

Nevada Department of Education

Advisory Council for Family Engagement (PIFE)

Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 9:00 am

Meeting Locations:

Office	Address	City	Meeting Room
Department of Education	9890 S. Maryland Pkwy	Las Vegas	Board Room (2 nd Floor)
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St	Carson City	Board Room

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING (*Video*)

Conferenced

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Duana Malone
Kelcey West

In Carson City:

Jennifer Hoy
Andrea Hughs-Baird
Malena Raymond
Stacie Wilke
Teresa Benitez-Thompson (*arrived at 9:49 am*)

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Ben Salkowe
Yvanna Cancela

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Alberto Quintero, Education Programs Professional
Kim Bennett, Administrative Assistant
Rebecca Feiden, Director, Nevada Achievement School District

In Carson City:

None

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

In Carson City:

Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Las Vegas:

Denise Biben, Boys Town Nevada
Chelli Smith, SNRPDP
Nathalie Brugman, SNRPDP
Cheryl Adler-Davis, FACES/CCSD
Lynnette Medine, Boys Town Nevada

In Carson City:

Pat Hickey, Charter School Association
Ketra Gardner, NNRPDP
Kirsten Gleissner, NWRPDP
Desiree Gray, NWPDDP

Agenda Item # 1 – Call to Order; Roll Call; Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Hoy called the meeting to order at 9:13 am.

Roll call was taken and is reflected above. It was determined that quorum was met.

Chair Hoy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item # 2 – Public Comment #1

Carson City:

Pat Hickey, former Assemblyperson who voted for AB 224 in the 2011 sessions, provided public comment. He serves on the Charter School Association of Nevada and says parental engagement is key to success. He traveled to and wrote stories about Viet Nam and Korea education last year. Their success formula included the absolute dedication of the parents on their children's education, even in less developed countries. He is heartened to see the State is helping to empower and enable parents to be more engaged. He gave kudos to Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson for initiating the bill.

Las Vegas:

None

Agenda Item # 3 – Flexible Agenda Approval

Motion: Member Wilke made a motion to approve a flexible agenda. Motion was seconded by Member Raymond.

Motion carried unanimously.

Flexible agenda imposed, moved to agenda item # 8

Agenda Item # 4 – Approval of December 6, 2017 Minutes

The December 6, 2017 minutes were reviewed by the Council members.

Motion: Member Wilke made a motion to approve the December 6, 2017 minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Member West.

Motion carried unanimously.

Flexible agenda imposed, moved to agenda item # 7

Agenda Item # 5 – Election of Officers for the Advisory Council for Family Engagement

Greg Ott, Deputy Attorney General explained the process for Council nominations. The idea is for everyone to bring perspective to the Council in full public view. The Chair sets up the agenda, among other duties. Anyone can nominate anyone. He will take the list of nominees in order in which they are nominated. The first vote with majority nominations will be voted in. The Chair can discuss the time commitment, as well as the Vice Chair.

Chair Hoy shared her positions on this Council and how she served in those positions. It was helpful to have a Vice Chair in the Las Vegas office. One could assume about 5 additional hours, in addition to preparation and meeting times.

Deputy Attorney General Ott moved to the nominations for Chair.

Chair:

- Member Wilke nominated Chair Hoy.

Final Vote: All members voted in favor of Chair Hoy. Unanimous re-election. Chair Hoy accepted.

Deputy Attorney General Ott opened the nominations for Vice Chair.

Vice Chair:

- Chair Hoy nominated Member Malone. Member West seconded the nomination.
- Member Malone nominated Member West.

Final Vote: All members voted in favor of Member Malone. Unanimous election. Member Malone accepted.

Deputy Attorney General Ott and Chair Hoy asked that Nevada Open Meeting Law be added to the next meeting agenda.

