

**MINUTES
for the
NINETY-NINTH MEETING
of the
PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE**

**September 9, 2025
State Capitol, Room 307
Santa Fe**

The ninety-ninth meeting of the Public School Capital Outlay Oversight Task Force was called to order by Representative G. Andrés Romero, chair, on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 9:37 a.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Rep. G. Andrés Romero, Chair
Sen. Pat Boone
Rhiannon Chavez
Rep. Catherine J. Cullen
Sen. Steve D. Lanier
Ashley Leach, Designee for Secretary of
Finance and Administration Wayne
Propst
Julie Lucero
Amanada Lupardus-Hernandez, Designee
for Secretary of Public Education
Mariana Padilla
Cindy Montoya
Sen. George K. Muñoz
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Stan Rounds
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana
Sen. Mimi Stewart

Guest Legislator

Rep. Tara L. Lujan

Staff

Marisa Garcia-Hart, Administrative Assistant, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Rebecca Griego, Records Officer, LCS
Simon D. Suzuki, Staff Attorney, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Absent

Sen. William P. Soules, Vice Chair
Johnny Benavidez
Steve Carlson
LeAnne Gandy
Rep. Derrick J. Lente
Rep. Javier Martínez
Rep. Tanya Mirabal Moya
Brandy Murphy
Amber L. Romero
Ignacio Ruiz
Rep. Nathan P. Small

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

References to Webcast

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the task force meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations and task force discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Tuesday, September 9

Welcome and Introductions (9:37 a.m.)

Representative Romero welcomed task force members, guests and presenters.

Joint Update from the Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC) and the Public School Facilities Authority (PSFA): General Update, Status of Executive Director Search and Subcommittee Reports (9:40 am)

Joe Guillen, chair, PSCOC, introduced the panel and reviewed what would be presented. Mr. Guillen provided information about the PSCOC's search for a new executive director and advised that Larry Tillotson will serve as interim executive director until a hiring decision is made. Mr. Tillotson presented on behalf of PSFA and reviewed PSFA's current and completed projects.

Charles Sallee, chair, Awards Subcommittee, PSCOC, provided additional insight into the PSCOC's current and completed projects as well as an update on PSCOC's rule changes. Ashley Leach, chair, Administration, Maintenance and Standards Subcommittee, PSCOC, explained the PSFA's three-year strategic plan approved in January 2025 and advised that the update to the PSCOC's "Adequacy Planning Guide" will be finalized shortly. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=PSCO&Date=9/9/2025&ItemNumber=1>.

Approval of Minutes (11:02 a.m.)

On a motion made, seconded and approved, the task force adopted the minutes of the June 9, 2025 meeting with one change, and on a subsequent motion made, seconded and approved, the task force adopted the minutes of the July 14, 2025 meeting with no changes.

Overview of Charter School Financing (11:04 a.m.)

Mark A. Montoya, senior policy analyst, Legislative Education Study Committee, and Matthew Pahl, executive director, Public Charter Schools of New Mexico, provided a primer on

charter school financing laws and rules in New Mexico with a focus on challenges specific to funding capital projects. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=PSCO&Date=9/9/2025&ItemNumber=3>.

Charter School Panel Discussion (11:44 a.m.)

John Binnert, executive director, Cottonwood Classical Preparatory School; Benjamin Garcia, principal, Cottonwood Classical Preparatory School; and Michael S. Ogas, superintendent, School of Dreams Academy, joined Mr. Montoya and Mr. Pahl for a panel discussion that built on Mr. Montoya's and Mr. Pahl's presentation. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=PSCO&Date=9/9/2025&ItemNumber=4>.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the task force, the meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.