

**Nevada Department of Education
Nevada State Board of Education
September 09, 2026
9:00 AM**

Office	Address	City	Meeting
Department of Education	2080 E. Flamingo	Las Vegas	Room 114
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St.	Carson City	Board Room
Department of Education	Virtual/Livestream	Virtual	<u>Virtual</u>

Summary Minutes of the Board Meeting

Board Members Present

Dr. Katherine Dockweiler, President

Tim Hughes, Vice President

Tamara Hudson, Clerk (*arrived shortly after roll call and was noted present by the President*)

Dr. Tricia Braxton, Member

Annette Dawson Owens, Member

Amy Carvalho, Member

Danielle Ford, Member

Jade Jow, Member (*arrived shortly after roll call and was noted present by the President*)

Angela Orr, Member

Susan Neal, Member

Dr. Victor Wakefield, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Board Members Absent Excused

Frankie Alvarado, Member

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance, and Land Acknowledgement – 00:01:14

President Dockweiler called the meeting to order at **9:02AM**

2. Public Comment #1 – 00:03:20

The first period of public comment was opened by President Dockweiler.

- **Carson City:** No public comment was present
- **Las Vegas:** No public comment was present
- **Written Submission:** No written public comments were submitted prior to the deadline

3. Approval of Flexible Agenda (*For Possible Action*) – 00:04:31

President Dockweiler requested a motion to approve the use of a flexible agenda, allowing agenda items to be taken out of order if necessary.

Motion: Member Dawson Owens moved to approve the use of a flexible agenda.

Second: Member Neal seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Action Taken: The Board approved the use of a flexible agenda

4. President's Report – 00:05:18

President Dockweiler announced that the Board will hold a publicly noticed stakeholder meeting pursuant to Governor Lombardo's Executive Order 2026-003 to collect feedback on streamlining, clarifying, and updating existing regulations. President Dockweiler also noted that September is Suicide Prevention Month, emphasizing the importance of raising awareness and promoting the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline available 24/7.

President Dockweiler invites members to share additional reports:

- **Member Braxton** reported on the Legislative Subcommittee's progress, noting that they continue to meet regularly to align legislative work with Board priorities and anticipate bringing action items to future meetings.
- **Member Dawson Owens** expressed appreciation for community organizations, business partners, and volunteers supporting back-to-school events across Nevada. She recognized the collaborative efforts to ensure students begin the school year with the resources they need.
- **President Dockweiler, Superintendent Wakefield** and Board members expressed deep gratitude to **Board Liaison Lisa Ford** for her years of dedicated service, leadership, and calm guidance upon her upcoming retirement.

5. Superintendent's Report – 00:13:05

Superintendent Wakefield opened his report by highlighting recent back-to-school classroom visits across Clark and Washoe County School Districts, praising local leaders for their resilience during air quality disruptions from Northern Nevada wildfires. He announced NDE's active participation in regulatory streamlining under Executive Order 2026-003, which will feature as a formal agenda item on October 7. Additionally, he shared details on the upcoming NASBE Annual Conference in Las Vegas (Dec 3–5).

To better support statewide goals, **Superintendent Wakefield** detailed a strategic agency restructuring that expands the Office of the Superintendent under new Chief Strategy Officer Tom Green and realigns NDE into three core divisions. These include the Teaching and Learning Division, led by Dr. Torrey Palmer to focus on academic rigor and assessments; the Implementation Success Division, led by Deputy Christy McGill to oversee grants, licensure, and field support; and the Finance Division, which manages budgeting and the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan while actively recruiting a Deputy Superintendent.

6. Informational Updates (*For Information Only*) – 00:27:05

President Dockweiler Provided standard informational reporting on NDE operational activities, compliance reporting, and educational initiatives

Action Taken: This item was presented for information and discussion only. No formal action was taken.

7. Consent Agenda (*For Possible Action*) - 00:28:00

Information concerning the following consent agenda items has been provided to Board members for study prior to the meeting. Unless a Board member has a question concerning a particular item and asks that it be withdrawn from the consent list, all items are approved in one action.

