

**Nevada Department of Education
Advisory Council for Family Engagement (FE)**

Wednesday, April 25, 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:

Kelcey West
Tiarre Tenorio-Norwood
Duana Malone

In Carson City:

Jenny Hoy
Melena Raymond
Andrea Hughs-Baird
Teresa Benitez Thompson *–arrived at 9:30 am*

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Gary Schoolfield
Ben Salkowe
Stacie Wilke
Yvanna Cancela

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Alberto Quintero, Education Programs Professional
Kim Bennett, Administrative Assistant

In Carson City:

None

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

In Carson City:

None

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Las Vegas:

Nathalie Brugman, Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program (SNRPDP)
Sheila Salehian, State Treasurer's Office
Michael Uewega

In Carson City:

Ketra Gardner, Northern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program (NNRPDP)
D'Lisa Crain, Washoe County School District
Desiree Gray, North West Regional Professional Development Program (NWRPDP)
Kirsten Gleissner, NWRPDP

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

Chair Hoy called the meeting to order at 9:16 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:

None

Las Vegas:

None

Agenda Item # 3 – Flexible Agenda Approval

Motion: Member Raymond made a motion to approve a flexible agenda. Motion was seconded by Member Hughs-Baird.

Motion carried unanimously.

Flexible agenda imposed, moved to item # 7

Agenda Item # 4 – Approval of February 7, 2018 Minutes

The February 7, 2018 minutes were reviewed by the Council members.

Motion: Member Hughs-Baird made a motion to approve the February 7, 2018 minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Member West.

Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 5 – Nevada Department of Education and Office of Family Engagement Updates

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

- **Denim Day:**
Today is Denim Day per announcement by Governor Sandoval, to bring awareness of sexual assault.
- **New member introduction:**
Member Tiarre Tenorio-Norwood introduced herself and gave a brief description of her background. She is representing the Nevada Parent Teacher Association position.
- **Advisory Council for Family Engagement Member Update:**
Alberto shared that the vacant public school teacher representative Council position has been filled by Gary Schoolfield. Gary is the Senior Army JROTC instructor at Cheyenne High School. We hope he will be able to attend the August Council meeting.
- **Chronic Absenteeism Task Force:**
The Parental Involvement and Family Engagement office has adopted chronic absenteeism rate as a metric in the State Improvement Plan (STIP). The Task Force is comprised of school area superintendents, community health professionals, teachers, and wide representation from the community. Anyone is encouraged to

participate. The absenteeism rate is about 14%; the highest percentage is in high school, followed by middle school, then elementary.

Fire drill in the Carson City office caused brief evacuation of the members attending in Carson City.

The meeting resumed at 10:43 am, flexible agenda imposed, moved to Item # 8 due to Member Benitez-Thompson needing to leave the meeting early, will come back to finish NDE Updates.

- **Family Engagement and Summit Update:**

The finalized date for the Summit is Saturday, September 22, 2018, at Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno, Nevada. The PIFE Office is required to organize and conduct a statewide family engagement summit every other year; the last one was in 2016 in Las Vegas, Nevada. We alternate from north to south every other year. Member Wilke is on the steering committee that is helping to organize and plan the Summit. Registration will be out next month.

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

Members Raymond and Malone will attend the conference with Alberto. They will also do some site visits at high schools that have effective family engagement programs embedded in their schools, and will bring back findings to this Council in August.

- **Promising Practices Publication:**

This is a booklet with successful family engagement stories that involve the six family engagement standards. We may get some LEE Fellows to assist with this project.

- **Statewide Training Program on Family Engagement:**

An update on this program will be given on April 30th at the Statewide Coordinating Council Meeting.

- **FAFSA Competition with New Mexico:**

There is a FAFSA competition with New Mexico that Nevada agreed to compete in to see who could support more seniors to complete the FAFSA to make college a reality for them. Data Insight Partners, a Nevada company, has developed a website to promote the competition. It can be viewed at [Link to Nevada FAFSA Tracker](#). Alberto will send a tracking link to the members to follow the competition that ends June 30th. Alberto will send out social media resources to help spread the message.

Flexible agenda imposed, moved to item # 11

Agenda Item # 6 – Group Norms

Item 6 was tabled until August meeting.

