process. Recommendations may be submitted to the SPCSA through October 29, and stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide recommendations at the next SPCSA Board meeting. We are asking that recommendations identify the specific NAC provision and explain why it should be amended or repealed.

From there, the process will depend on which entity has regulatory authority. For regulations under SPCSA's authority, we will determine whether amendments or repeals are appropriate and proceed through the applicable regulatory process. For regulations adopted by NDE or the State Board, we will provide our recommendations to NDE and work collaboratively with them to evaluate and pursue appropriate changes.

This is ultimately an opportunity to modernize the regulatory framework for Nevada's charter schools, not simply to eliminate regulations. We want to preserve regulations that provide meaningful accountability and protections while identifying provisions that are outdated, duplicative, unclear, unnecessarily burdensome, or no longer aligned with current charter school operations.

The SPCSA has identified some initial changes, but the review is ongoing. The SPCSA anticipates bringing additional information back to the Board as stakeholder feedback is received and specific regulatory changes are developed.

d. New Schools Update. Nexxus Academy submitted charter school applications to both the SPCSA and the City of Henderson. Following the SPCSA Board's approval of the school's application at our last meeting, Nexxus Academy had approximately 30 days to determine which approved authorizer it would ultimately move forward with. Nexxus Academy informed the SPCSA that it has elected to proceed with the City of Henderson as its charter school sponsor. We wish the Nexxus Academy team well as they move forward with the City of Henderson and work toward opening and serving students and families in the community.

e. Current Events.

Melissa Mackedon provided an update on an emergency regulation related to Pupil-Centered Funding Plan payments. The Governor endorsed an emergency regulation approved by Superintendent Wakefield that temporarily changes how NDE calculates the enrollment used for the adjusted base per-pupil portion of PCFP payments. The regulation was made effective September 28 and, under Nevada law, can remain in effect for no more than 120 days. The purpose is to mitigate the immediate fiscal impact of declining enrollment. NDE determined that declining enrollment could otherwise result in reductions in force, disruption of services to students, and negative impacts on student learning. The emergency regulation applies to school districts, public charter schools, and university schools for profoundly gifted pupils experiencing enrollment declines. For charter schools, the practical effect is that the adjusted base per-pupil calculation will temporarily use the greater of two enrollment figures: the school's current applicable quarterly enrollment or the enrollment projection used in the legislatively approved FY 2027 PCFP model. The regulation itself describes this as using the legislatively approved enrollment count in lieu of the current quarterly count when enrollment has declined. Based on NDE's September 30 discussion with charter schools, we understand that approximately 10 charter schools are expected to receive additional funding as a result of this methodology. Those schools would effectively be funded using the higher legislatively approved enrollment projection rather than the lower current enrollment figure for purposes of the adjusted base per-pupil component.

Budget. Denise Frohlich and Melissa Mackedon presented the SPCSA's budget request to the Governor's Office of Finance and Legislative Counsel Bureau fiscal staff on September 23. At this point, the budget request remains embargoed, so we are not able to discuss the specific requests or amounts included in it. The details will remain confidential until Governor Lombardo releases his final Executive Budget.

Education Service Center Statewide Working Group. Melissa is participating in the statewide working group, which meets a couple of times each month to review Nevada's existing education reporting requirements and prioritize reports or data collections that could be eliminated, suspended, or consolidated. The goal is not to reduce meaningful accountability or transparency, but to identify duplicative or low-value reporting and opportunities to use information the state already collects. The work also considers process changes that may allow Nevada to "collect once, report multiple times." The working group has also recommended suspending two additional reports: the annual Physical Conditions of Schools Report and the financial aid activities report submitted by districts and charter schools to the Treasurer's Office. The analysis concluded that the financial aid report, in particular, is not being used to inform decisions and duplicates other ongoing efforts related to FAFSA completion and financial-aid outreach. From the SPCSA perspective, she will continue participating in this work to ensure

that the charter school perspective is represented, particularly where reporting requirements apply to both school districts and charter schools. The broader objective is to preserve information that is necessary for transparency, accountability, and decision-making while reducing duplicative administrative work that does not add corresponding value. The goal of the ESC is to reduce the time burden of reporting requirements by 50%, or 2750 hours.

Agenda Item 7 – Closing administrator. [00:26:50]
Brandi Adams provided the SPCSA board with an update on FuturEdge. Challenging obtaining the necessary documentation from SSS. Also discussed issues with a bank account controlled by SSS. Ms. Adams indicated that family engagement is going well.