- a. Possible Approval of the State Board of Education February 25, 2026, Draft Meeting Minutes
- b. Possible Approval of the State Board of Education March 11, 2026, Draft Meeting Minutes
- c. Possible Approval of the State Board of Education April 18, 2026, Draft Meeting Minutes
- d. Possible Approval of the State Board of Education April 22, 2026, Draft Meeting Minutes
- e. Possible Approval of the State Board of Education May 13, 2026, Draft Meeting Minutes
- f. Possible Approval of the State Board of Education Regulation Hearing June 24, 2026, Draft Meeting Minutes
- g. Possible Approval of the State Board of Education June 26, 2026, Draft Meeting Minutes
- h. Possible Approval of the State Board of Education July 29, 2026, Draft Meeting Minutes
- i. Possible Approval of Dual Credit Request: Washoe County School District in partnership with Truckee Meadow Community College

Deputy AG Christena Georgas-Burns clarified for the record that Item 7I applies exclusively to dual credit courses for Truckee Meadows Community College, as titled on the agenda, and that additional institutional dual credits will be brought to a future meeting.

President Dockweiler requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items.

Motion: Member Hudson motioned to approve the Consent Agenda Items.

Second: Member Dawson Owens seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

8. Appointments to the WestEd Board of Directors (*For Possible Action*) – 00:29:57

The State Board of Education reviewed and acted upon nominations to fill three vacant Nevada representative seats on the WestEd Board of Directors

President Dockweiler and the Board considered appointments for three open Nevada seats on the WestEd Board of Directors—two representing the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) and one representing Nevada school districts. NDE’s official staff nominees are Julie Bowers (Director of the Office of Comprehensive Student Supports)

and Deputy Superintendent Christy McGill. The Nevada Association of School Superintendents (NASS) nominated Tate Else, Superintendent of Eureka County School District and former State Board member, for the school district seat.

President Dockweiler requests motion to appoint Julie Bowers and Deputy Superintendent as representatives of the Department of Education and Tate else as the representative for Nevada School Districts to the WestEd Board.

Motion: Member Braxton moves to motion

Second: Member Hudson seconded the motion.

Vote: the motion carried unanimously

9. Clark County School District Teacher Vacancies Update (*Information and Discussion*) – 00:33:00

The State Board of Education will receive an update from the Clark County School District on teacher vacancies following the start of the 2026–2027 school year, including staffing progress, remaining vacancies, and related workforce trends. Board members may ask questions and discuss the information presented.

- **Presented by:** Nick Sacconi, Executive Director of Government Relations; Dana Crowley, Director of Talent Recruitment; Devin Hines, Director of Talent Acquisition (CCSD).
- **Recruitment & Staffing Data:** CCSD reported entering day one of the 2026–2027 school year with 167 licensed vacancies—cutting unstaffed positions by more than half compared to 348 on day one of the previous year. Achieved a projected 99% overall fill rate. Licensed special education vacancies were reduced to 90 (down from 163). On day one, 99.3% of substitute coverage needs were met.
- **Recruitment Strategy & Surplus/RIF Review:** Highlighted restructuring the recruitment team to require active teaching licenses and minimum classroom experience, expanded university outreach (including 21 new student intern agreements and 80 related services hires), and targeted digital CRM campaigns. Recapped the spring 2026 surplus process: of 707 licensed staff initially identified, 337 attended surplus, 103 selected positions, 154 were placed in attrition vacancies, and 0 teachers were ultimately reduced in force (RIF).

Board Discussion

- **Member Braxton:** Commended outreach to HBCUs (Howard University) and asked about wrap-around support for surplus staff and student CTE teaching pathways. CCSD confirmed one-on-one resume/interview support, photo sessions, and virtual interest meetings for high school seniors.
- **Member Dawson Owens:** Inquired about total special education positions and substitute-to-licensed conversion efforts. CCSD highlighted monthly "Skills for Success" events connecting substitutes directly with ARL partners.
- **Member Hudson:** Requested data disaggregation on vacancies by Title I status and highly qualified teacher retention.

- **Member Ford and Member Braxton:** Suggested future data include a visual heat-map of school vacancies, grade-level impacts, salary competitiveness, and tracking teacher exit interview trends.
- **Member Jow:** Shared feedback from 54 Nevada students detailing how staff turnover, substitute reliance, and schedule disruptions directly impact classroom learning environments.

Action Taken: Item presented for information and discussion only; no formal action taken.