Agenda Item # 7 – Nevada College Kick Start

Sheila Salehian, Deputy Treasurer with the Nevada State Treasurer's Office, presented on the Nevada College Kick Start Program. Student loan debts have reached over 1.4 trillion dollars. The College Savings Board oversees the program, launched in 2013, and is funded entirely by non-general fund resources and is designed to be self-sustaining. This is a way that everyone can plan for college as young as kindergarten. If a child knows they have a college savings account they are about 7 times more likely to go to college. The new policy requires a parent to claim the account before the child enrolls in public school and completes 4th grade. She is asking for support of the program and to share the program with families to ensure they are aware and that there are funds available for their children. Other states have reached out for their model. All kindergarten age children receive \$50 in an investment account to be used toward future college expenses. There are over 170,000 kids that have this College Kick Start account; as of April, over 24,000 families have claimed their child's account. They have done additional outreach through email and mailings. It is done through automatic enrollment; parents do not need to do paperwork, and can opt out if they desire. They have an online portal for parents to view the account and link to other 529 savings plan accounts. It is a 3 step process; go to the portal, create an account, and claim their child. Their office is working on a mailing to inform parents about the account and changes. They are at 14% of claimed accounts to date, and there is a matching grant opportunity. They work with the school districts and non-profit organizations as to the legitimacy of the program.

Member Malone asked what happens to the money that isn't claimed. Sheila states the program is funded through an endowment account; about \$1.8 million is set aside yearly for this program. The unclaimed funds will stay in the endowment account for future cohorts for College Kickstart participants.

Member Tenorio-Norwood asked what the criteria is for logging in to the account at first; Sheila states you need to register with your zip code, child's birthdate and the Kickstart identification number that is included in the emails and mailings, or can be looked up on website, or call their office.

Member Tenorio-Norwood asked if the child moves out of state, can they take the funds with them. Sheila states at this time they do not take the funds back, but it is being addressed by the College Savings Board and they will weigh in around the Kickstart regulation.

Member Malone asked what they attribute the success of the program to. Sheila states the response from the pilot schools is that are very excited about the program and asked to roll the program out further to ensure every child has the opportunity to go to college. It is now a state-wide program. The 2017 Legislature put it into statute.

Member Hughs-Baird supports the program, and asked about the research used. Sheila states it was out of Washington University in St. Louis, and she can share the research and links with the Council after the meeting.

Member Hugh-Baird asked how much is being spent on marketing the funds as opposed to the cost of providing the funds themselves. Sheila didn't have a specific dollar amount to marketing, but can research and share that information with the Council after the meeting.

Member Hughs-Baird asked about the effectiveness of the program. Sheila stated they are building their biennial budget now and will be asking for funds to support this program. She can share this information after the meeting.

Member Raymond has received the emails and letters, asked if the accounts can be rolled in together or separate. Sheila says they cannot be merged and cannot add to that account, however, but it will continue to grow. Sheila states they have outreach staff dedicated to also have two in-state representatives that speak to families and businesses about saving for college.

Chair Hoy asked if they have done any trajectories of what the \$50.00 will look like once the child turns 18. Sheila states they have some scenarios worked out on their website but they don't know for sure.

Chair Hoy asked when it starts growing as an investment if it isn't claimed at kindergarten. Sheila states the account starts growing from the beginning.

Chair Hoy asks if there is anything this body can do to get the word out to please let her know.

Member Malone asked for an example of how the parent can lose money, and clarification of which account can be contributed to. Sheila states most 529 plans have age-based options. They put money aside yearly into the age-based plan based on the cohort; the parents have options in how they invest that money.

Member Hughs-Baird asked if the districts are partnering with them to get the word out; Sheila states they have done a lot with the districts; it may not be done consistently, but they present at many district meetings to ensure everyone has the information.

Flexible agenda imposed, moved to item # 4

Agenda Item # 8 – Parent Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE) Course Provision

The Review Journal put out an article about the Parental Involvement course provision; it is seen as a barrier to licensure. Pursuant to NRS 391.019 and NAC 391.045, an initial licensee requires at least three hours in PIFE for licensure. In 2015, the Commission on Professional Standards in Education (COPS) created a temporary regulation that gave educators three years to remove the PIFE provision from their license. With the passage of SB20 during the 2017 legislative session, educators are no longer required to take exams related to Nevada School Law, Nevada Constitution and the US Constitution. The passage of SB20 also removed the temporary regulation that affected the PIFE course provision. Now initial licensees have only one year to remove the PIFE provision, resulting in the language in NAC defaulting to its original text, meaning an in-service or continuing education course approved by the Department is again a part of NAC. The question for the Council is what the Council's recommendation is moving forward. Some suggestions may be to require only a university course to satisfy the provision, extend the time in which to satisfy the provision, remove the language again of an in-service or continuing education course,

ask the Department to ensure Family Engagement is imbedded throughout Nevada higher education institutions, teacher preparation programs, and to require new out of state teachers to take a Family Engagement course to receive the content. There are several hundred teachers with this provision. If the provision is not removed, they will have to reapply for an initial license. The Department has a list of approved PIFE courses that satisfy the NRS and NAC. Alberto asked for any recommendations of this Council.