Agenda Item 8 – Indicators of Distress. [00:41:05]
Aimee Evans of WestEd presented findings from research that they conducted on failing charter schools. An overall theme for failed charters schools is not having an engaged governing board with strong governance oversight.

Agenda Item 9 – 2025-26 Organizational Performance Framework Results. [01:42:25] Danny Peltier, Management Analyst Supervisor, provided an overview of the 2025-26 Organizational Performance Framework results.

Motion on Agenda Item 9 – Member Salcido made a motion to accept the 2025 – 2026 Organizational Framework results as presented and delegate to SPCSA staff the authority to provide final results to governing boards of each charter holder in the coming weeks. Member Addis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 10 – Alpine Academy. [02:11:52] Danny Peltier, Management Analyst Supervisor, provided an overview of the results from the Organizational Performance Framework for school year 2025-26. School leader, Lewis Perlin discussed the action that the school has taken and/or will take to correct the findings.

Motion on Agenda Item 10 – Member Salcido made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to issue a Notice of Concern to Alpine Academy under the organizational performance framework for the 2025-26 school year. Member Turner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 11 – Equipo Academy. **[02:27:05]** Danny Peltier, Management Analyst Supervisor, provided an overview of the results from the Organizational Performance Framework for school year 2025-26. School leader, Emily Bassier discussed the actions that the school has taken to improve the results from the 2025-26 school year and moving forward.

Motion on Agenda Item 11 – Vice Chair Richards made a motion to remove the Organizational Notice of Concern for Equipo Academy and return the school to good standing. Member Addis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 12 – Rainbow Dreams Academy. [02:36:22] Danny Peltier, Management Analyst Supervisor, provided an overview of the results from the Organizational Performance Framework for school year 2025-26. School leader, Janice Henry discussed the action that the school has taken and/or will take to correct the findings.

Motion on Agenda Item 12 – Member Dr. Aldaba proposed a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to issue a Notice of Concern to Rainbow Dreams under the organizational performance framework for the 2025-26 school year. Member Addis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 13 – Signature Prep. **[02:48:37]** Danny Peltier, Management Analyst Supervisor, provided an overview of the results from the Organizational Performance Framework for school year 2025-26. School leaders, Carey Roybal-Bensen and Deborah Earl discussed the action that the school has taken and/or will take to correct the findings.

Motion on Agenda Item 13 – Member Turner proposed a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to issue a Notice of Concern to Signature Prep under the organizational performance framework for the 2025-26 school year. Member Salcido seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 14 – Vegas Vista Academy. **[03:03:52]** Danny Peltier, Management Analyst Supervisor, provided an overview of the results from the Organizational Performance Framework for school year 2025-26. School leaders, Dr. Ben Feinstein and Eric Duran-Valle discussed the actions that the school has taken and/or will take to correct the findings.

Motion on Agenda Item 14 – Member Richards made a motion to approve the recommendation of SPCSA staff to issue a Notice of Concern to Vegas Vista under the organizational performance framework for the 2025-26 school year. Member Salcido seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 15 – 2027 Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment. [03:22:33] Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director provided a summary of the updates to the 2027 Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment.

Motion on Agenda Item 15 – Member Addis made a motion to approve the 2027 Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment. Member Turner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 16 – 2027 Charter Application and Rubric. **[03:25:30]** Katie Broughton, Director of Authorizing provided a summary regarding changes to the 2027 Charter Application and Rubric.

Motion on Agenda Item 16 – Member Addis proposed a motion to approve the New Charter School Application and Rubric effective for the 2027 application cycle. Approve SPCSA staff to add information from and a link to the 2027 Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment once approved. Member Turner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 17 – Assembly Bill 517 (2023). **[03:39:44]** Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director, provided findings from the audit and the SPCSA responses.

Agenda Item 18 – Title I & School Improvement. **[04:02:17]** *Melissa Mackedon made note that the title of this agenda item was incorrect. Chair Thigpen requested that the agenda item be updated to reflect Title I & School Improvement and remove IDEA.* Brettani Weinhold, Education Programs Professional and Alexis Trowell, Grant Analysts provided an overview of the support and services that the SPCSA provides to Title I schools within the SPCSA portfolio.

Agenda Item 19 – Long-Range Calendar. [04:28:49] Melissa Mackedon, 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 20 – Public Comment #2. [04:29:25] Written Public Comment is posted online with board documents. Public Comment in person or telephonically:

1. Tamera Conway – DPAC
2. Ryan Larson – Pinecrest Governance
3. Lauren Graves – AMS Traffic Emissions

Agenda Item 21 – Adjournment. [04:46:25] The meeting adjourned at 1:46 pm.