10. Update on the Revision of the Statewide Plan for the Improvement of Pupils (STIP) and Appointment of State Board Member Representative (*Information, Discussion, and Possible Action*) – 01:15:40

The State Board of Education will receive an update on the revision of the Statewide Plan for the Improvement of Pupils (STIP), including stakeholder engagement, proposed strategic priorities, and the timeline for completion and adoption of the revised plan. The Board may discuss the information presented and may appoint one Board member to gather perspectives and feedback from fellow Board members, engage with the Department throughout the revision process, and identify areas of alignment between the revised STIP and the State Board's goals and priorities

- Dr. Victor Wakefield, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Christy McGill, Deputy Superintendent, Nevada Department of Education
- Dr. Torrey Palmer, Deputy Superintendent, Nevada Department of Education

Superintendent Wakefield, Deputy Superintendent Torrey Palmer and Deputy Superintendent Christy McGill Presented the draft 5-year STIP framework built around NDE's 5 core strategic priorities:

1. **Strong Academic Foundations:** Expanding Pre-K access (targeting growth from 18% to 50%) and reversing 8th-grade math declines.
2. **Empowering Pathways:** Reviewing high school diploma requirements and starting post-secondary planning in middle school.
3. **Prepared & Equipped Educators:** Modernizing licensing systems, tracking special education vacancies, and refining the NEPF.
4. **Enabling Conditions (Systems & Coalitions):** Consolidating district desktop monitoring and expanding community/mental health partnerships

Board Discussion

- **Member Dawson Owens** Emphasized the importance of ensuring parents and students understand the full array of available educational choices and course offerings. Highlighted the value of early post-secondary pathway conversations in middle school and stressed the need for clear enforcement and communication so families know how to access these opportunities.
- **Member Braxton** Clarified that the public survey link can be broadly shared with constituents. Inquired about the long-term feasibility of putting survey suggestions into practice and advocated for receiving future presentations from workforce agencies (e.g., GOED, DETR) to ensure educational pathways align directly with Nevada's future job market and economic needs

- **Member Hudson:** Asked how targets would embed and disaggregate sub-group data (e.g., ELL, special education, rural students) directly within the main plan to ensure equity and transparency. Expressed concern over scheduling and transportation barriers for rural students accessing advanced pathways and urged NDE to track administrative/teacher time saved through streamlined reporting.
- **Member Ford:** Cautioned against "survey fatigue" among community members, recommending that NDE explicitly communicate to the public how past feedback directly shaped the current draft plan to encourage continued engagement.
- **Member Carvalho:** Raised concerns regarding financial barriers to education, noting that family costs for school supplies, extracurricular activities, and dual enrollment fees often hinder student participation. Urged NDE to make financial access explicit within the pathway strategy, alongside acknowledging state-level fiscal policy dependencies for Pre-K expansion.
- **Member Orr:** Recommended tightening high school performance metrics beyond course participation counts alone, suggesting that metrics should specifically reflect student *success* and academic achievement in high-level coursework.
- **Vice President Hughes:** Inquired about the practical mechanisms NDE will use to align state STIP priorities with individual school district strategic plans, ensuring all 17 districts and the Charter School Authority move cohesively without duplicative or conflicting directions.
- **Superintendent Wakefield & NDE Leadership:** Confirmed that sub-group data is disaggregated in the appendices and agreed to make financial barrier reductions more explicit. Explained that NDE will leverage state funding levers, standard-setting, and accountability frameworks (such as the DPF) to hold high expectations while supporting districts in local implementation.

President Dockweiler requested a motion

Motion: **Member Hudson** moved to appoint **Member Dawson Owens** as the State Board of Education Liaison to the STIP revision process.

Second: **Member Ford** seconded the motion.

Vote Taken/Action: Motion passed unanimously. **Member Dawson Owens** was appointed as STIP Liaison.

President Dockweiler requested a motion.

11. State Board of Education Goals and Performance Metrics: Empowered Pathways (Information, Discussion, and Possible Action) - 02:20:30

The Board discussed potential goal(s) and associated performance metrics related to the priority area of Empowered Pathways. The Board may provide feedback, consider revisions, and take possible action to adopt goal(s) and associated performance metrics for this priority area.