Member Tenario-Norwood asked for history on this subject since she is new to the Council. Alberto provided a brief overview.

Member Hughs-Baird states she was the one implementing the testing of the Nevada School Law project. She has mixed feelings about this, and believes there are two sides, and, as a group we need to hear from the school districts and how they want to tackle this problem. She asks if the districts should handle this to have well qualified teacher, or should it be at the state level.

Chair Hoy understands that taking tests are difficult and can be a barrier; however from a teacher's standpoint she is at a loss with teachers who say they don't want parents in the classroom. We are in this with the parents, and they need to be included. We need to say that parent engagement and family involvement is part of the educational process. By having this requirement on the license, it is a really good way to get to that. A three semester hour with a year to take it is not that tough of a barrier, and if it is, she would question the amount of professionalism of that teacher. PIFE is part of the education process. She doesn't feel it is a tough barrier and would question the intelligence of the teacher who cannot pass. Alberto clarified this isn't an exam, it is passing the course.

Member Raymond states as a school board trustee in Washoe County, looking at upcoming fiscal years, there doesn't seem to be an influx of money coming. It is hard as a district to require all teachers to go through all different types of professional development. Putting this off on the districts that are managing tight budgets, she wonders if there is a lot of motivation for them to take on the responsibility with other work on their already full plates with tight budgets. Alberto added that one of the NEPF standards within the evaluation system is in Family Engagement. In terms of alignment with evaluation, it does exist.

Chair Hoy clarified the three semester hours is for new teachers coming in.

Member Raymond asked if it is within this body's purview to extend the due date beyond the one year requirement. Alberto states the Council can recommend a decision moving forward to the Department of Education.

Member Benitez-Thompson asked for clarification of what 3 credit hours is. Chair Hoy briefly explained.

Member Hughs-Baird noted we need to know what the districts want and what their proposed solutions are. We want teachers in classrooms, instead of long-term substitutes. Parent Involvement is very important, and research shows that involvement improves student outcomes. She doesn't feel she has enough information to make informed recommendations.

Alberto states the majority of the classes are available online; course lengths vary depending on the institution.

Chair Hoy asked Alberto to send out a survey to all 17 districts and State Charter districts, to be heard at the August meeting. Alberto will reach out. Chair Hoy feels presentations from Washoe and Clark would be beneficial as the majority of teachers and students in this state would be in these two counties.

Member Benitez-Thompson asked for clarification of the request of this body. Alberto states that if we wish to have our recommendation voiced to another body, he can make arrangements. She feels a year is sufficient, but understands there are issues with that.

Chair Hoy states when they hire new teachers into the GATE department, they require certification in 12 credit hours, with stipulation that six are earned first year, and six in the second year.

Alberto states there are a significant amount of teachers with this provision on their license. Districts are ultimately responsible ensuring that their employees meet all certifications. The new licensing system OPAL will eventually have this reporting ability up and running. Currently there are about 900 teachers with the provision.

Member West states it is difficult to make recommendations without full understanding of the subject.

Agenda Item # 9 – Council Work Group

Chair Hoy reminded the members what the task at hand is; reviewing the NRS to ensure we are meeting the requirements and adding to the work plan document. Alberto noted the work plan document was last updated in February, 2017. Chair Hoy asked about merging the Legislative Council report with the work plan document. Alberto said yes, but advises to add what strategies and/or goals the Council would like to add for the 2018-2019 school year. Chair Hoy asked the group what to add or hear about again due to new members on the Council in order to guide the process on what this body is responsible for.

Member West would like to learn more about best practices outside of the state. Chair Hoy suggests to those going to Cleveland in July to take notes and make contacts with presenters. Member Malone says she would be glad to bring back information from the event in Cleveland.

Alberto is part of a monthly call with state leaders. Chair Hoy suggests having an in-person or Skype-type of call to get some ideas. Alberto can put this back on the next meeting agenda to allow members to consider their requests. Please send feedback to Alberto for discussion at next meeting.

Member Tenario-Norwood suggests FACES make their presentation titles a little more interesting and in laymen's terms to get more parent participation. She asked for information on what happens when a school fails the turn-around zone program and to share with parents

Chair Hoy requests all members to review the document from the meeting materials from the February meeting and to email Alberto to put on the August agenda for discussion.

