

**Nevada Department of Education**

**Advisory Council for Family Engagement (FE)**

**Wednesday, August 22, 2018, 9:00 am**

**Meeting Locations:**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Meeting Room</b>
Department of Education	9890 S. Maryland Pkwy	Las Vegas	Board Room (2 <sup>nd</sup> 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  
Gary Schoolfield  
Kelcey West

**In Carson City:**

Jennifer Hoy  
Malena Raymond  
Teresa Benitez-Thompson

**ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Ben Salkowe  
Andrea Hughs-Baird  
Stacie Wilke  
Tiarre Tenorio  
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:**

Senior Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott

**AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:**

**In Las Vegas:**

Jessica Sasso, Boys Town  
Graciela Rivera, Boys Town  
Nathalie Brugman, SNRPDP  
Cheryl Adler-Davis, FACES  
Gary Washington, Techqueen Systems

Larry Henderson, ECF Data  
David Schmall, Microsoft

**In Carson City:**

K. Gardner, NWRPDP  
Kirsten Gleissner, NWRPDP

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

Chair Hoy called the meeting to order at 9:27 am.

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

Chair Hoy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Hoy welcomed new member Sargent Major Gary Schoolfield. Alberto shared that Mr. Schoolfield has been at Cheyenne High School for 10 years teaching ROTC. Member Schoolfield is glad to be here.

**Agenda Item # 2 – Public Comment #1**

**Carson City:**

None

**Las Vegas:**

None

**Agenda Item # 3 – Flexible Agenda Approval**

**Motion:** Member West 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 April 25, 2018 Minutes**

The April 25, 2018 minutes were reviewed by the Council members.

**Motion:** Member Raymond made a motion to approve the April 25, 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, NDE Education Programs Professional, presented the following updates:

- **Chronic Absenteeism Task Force:**

The Chronic Absenteeism Task Force was created in early spring that involves NDE staff and district representatives to standardize attendance codes and whether certain attendance situations counted as an absence, excused or unexcused, and whether it counted towards the chronic absenteeism rate for that school calculation. The main reason for the Task Force is that it is now an indicator on the Nevada School Performance Framework, and counts towards the calculation of a school rating. A memo was released by NDE Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Steve Canavero, that the State is adopting the definition for chronic absenteeism and the mapping of the attendance codes and how they link back to the calculation of the chronic absenteeism rate. The function of the Task Force is to bring in stakeholders from the districts and counties throughout Nevada, as well as NDE staff, to come up with an action plan on how to reduce chronic absenteeism and highlighting existing practices throughout the state. The action plan should be ready for release in early September, which coincides with the Attendance Awareness Month campaign.

- **Family Engagement Summit Update:**

The Family Engagement Summit is a requirement of the Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Office per NRS 385.365 every other year. The last Summit was October, 2016 in Las Vegas. This year it is September 22, 2018, in Reno, Nevada, at Truckee Meadows Community College. The keynote speaker is Dr. Victor Rios, an award winning college professor, author and speaker. There will be 31 unique workshops that will be at the Summit. There is still space available; capacity is 450. They partnered with Washoe County School District to combine the event with their Saturday Café and University of Family Learning Day. Daycare will be available for parents and families to help them attend. The Summit is funded by donations from scratch; the Department contributes \$10,000 and the PIFE Office has applied for a \$10,000 grant to help fund the Summit; any donations are welcome. Any extra funds roll over to the planning and execution of the next Summit. Travel and registration information for members will be sent out by Alberto. All members must be registered with the

Treasurer's office as soon as possible to obtain a vendor number in order to be reimbursed for allowable expenses.

- **Federal Statewide Family Engagement Centers Grant:**

The PIFE Office, in collaboration with the Public Education Foundation, Clark County School District, Washoe County School District and the National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement (NAFSCE), applied for a Title IV \$10 million grant funded by Congress to open up a statewide Family Engagement Center. We did not submit an application for the grant due to the tight deadline date of July 30<sup>th</sup>.

