

ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025
4:00 PM

Office	Address	City	Meeting Room
Department of Education	2080 E. Flamingo Rd.	Las Vegas	Suite 114
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St.	Carson City	Silver Ore Conference Room
Department of Education	Virtual/ YouTube	n/a	n/a

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Rebecca Dirks-Garcia

Anna Marie Binder

Tameka Henry

Tom Hendrix

Brande Johnson

Duana Malone

Michael Roth

Delphina Martinez

Brenda Zamora

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (NDE) STAFF PRESENT

Anabel Sanchez, Education Programs Professional; Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE)

Kathryn Hoyt, Assistant Director; Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE)

Jackie Nygaard, Education Programs Professional; Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE)

Rick Derry, Administrative Assistant; Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE)

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT

Christena Georgas-Burns, Deputy Attorney General (DAG)

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Rebecca Dirks-Garcia called the meeting to order at 4:09 PM following roll call and Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

There was no public comment in Las Vegas, and no public comment in Carson City.

3. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 11, 2025, MEETING MINUTES (*Information/ Discussion/ Possible Action*)

Members reviewed the March 11, 2025, meeting minutes. **Member Anna Marie Binder made a motion to approve the March 11 meeting minutes and was seconded by member Brande Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.**

4. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING NEVADA FAMILY ENGAGEMENT OFFICE UPDATES (*Information/ Discussion*)

Anabel Sanchez, Education Programs Professional, NDE, shared that The Family Engagement Summit occurred on September 13, 2025, in Las Vegas, and September 20, 2025, in Carson City. Las Vegas hosted 36 sessions and approximately 200 attendees; Carson City hosted 14 sessions with approximately 50 attendees (families, educators, and community members). Successes include offering interpretation services to remove language barriers for participants and building partnerships with other NDE offices, school districts, and the Charter School Authority. The summit shifted from keynote speakers to open discussion panels geared toward Parental Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE) in the classroom. Resource fairs were held with over 40 organizations providing useful resources to families. Ms. Sanchez stated future summit plans include: offering a virtual attendance option, allowing all counties to attend, hosting the event in a more centralized location, publicizing well ahead of time, and mindful scheduling to avoid overlapping with school events and cultural celebrations.

Member Brenda Zamora praised the intentional breakdown by age groups and the relevance of topics (e.g., social media threads for student ages 12+). She suggested involving council members in planning and promotion by distributing flyers.

Ms. Sanchez confirmed that NDE plans to invite council members to join the committee for next year's planning. Vice Chair Anna Marie Binder congratulated the summit planning team for the diversity and it being filled with educators and parents. She assisted by advertising on her social media and wished she could have stayed for the breakout sessions. Member Tameka Henry commended the diverse offerings, hands-on experiences, and food offerings. Chair Rebecca Dirks-Garcia attended both northern and southern summits and noted that the topics were robust and relevant. She added that involving families and community organizations earlier in planning would be beneficial and mentioned that the Las Vegas location was not well situated on bus routes, making transportation difficult for families. She suggested making family-specific sessions more compact to allow families time to attend for a specific amount (i.e. two hours) and providing a detailed agenda in advance. Member Zamora suggested using testimonies from attendees, specifically highlighting fun takeaways like Play-Doh, Legos, and STEM activities to promote the next event.

Ms. Sanchez also provided updates on the Family Engagement Guide, which has been updated on the PIFE webpage, and is available in English and Spanish. A digital web version is being designed with over 40 interconnected web pages for accessibility.

Additionally, the PIFE office is planning to host office hours for PIFE representatives across the state, inviting liaisons through an updated PIFE contact list. They are waiting on one school district to designate a PIFE representative. Once all representatives are confirmed, an availability survey will be conducted. Ms. Sanchez hopes to host office hours once a month starting next year, focusing on sharing best practices and statewide collaboration to address local PIFE challenges.

5. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION *(Information/ Discussion)*

Ms. Sanchez presented updates on legislative bills related to family engagement, noting those that did not pass and one significant bill that did pass. The bills that did not pass were Senate Bill (SB) 78 which proposed changes to the membership of various councils, including the Advisory Council for Family Engagement, SB 199 was a bill that would have required the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish a work group on the use of artificial intelligence systems in education, among other requirements, and SB 331 which referenced the promotion of involvement of parents and families in school programs that support pupils.

SB 460, passed during the 2025 legislative session, it requires schools to gather input from parents or guardians when establishing school improvement plans. This applies specifically when the superintendent designates an underperforming school district or a sponsor of a school district. Chair Dirks-Garcia commented SB 460 should be reviewed as a future agenda item for members to be aware of its impact and be able to take that information back to their stakeholder groups.

6. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT: 2026 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

(Information/Discussion/Possible Action)

The 2026 legislative report draft was reviewed by the Council, as required by NRS 385.620. Text already included in the report was in black and could be modified. New information proposed to be added was in red, the council could make recommendations. Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Christen Georgas-Burns was present to clarify content within the council's purview. The council was informed to vote on each section or the whole report after all recommendations were made. Only accepted recommendations were added to the report before the final vote to submit the document to the legislative commission. The council agreed to vote on the entire report at the end of the discussion, rather than voting on each change individually, and agreed to keep the current recommendation language.

In NRS 385.620 (1), Chair Dirks-Garcia noted that the policy review work group that was intended to be launched never got off the ground. She suggested revisiting this group on a future agenda to see who was still interested in participating and move forward with scheduling meetings.

The council reviewed the District Accountability Reports in NRS 385.620 (2), and no changes or new recommendations were discussed for this section.