Agenda Item # 10 – Council Budget

Alberto shared an update on the budget. There is \$6,280 in the account currently for this fiscal year that ends June 30th. There haven't been any travel and operating expenditures funds expended to date. Please connect with Kim Bennett at kbennett@doe.nv.gov for those interested in mileage reimbursement for travel to the Council meeting. In previous years this Council has used some funds for conference attendance. Alberto asks for member input on how to use the funds such as postage and photocopies; there is flexibility on what to do with the funds before June 30th. Alberto noted he will be using some PIFE Office funding for family-friendly explainer videos on NSPF and the Nevada rating system. The funds can also be used for visiting schools. Alberto will be looking for discounted video services.

Member Malone's company has partnership with the Art Institute of Nevada; students receive credit for 100 hours of work, students that major in multimedia or video would be interested in this project to satisfy their credit needs. Alberto will consult with the budget analyst.

Chair Hoy feels this would be good use of the funds and a win-win for everyone.

Member Tenario-Norwood commented that her husband is a videographer and may be able to donate his services.

Member Malone clarified that the students at the Art Institute do not require money; they would work for credit hours only. The school also provides all the equipment needed.

Motion:

Member Benitez-Thompson made a motion to use the funds for expenses to create the video. Motion was seconded by Member West.

Motion carried unanimously.

Flexible agenda imposed, moved to agenda item # 5 for continuation of NDE updates

Agenda Item # 11 – Advisory Council for Family Engagement 2019 Legislative Report

Item 11 was tabled until August meeting.

Motion:

Member Malone made motion to move items # 6 and 11 to the August Council meeting. Motion was seconded by Member Raymond.

Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 12 – Future Agenda Items

Have NWRPDP give a presentation at August meeting regarding the PIFE provision.

Agenda Item # 13 – Public Comment # 2

Las Vegas:

None

Carson City:

1. Kirsten Gleissner, Director of the North West Regional Professional Development Program (NWRPDP), with facilitators from the RPDP's Desiree Gray, NWRPDP, Ketra Gardner from North East Nevada Regional Professional Development Program (NRPDP), and Nathalie Brugman from Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program (SNRPDP). They wanted to address Alberto's comments on the PIFE provision item. From their perspective in-field, the issue is the cost for, and the access to, training for that provision, especially for new teachers. The RPDPs are ready and willing to provide this training to teachers and could offer their services to fill this void through in-service at no cost or through collaboration with University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) or Southern Utah University (SUU) or other universities for a very reasonable fee. Please let Alberto know if there is an interest.

Chair Hoy would like this group to give a presentation at the August Council meeting. However, Ketra Gardner states her concern is the August date; teachers must complete provision prior to August. Alberto will check with Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott.

Member Hughs-Baird asked if this offer has been made to the districts. She doesn't feel this body is a decision-making body, but for recommendations only. This seems to be a function of the educators in the district.

Chair Hoy felt we may be breaching some Nevada Open Meeting Laws on this subject, and asked for the conversation on this subject to stop for now so Alberto can research with Deputy Attorney General Ott. She very much appreciated the information on this subject.

2. D'lisa Crain, Washoe County School District, Department of Family/School Partnerships, states there was a fingerprinting law passed at the last legislature session with good intentions to keep our children safe, and close the loop on staff that were not previously fingerprinted. D'Lisa feels there have been unintended consequences for our families. District's hands are tied regarding budget. In Washoe County they are looking at charging \$45 for families to volunteer in the classrooms if they are in the classroom four or more times a month. She thinks we are putting more barriers in place, especially for their most marginalized families. She noted that as far as she knows there is still a Supreme Court law in place that guarantees our families of undocumented students access to their child's school and classrooms. She stated there is a Family Engagement federal law, also written in our State initiatives. Family engagement, contrary to popular opinions that it doesn't take dedicated resources, but it absolutely does if we are talking about professional learning for teachers and interpreters, all of this is at a cost, and it takes dedicated resources to the districts to sustain and continue those initiatives. She asks where it is written in State or Federal law that states what the money is spent on. Currently in Washoe they have four different in-services on Family Engagement for teachers. They often get asked if this class could fill their licensure requirement; their understanding is no, because they are in-service courses, she feels there is potential for those courses. Those courses are not overflowing. They have partnered with RPDP on a book study for teachers that give them practical strategies and addresses mindsets. Its practices that as a district they want teachers coming in to have to engage with families. There might be potential for resources to match some unmet needs if we can work through some of these system barriers.

Agenda Item # 14 – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:52 am.