Agenda Item # 6 – Nevada Department of Education and Office of Family Engagement Updates

Alberto Quintero, Education Programs Professional, presented the following updates:

• **Advisory Council for Family Engagement Member Update:**

Currently, Nevada PTA President Dawn Miller, has recommended a Nevada parent in Las Vegas at an elementary school. He has reached out to fill the vacant teacher position. Alberto asked for introductions of the two new members:

- Member Hughs-Baird stated she is a parent of three high school children in Washoe County School District. She is active in the Gifted and Talented community and also was one of the founding members of Parent Leaders for Education, lobbying for education funding and reform for 5 years.
- Member Benitez-Thompson has served in the legislative assembly for four terms, eight years at this point. She hasn't served on policy, but has served on Ways and Means the past two sessions on education funding budget.

Chair Hoy noted Alberto is looking to have a balance of members between the north and south for representation from all parts of the state.

• **Family Engagement State Leaders Call:**

Every month Alberto participates on a Family Engagement State Leaders call where issues are discussed on a national level. States currently are moving from Every Students Succeeds Act to implementation and are focused on the family engagement component. They are looking at evidence-based family engagement programs, and which federal funds and which state funds can be used for these activities. There is a plethora of research supporting Family Engagement, now is the research to find which programs and activities support the research and meet the ESSA requirement.

• **Family Engagement Summit Update:**

Bi-annually the Office is required to do a statewide Family Engagement Summit. The next Steering Committee call is February 19th; they are currently trying to identify a location. They are also identifying fund raising opportunities and working on flyers. Member Wilke has been an excellent resource in finding a space to conduct the summit.

• **IEL Family National Family and Community Engagement Conference, July 11-13, 2018:**

The recommendation is that Nevada gives a session during the conference around data collection and using family engagement metrics. Member Malone has volunteered to attend, and we can send one other person to this event; Alberto is accepting a volunteer.

Member Raymond would be interested in attending, but will need to check her calendar for availability.

Member Wilke is already participating through her district.

- **Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Course Update:**
The PIFE Course report is being worked on in the new licensure system to identify those who have this provision on their license. Districts have been strongly recommended to ensure they identify their teachers with this provision to ensure the provision is removed in order to teach the following school year.
- **Promising Practices Publication:**
Alberto is consolidating all submissions by districts, by schools and by non-profit organizations that were reviewed by the Task Force. He is hopeful they will have it published within the next 2 months.
- **Statewide Training Program on Family Engagement:**
The Office is meeting with the RPDG to discuss and give an overview. The talks are ongoing and it will be a team effort. The work is to fill in the content.

Member Hughs-Baird asked for coursework and certification background information; Alberto will follow up.

Moved to agenda item # 9

Agenda Item # 7 – Role of the Advisory Council

Chair Hoy welcomed new member Andrea Hughs-Baird to the Council as a parent member. Chair Hoy explained the purpose of the Advisory Council and the members represented positions. The job is to review parent involvement policies, information relating to communications from schools to parents and vice versa, reviewing effective practices throughout our state and the country, and identifying methods to communicate effectively through outreach with parents, among others. We are information collecting and sharing the information throughout the state per the statute.

Member Malone asked about the recommendations and how they are submitted. Chair Hoy states Deputy Attorney General Ott will discuss the process of Nevada Open Meeting Law that this body is subject to through this meeting agenda. All recommendations must be made during these meetings, provided we have quorum. If we do not have quorum, as Chair she will cancel the meeting to be respectful of people's time.

Flexible agenda imposed, moved to Agenda Item # 5

Agenda Item # 8 – Nevada Achievement School District (NV ASD)

Rebecca Feiden, Director of the Nevada Achievement School District, attended to provide the Council an overview and update on the NV ASD and its efforts in regards to family engagement. The NV ASD, an office within the NDE, provides high quality schools to students who are currently zoned to our lowest performing schools, often referred to as Rising Star Schools, through collaboration with NDE and the districts. Each year the NV ASD may select up to 6 low performing schools to provide new neighborhood options for students living in the school zone, and to transform into a Neighborhood Achievement Charter School. They only operate 2 schools currently, as the program is relatively new. For example, Futuro Academy is a neighborhood option school that was paired with Cambeiro Elementary School. The local program provides priority enrollment to students in that zone. The transformation example is Democracy Prep School at the Agassi campus that partnered with the Agassi Prep Charter School Board in order to assume operations of an existing school. All students enrolled at Agassi had a choice; 83% of students decided to stay at the school, and all current staff members were invited to stay on, resulting in 44% of staff continuing on with the new school at the Agassi campus. On September 15th each year, the NDE Rising Stars school list is released. It is a joint process with the State Board of Education (SBE). On December 1st, Nevada ASD recommends at least 20% of 30 eligible schools and, on December 31st, SBE approves at least 50% of recommended schools; not every school is selected. By February 1st, the NV ASD selects up to six schools and pairs them with operators or transformation teams. By fall, schools open for the upcoming school year.