- **Promising Practices Publication:**

Alberto states this has been on the agenda many times. As a refresher, Cynthia Santos-Cooke, previous NDE Education Programs Professional to the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement, created an open call submissions of best practices in schools throughout Nevada centered around family engagement. The idea was to look at the submissions and sort in terms of what are best practices, which standard they apply to, and to share the resource with Nevada districts and schools as a reference as to what effective family engagement can look like. We had Leadership for Education Equity (LEE) Fellow TJ Mertikas work on this publication; it will hopefully be published by end of the month. The goal is to update this annually.

- **Title IV Funding:**

There have been some questions around Title IV funding. TeQuia Barrett, NDE Title IV representative, will be giving a presentation on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Program, which relates to family engagement, at the next meeting.

- **PIFE Course Provision:**

Pursuant to NRS 391.019 and NAC 391.045 effective July 2015, initial licensees require at least 3 semester hours regarding Parental Involvement and Family Engagement. That is consistent with the elements and goals for effective involvement and engagement set forth in NRS 392.457 and includes an emphasis on building relationships, outreach to families, and developing an appreciation and understanding of families from diverse backgrounds. About a month ago, the Governor sent out an emergency regulation in terms of giving teachers 3 years to fulfill this provision. The emergency regulation is still in effect, and the Department is currently looking to codify it.

Member Benitez-Thompson asked about the Summit travel reimbursement for members. Alberto states the Council budget should have enough for the southern members to travel north, and for the northern members to attend and be reimbursed. Alberto will be sending out registration information for the kick-off dinner the evening before the Summit.

Member Benitez-Thompson asked about the Family Engagement Center grant. Alberto states it is for a statewide Family Engagement Center that would operate outside of other federal funds. She would like to talk offline with Alberto about this, and to see the rough draft of the application to get a better idea of it.

Chair Hoy has signed up for the Summit. She reminds everyone that most of the Council Members will be up north for the September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

*Flexible agenda imposed, moved to Agenda Item # 7*

### **Agenda Item # 6 – Overview of Nevada Revised Statutes: NRS Chapter 240 – Meeting of State and Local Agencies (Open Meeting Law)**

Senior Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott came to give an [Open Meeting Law](#) (OML) overview presentation to the Council to ensure this Advisory Council, which is defined as a public body, is following the public body meeting laws in the best interest and conduct of the public. All work of the Council must be done in accordance with OML. Mr. Ott went into great detail of the do's and don'ts, how to avoid violations and penalties, and definitions used in order to remain in OML compliance and avoid any compliance issues. Mr. Ott and Deputy Attorney General David Gardner represent the Department of Education in the south and can be reached for any questions. There is an [OML Manual on the Attorney General's website](#) for reference.

Member Malone asked about using or having recording devices in meetings. Mr. Ott states it is a requirement that all meetings must be audio recorded for minutes referencing and public questions. Member Malone also asked if it is

allowable for the public to record during meetings. Mr. Ott states there is nothing in OML that forbids it, and it is allowable at this time. This applies to both audio and video recordings.

*Flexible agenda imposed, moved to Agenda Item # 4*

#### **Agenda Item # 7 – 2018 IEL National Family and Community Engagement Conference**

Members Malone and Raymond attended the conference in Cleveland, Ohio, July 11-13, 2018 with Alberto.

Member Malone stated the opportunity to go to John Adams High School to see firsthand what they are doing and how they apply the family engagement practices was a highlight for her. Some of their activities included the onsite Boys and Girls Club with over 20 programs, and what they offer students after school, such as cooking and sewing, and tutoring, among many others. They have the Ministers Alliance; pastors that “adopt” the school from the community where they send their ministers to work with the students. They also had a chance to hear what Boston Public School Systems and other areas are doing. She created an electronic presentation that she shared with Alberto.