The council reviewed Nevada's Best Practices in NRS 385.620 (3). Member Michael Roth suggested the state should look at creating an event to formally recognize and celebrate districts/schools with exemplary family engagement practices and individual successes. Chair Dirks-Garcia suggested that this might be a recommendation for the State of Nevada Board of Education. Ms. Sanchez clarified with the DAG if this recommendation could be included in the report. DAG Georgas-Burns advised that the recommendation must fall within the purview of the council, which focuses primarily on working with the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE). Vice Chair Anna Marie Binder suggested using non-regulatory words like "observed" or "could greatly benefit from" instead of "recommend" ensuring the language remains advisory and avoids potential "snafus" related to regulatory action. Chair Dirks-Garcia agreed that the approach might be needed for other sections but thought the word "recommend" could be maintained provided the appropriate recipient such as the State Board of Education (SBE) was chosen.

The council addressed NRS 385.620(4) [Out-of-State Best Practices]. Member Roth provided context for his previous suggestion, noting it was inspired by the Colorado Family and Community Engagement Award celebration, which honored and displayed successful ideas. Chair Dirks-Garcia suggested that a review of recognition/award systems in other states be listed as a future agenda item rather than included in the report.

The council addressed NRS 385.620(5) [Identifying Effective Communication and Outreach for Families Who Have Limited Time to Get Involved]. Vice Chair Binder proposed revised language to make the content “DAG friendly” and suggestive, reflecting council observations rather than legislative recommendations. The revised language noted the council observed that many families benefit when information related to rights, supports, and available pathways, including section 504, is presented in clear, accessible formats. Furthermore, it noted that strategies grounded in universal design principles may improve clarity and understanding for families with limited time to engage. DAG Georgas-Burns confirmed that Vice Chair Binder’s revisions addressed statutory concerns because the language reflected the council’s activities and observations rather than rising to the level of a legislative recommendation.

Chair Dirks-Garcia stressed the need for universal agreement, as this topic (specifically section 504 and children with disabilities) had not arisen directly from a prior agenda item, though it had been hinted at in past conversations.

The council addressed NRS 385.620(6) [Impact of Family Engagement on Performance, Attendance, and Discipline]. Member Roth questioned the clarity of the proposed recommendation and suggested adding measurable indicators to evaluate family engagement outcomes, such as discipline. He worried that the vague comment could lead to cumbersome, duplicate, or vague reporting requirements for principals and administrators. Vice Chair Binder agreed, recommending that the council be intentional with this ask and suggested adding it to the list of future agenda items to work out the specifics. Chair Dirks-Garcia recommended deleting the bullet point from the current report. It was agreed that the item should be placed on a future agenda for intentional discussion on developing these measurable indicators and integrating them with state accountability frameworks.

The council addressed NRS 385.620(7) [Identifying Effective Communication and Outreach for Family with Children who are English Learners]. Vice Chair Binder commented that as much effort as the council puts into multi-language holders and learners is the same effort that the council should always put into universal design, principles, and accessibility for our disabled constituents. There were no further comments, changes, or revisions made to this section.

The council addressed NRS 385.620(8) [Determining need for State and/or District Family Engagement Coordinator]. Chair Dirks-Garcia suggested revising proposed language that the council has discussed the need for a sustainable funding model for designated Family Engagement Coordinator positions. DAG Georgas-Burns clarified that a similar recommendation, talking about the need to fund and require these positions already exists in the legislative recommendations section (Recommendation #1), making the proposed addition unnecessary. Vice Chair Binder offered new language that was adopted, which captured the commentary behind the existing legislative recommendation: “The council discussed the importance of consistency in staff retention in these roles. Members noted that districts often face challenges when positions rely on short-term or fluctuating funding sources, ensuring long-term sustainability for family engagement functions was identified as an important area for continued examination in future council meetings”.

The council addressed NRS 385.620(9) [Working with the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement]. Language was adopted focusing on strengthening outreach. The council discussed ongoing opportunities to strengthen outreach to families of children with diverse learning needs. Members noted that community partnerships can play an important role in identifying emerging needs and supporting families. The council looks forward to continuing collaboration with the PIFE office in this area.

Chair Dirks-Garcia entertained a motion to approve the content of the 2026 legislative report, including the revisions agreed upon during the meeting, with allowances for NDE staff to make technical corrections as needed. Vice Chair Binder moved to approve the 2026 legislative report. Member Zamora seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (Information/ Discussion)

Anabel Sanchez stated that NDE will reach out to members to plan meeting dates for 2026. The goal is for the council to meet 3 to 4 times per year. Members were asked to respond quickly to an availability survey and calendar dates to help establish quorum.

The council has \$6,279 remaining to be spent before the fiscal year ends on June 30. Members were asked to gather ideas for events or activities that might require travel costs. This could include attending a council meeting in person (in Las Vegas or Carson City) or attending national summits/conferences related to family engagement, with potential virtual attendance options.

There will be a presentation from NDE's Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment (OSRLE) on restorative practices and chronic absenteeism as requested by the council. Ohio State University will also have a full report on the efficacy beliefs survey administered to educators taking the NDE approved PIFE courses. The council intends to invite districts to share their best practices, addressing successes, challenges, and measurement of work. The council will invite the Clark County School District (CCSD) and the Lyon County School District to present at the next meeting, providing a balance between urban and rural districts. Presentations should be guided by the Nevada Family Engagement Framework. Member Roth noted that using the existing framework would offer structure and categories for districts to choose from when sharing their best practices.

Chair Dirks Garcia mentioned including indicators related to family engagement as a future agenda item. Member Zamora mentioned adding updates on the Family Engagement Summit steering committee and possible opportunities for the council to engage in legislative planning and priorities. Chair Dirks Garcia included planning for the working group related to the State Board of Education's Family Engagement Policy.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

There was no public comment in Las Vegas, and no public comment in Carson City.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Without any further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 P.M.