Member Malone asked if the schools are given a new name; Rebecca states it could be a transformation school, such as Democracy Prep, where they can likely keep all or part of the name. A neighborhood options school usually chooses a new name. Member Malone asked whose choice it is to keep the name; Rebecca said it is done in partnership, but ultimately decided by the staff that runs the school.

Rebecca noted this year there were no transformation options, there were neighborhood options schools. There were 24 eligible schools, 10 were recommended to the SBE. No selected schools will close down; each will open as a

brand new school. The 3 organizations to be matched this year are Nevada Rise Academy, Nevada Prep Charter School, and Urban Prep Las Vegas.

Member Malone asked how this opportunity is marketed to those outside of Nevada. Rebecca states that each year there is a call for applications from organizations or individuals that wish to be paired with a low performing school. The application process is similar to the Charter School application process. They have an independent review committee that provides recommendation. They are looking at having local experts in the review process in the future, and may be looking at one of the members of this Council.

The law was passed in 2015 and they solicit input from the community via several avenues such as community events and mailings. They work with CCEA for drafting regulations. The regulations allow for parents to formally petition to the ASD for what they feel is the best avenue to improve their school. The Performance Compact, an agreement between the state and the school and the district. The ASD does not stop schools that are making progress. They include evidence based plans by teachers and principals; this is important under the ESSA.

Member Malone asked what they are looking for in regards to qualifications for evidence based plans. Rebecca states there are 4 levels of rigor that are articulated under ESSA.

Rebecca stated they have added a 60 day parent petition window at the beginning of the process. The idea is that a parent, or group of parents, work together to detail which options that are best for their community. After the petitioning process, they work with the school and/or other parties to implement the option. The SBE must approve the petitioning form; they will be brought to the board this spring to ensure materials are solidified before summer. Rebecca ensures parents are aware of their rights; parents and students are protected from harassment and threats. Immigration status cannot be used against them.

Member West asked if he is a signer and is harassed, what happens. Rebecca states the thought process would be a reporting mechanism through the NDE, and explained the reporting proposed process.

Member Hughs-Baird asked about petition circulation and if they can send information through flyers in backpacks or how does that process look. Rebecca states she is making sure organizers are aware of what is public information. Backpacks may be used dependent on the nature of the petition.

Chair Hoy understands that under FERPA family addresses are private unless they specifically. The school would have to ask if they can release their address for this purpose.

Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott states the 2 big districts, Clark and Washoe, have directory information policies. Upon enrollment they are asked if directory information can be shared.

Member Wilke asked if the parent petition window is only from September 15th through December 1st. Rebecca states parents can petition prior to the September 15th date, however if the list is released on the 15th, it is a narrow window. Member Wilke asked about the petition window. Rebecca states the 6 is only for the Achievement School District.

Member Hughs-Baird asked if a school is not a Rising Star school, can the parents go through the petitioning process. Rebecca says that it's only for a select subset of schools.

Rebecca welcomed any feedback and thoughts from the Council.

Flexible agenda imposed, moved to agenda item # 4

Agenda Item # 9 – State Improvement Plan, Objective 8

Alberto states there are a couple of plans the State has approved, and goals that align with the Department's vision and goals. Part of the State's strategic plan is an objective for Family Engagement. Goal # 4 is under all Offices of the Department; Objective 8 is assigned to the office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement. There are 3 major strategy activities; one is to analyze data and provide feedback. The other two strategies are to support best practices by working with the RPDP and school districts among others, and to build educator capacity. The Office is

working on revamping the PIFE website to make it easier to use for teachers and families. He reviewed some of the data using graphs.

Member Hughs-Baird asked about the survey questions the data is based on. Alberto states it is based off the NEPF statewide teacher evaluation system, and is an accumulation of scores.