Member Raymond stated she and Alberto went to Facing History New Tech High School, which was a unique model for curriculum. They focus on diversity, and integrate race, prejudice, and antisemitism, and look at the local and national levels. A big take-away was the inclusivity and openness. Parents were involved in the process of their child selecting that school. A fun note is they have a summer book club for the parents that overlap with learning about what the students will be discussing. There were so many sessions it was difficult to choose which to attend. One session she attended about Big Picture Schools is a program that encourages students to have externship/internship roles in the community. She also attended some specific sessions about the Washington, DC area about gentrification and equity, as well transparency and how family engagement can work. She went to another session about refugee families about what family engagement in schools looks like with refugee populations that was fascinating. Her favorite was the lunch plenary that included some chronic absenteeism discussion and how the role of equity plays into that. Her big take-away was the role that sites specifically play and knowing their population, students and families, and building a program that works for that population. It reinforced the great work being done by this group across the state.

Alberto added to the emphasis of the workshops and presentations on programs. Every program is unique, and every community is unique with its own needs and wants. He flew in a day earlier to take part in a state leaders meeting organized by the American Institute for Research (AIR), with other state representatives every other month, to talk about family engagement ideas. It was a great opportunity to meet, and ask about family engagement in other states. The idea of pre-service family engagement is something everyone agrees on. There are some organizations that are studying Nevada and other states to create a framework or guideline regarding pre-service family engagement courses. Promising Practices was also discussed; other states are looking to do the same. Birth to 12 family engagement framework was also discussed. NAFSCE and CCSSO received a grant from the Kellogg Foundation and invited 10 states to take part in creating the birth to 12 family engagement framework; Nevada is one of the states. The goal is to have the framework available for release December, 2019. He will be going to Utah to meet with the other state consortium members to create something unique to this state. His big take-away was the chronic absenteeism presentation and the overall impact it has on the child’s student achievement and personal growth. He noted the Cleveland Indians athletes teamed up with the Cleveland District to focus on chronic absenteeism and the reasons why.

Chair Hoy asked about the next conference details. Alberto states it will be in Reno next year, but the details are not yet confirmed.

Member Schoolfield asked about the Big Picture School that Member Raymond talked about. He feels this would be great to get parents and community to get together on a social contract between the student and teacher on how we are going to do business. He asked if there is a way to get professional athletes in Nevada such as the Golden Knights, the Raiders and the Aces, to get their buy-in to use in Nevada. Member Malone stated there is a meeting with the Raiders on September 5<sup>th</sup>. All the documentation she brought back is published on her electronic document she gave to Alberto that can be shared. There is a one page document called Cradle to College that she encourages all to download.

*Flexible agenda imposed, moved to Agenda Item # 9*

#### **Agenda Item # 8 – Microsoft Presentation**

David Schmall, Business Sales and Education Specialist with Microsoft, and Larry Henderson, ECF Data, came to share information on their program. Mr. Schmall has been working with local partners to bring tools and resources to schools, teachers, students and parents. Their goal is to engage with student and teacher population. Recently they have been deploying free tools and resources teachers and students and into the classroom to have a different learning experiences. The MIE platform was designed to give back to the children in the classroom. They empower the educators to deploy the resources for free in the classrooms to help engage and provide fluid learning experiences, all without using paper. They would like to start parent nights to bridge the gap and allow the parents to be a part of the experience. They have a PTA tomorrow night at a local charter school where they will teach the parents what the students will be learning in the classrooms to help with assignments and testing. They have a local team in Las Vegas to give training and education needed to use these products. They have partners, such as Member Malone, to help reach the greater population. Mr. Henderson reiterated that the basic platform is free to educators, students and parents.

Member Schoolfield asked if this is a one-time offer or how long will they be offering these programs. Mr. Schmall states most of these are an hour long session at the schools. They set up events throughout the year as well. Depending on what platform the students are currently using. Mr. Henderson states Microsoft also has free online classes to view at the user's convenience.

Member Malone asked if they could speak to student achievement and how it has been impactful to the schools and students. Mr. Schmall states they are in the process of gathering pilot data. The teachers noted the students are engaged in the experience with the technology. Student test scores and engagement has risen. Mr. Henderson noted the important point of teacher buy-in. If the teachers are excited, the students learn.