- Tim Hughes, Vice President, Nevada State Board of Education

Vice President Hughes led the Board in evaluating the final proposed goal language for the "Pathway Expansion" domain, which had been deferred from prior meetings for further refinement. The discussion centered on whether the Board's metric should track course enrollment rates across various tracks or focus on concrete, high-level high school graduation

outcomes

Board Discussion

- **Member Orr** Suggested anchoring the Board's goal directly to the percentage of students graduating with a College and Career Ready (CCR) or Advanced Diploma. She emphasized that focusing on specific diploma types provides a clearer metric of academic achievement and falls directly within the Board's statutory policy authority.
- **Vice President Hughes** Supported focusing on diploma outcomes, noting that combining CCR and Advanced Diplomas provides an all-encompassing measure of rigorous student preparation while allowing room for future policy refinements regarding diploma requirements.
- **Member Braxton** Inquired about how the Board will track long-term indicators of success, such as workforce readiness, post-secondary employment, and livable wages. She advocated for future collaboration with state workforce agencies (such as GOED and DETR) to evaluate how diploma tracks align with Nevada's job market.
- **Superintendent Wakefield & NDE Leadership** Confirmed that NDE's draft STIP framework combines CCR and Advanced Diplomas as rigorous benchmarks. Superintendent Wakefield noted that both diploma options require extra student commitment and coursework, making them strong indicators of post-secondary readiness.

Member Orr requested a motion

Motion: By the end of the 2030–2031 school year, the Board increase the percentage of high school students graduating on time with a College and Career Ready (CCR) or Advanced Diploma from 36% to 50%.

Second: Member Hudson seconded the motion.

Vote Taken/Action: Motion carried unanimously. The Pathway Expansion goal was officially adopted as presented.

12. Update regarding the Nevada District Performance Framework (DPF)-02:38:30

The Nevada Department of Education presented an update on the Nevada District Performance Framework (DPF) established under Senate Bill 460 (2025), which introduces a comprehensive, multi-tiered framework for district-level accountability. Board members engaged in a discussion regarding support mechanisms for lower-performing districts, framework transparency, and minimizing administrative reporting burdens on local school boards.

- **Presented by: Superintendent Wakefield, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Torrey Palmer, Vice President Tim Hughes.**

NDE provided an overview of the DPF structure, which organizes district performance across a three-tiered pyramid: District Practices (foundation), District Supports, and School/Student Outcomes. Phase 1 launches preliminary ratings on September 15, 2026, combining District Support Indicators (educator coverage, Title I equity, instructional materials, CCR enrollment, fund balance) and School Outcomes. Student outcomes and formal district

designations (e.g., Focus or Priority Districts) will phase in during the 2026–2027 school year.

Board Discussion

- **Vice President Hughes** shared insights as a member of the System Accountability Redesign (SAR) subcommittee, noting that the committee aimed to create a more balanced framework that evaluates district input conditions alongside student outcomes while shifting away from a purely punitive accountability culture.
- **Member Braxton & Member Orr** inquired about the specific technical assistance, required improvement planning, and state support mechanisms that will be triggered if a district consistently underperforms or receives a Focus/Priority designation.
- **Member Ford** raised concerns regarding state intervention thresholds and requested increased transparency, asking that meeting summaries and formal updates from the SAR subcommittee be regularly provided to the Board.
- **Member Neal** shared feedback from local school board trustees who expressed concern that the framework creates an additional reporting burden and raised questions regarding state oversight of district budgets.
- **Superintendent Wakefield & NDE Leadership** clarified that the DPF uses existing data to streamline reporting rather than creating new collections. Confirmed that formal designations and required improvement plans will not take effect until the 2026–2027 cycle and promised to bring detailed support and monitoring protocols to the Board well in advance.

Action Taken: Item presented for information and discussion only; no formal action taken.

13. Public Comment #2-03:14:38

The second period of public comment was opened by President Dockweiler.

- **Carson City:**
 - No public comment was present
- **Las Vegas:**
 - No public comment was present
- **Written Submission:**
 - Jeff Church: Recommended breaking down DPF reporting between charter schools and traditional district schools
 - Sarah Galaza: Submitted a statement regarding severe teacher salary compression and inequity in Nevada, urging state legislation to mandate independent audits of district pay placement practices and establish formal appeal processes for veteran teachers.

14. Future Agenda Items Request-03:19:36

Member Hudson requested a future presentation on the ESSA plan alignment with the revised STIP.

Member Ford requested an informational update providing meeting summaries and minutes from the SAR subcommittee meetings regarding the DPF.

15. Adjournment-03:20:39

President Dockweiler thanked Board members, Department staff, and members of the public for their time, active engagement and participation throughout the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:21 p.m.