Member Benitez-Thompson asked for clarification of the Rising Star Schools data. Alberto states the process was that he reviewed a school performance plan, and noted how many standards in total were observed of the six standards. Alberto states he has had the opportunity to visit many school districts, there is great work being done but may not be pointed out or reflected in the performance or district plans. The data will help guide us in our work but is not indicative of what a school or district does entirely.

Chair Hoy asked if Alberto could send the standards to the Council members for reference and to add it to the PIFE website for the general public; Alberto will follow up.

Member Hughs-Baird asked how many strategies or practices exist for each standard. Alberto states there is no limit on the amount of strategies per standard; he can put together a list to distribute.

Alberto says there are two other metrics of Family Engagement that may be added as data points; one is chronic absenteeism rates, the other is potentially measuring parent logins when it comes to looking at their child's grades and education progress on Infinite Campus. He invites input from the Council to help with this work and will share information.

Member Hughs-Baird says the Notifications feature in Infinite Campus allows her to not have to log in to Infinite Campus to see her children's grades. This would not allow for adequate data collection.

Chair Hoy states there isn't a student portal login page in Infinite Campus, and asked if it is possible to have a student login, as well as a parent login, to count the Notifications sent for accurate data reporting. Alberto feels this is a great idea, and reminded the members that many families don't have access to technology, which may be an issue data-wise. There isn't a perfect method for data collection, it is an evolving field.

Member Hughs-Baird said if the policy of teachers reporting grades on a frequency basis, it seems to be weekly or more frequently. She would like to see notifications on a daily or weekly basis part of policy on Infinite Campus for it to be effective on the parent site.

Member Malone asked if this Council has identified priorities for success measurement. Alberto states there is a long-term plan that can be revisited at the next meeting to assist in realigning our metrics.

Agenda Item # 10 – Advisory Council for Family Engagement Legislative Report

Chair Hoy gave an overview of the report history, as it is one of the obligations of this body. It is a timeline of everything this body has done over the last year and a half.

Member Wilke said Alberto sent her a copy of this for a presentation she is giving to the Board of Education in December, and thanked him for the information.

Agenda Item # 11 – Advisory Council Meeting Schedule

Chair Hoy expressed the importance of attendance and quorum in order to do business. To meet the quorum requirement, we need to have a minimum of six attendees. Alberto sent out a poll for members to complete with the schedule. The schedule was reviewed by the Council.

Chair Hoy states that we have most attendance on an every other month basis, and proposes dropping the March and June meetings, due to final exams and other school activities.

Member Wilke asked how many districts must present within a year in the two year cycle. Alberto states that number is up to the Council. Chair Hoy noted there are a couple of smaller districts that still have not presented and feels it is important that they do.

Chair Hoy recommends the Council meet in April, August, October, and December, 2018, and February and April, 2019, with September as a contingency date in the north in the same place.

Motion:

Member Malone moved to approve the dates as discussed. Motion was seconded by Member West.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Hoy pointed out the Legislative timelines; Alberto to put this on December agenda.

Agenda Item # 12 – Advisory Council for Family Engagement 2019 Legislative Report

Chair Hoy asked the Council if there are any additions to be made to this report. She recommended adding today's presentation by the Achievement School District.

Chair Hoy also noted that this will be a standing item on the Council's agenda as a living document.

Member Malone asked to add the goals discussed earlier today for prioritization in the 2018-2019 year.

Agenda Item # 13 – Future Agenda Items

- Chair Hoy asked for a Nevada Open Meeting Law presentation.
- Member Raymond asked about having a presentation around professional development for teachers, and what is happening in our districts at the state level to increase engagement.
- Member Malone asked for My Brother's Keeper initiative, and a Women in Technology (National Center for Women in Technology-Las Vegas) presentation.
- Chair Hoy asked for a presentation on savings plan for college.
- Alberto will identify which school districts we have not heard from for Family Engagement presentations.

Please email Alberto with any additional suggestions.

Agenda Item # 14 – Public Comment # 2

No public comment in Las Vegas or in Carson City.

Agenda Item # 15 – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 am.