Member Malone asked the plan for the school districts and how this body can support the efforts. Mr. Schmall states they are working with the districts across the state. They found that the engagement on the one-on-one level has had a big impact. They have a training center at Fashion Show Mall in Las Vegas. They are turning their attention to other school districts to include Nye, Esmeralda and Lincoln to bring these products and devices into their schools.

Member Benitez-Thompson asked about the devices. Mr. Schmall states a few different devices were offered for the pilot program. They designed devices that are rugged, durable, and to last. They are cost effective starting at \$189 up to \$500. As an example, there is one device per student for the entire 5<sup>th</sup> grade level in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade pilot program.

Chair Hoy thanked them for all the products available. It is empowering to tell students that they can log onto their Washoe County account and download Microsoft Suite and have access to it on home computers as well. She asked about free certification for teachers and how to access it. Mr. Schmall stated the MIE platform is relatively new still and hasn't been widely deployed yet. They have not reached Washoe County with that platform yet, but it is on their agenda to do so. He is happy to partner with Chair Hoy offline with additional information.

Member Raymond stated she would like to help get more parent night interactions in Washoe County with Microsoft in our schools.

Members Malone and West thanked them for their work in the community and for their programs.

*Flexible agenda imposed, moved to Agenda Item #6*

#### **Agenda Item # 9 – Council Budget**

Alberto states Fiscal Year (FY) 19 started July 1<sup>st</sup> with \$6,280 covering travel and operating expenses for the Council; so far we have used \$863.64. That amount will increase once Members Malone and Raymond are reimbursed for their travel expenses. There will be enough funds for travel to the Summit this year. At the last meeting, the Council had voted on using \$5,000 towards the HCI contract to be used to fund the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) videos to inform parents and families on where to find and use the NSPF information. The contract was denied at the State level as there was not enough time to make any corrections; the \$6,280 was reverted.

#### **Agenda Item # 10 – PIFE Office Annual Report**

Alberto states NRS 385.365 requires a PIFE Office annual report that will be posted on the NDE website. Highlights include Rising Star Schools having a 30% increase from previous year. The new analysis will be done by the end of this month. Part of the report will speak to NRS 385.635B which develops a list of practices that have been developed and proven effective in increasing the parental involvement. The parent-teacher home visits model project

is to have schools in Clark County utilize that program. Building framework has been identified as another best practice. The Department is building a review system for PIFE courses that satisfy the licensure requirements are done as intended and has an impact on teachers' day to day practice.

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

Chair Hoy states the report is to be submitted in February of 2019. Each month this body adds to the report that Alberto maintains. We will add the Cleveland conference highlights and today's Microsoft presentation to the report.

**Agenda Item # 12 – Future Agenda Items**

Chair Hoy states we are trying to get district presentations on a bi-yearly rotation. We will have the Title IV presentation next month.

Member Raymond attended a presentation about the Nevada Afterschool Network Summit facilitated by the Mott Foundation. There is a lot of overlap with after school partnerships in family engagement; it may be a good presentation for this Council. She has the Mott Foundation contact information she can share with Alberto; there is a local representative.

Member Malone suggested the PTSA that partners with the Mayors initiative. She also suggested the Raiders Foundation, and an organization that deals with music. She will get more information on the music organization.

Chair Hoy noted the Raiders are doing their summer training in Reno. She suggests the Vegas Golden Knights and the university sports teams.

Member Benitez-Thompson mentioned keeping tabs on the planning and implementation of the rollout of the policies of chronic absenteeism and what parent perception and anxieties piece might be. Chair Hoy agrees getting students in the classroom, and suggests looking into getting presenters from the State and districts regarding how we are tackling these issues. Member Benitez-Thompson suggests an ongoing agenda item on chronic absenteeism.

Member Schoolfield suggests programs being used to tackle suspensions and to see what other schools may be doing.

Member West is on the Justice Partnership; there is a press conference on Friday with various school representatives. The focus is to make sure we reduce the number of suspensions and expulsions. He can have an update for this Council at the next meeting.

**Agenda Item # 13 – Public Comment # 2**

**Las Vegas:**

None

**Carson City:**

None

**Agenda Item # 14 – Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:14 am.