

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WORK SESSION
APRIL 9, 2021
2:00 P.M.**

Meeting Location

Due to the circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the State Board of Education met via videoconference. In accordance with Governor Sisolak's State of Emergency Directive 006, Section 1, no physical location was designated for this meeting. The meeting was livestreamed on the Nevada Department of Education's (NDE) website.

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Via Videoconference

Felicia Ortiz, President
Mark Newburn, Vice President
Katie Coombs
Dr. René Cantú
Dr. Katherine Dockweiler
Alex Gallegos
Tim Hughes
Cathy McAdoo

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

Jhone M. Ebert, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Dr. Jonathan Moore, Deputy Superintendent of Student Achievement
Felicia Gonzales, Deputy Superintendent for Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement
Jessica Todtman, Chief Strategy Officer

FACILITATOR

Dr. Debb Oliver, Executive Director, Nevada Association of School Boards

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT

Via Videoconference

Greg Ott, Chief Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE

Via Livestream

1: CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting called to order at 2:00 P.M. by President Felicia Ortiz. Quorum was established. President Ortiz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2: PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Raquel Johnson, ACCEL College and Career Readiness, provided public comment regarding funding for adult education. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A)*

Jeanine Collins, Executive Director, Nevada Succeeds, provided public comment regarding the Portrait of a Nevada graduate. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A)*

3: INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING GOALS OF THE BOARD IN RELATION TO SILVER STATE GOVERNANCE TRAINING

Felicia Ortiz, President, State Board of Education; Jhone M. Ebert, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nevada Department of Education; and Dr. Debb Oliver, Executive Director, Nevada Association of School Boards, facilitated a discussion regarding the [Goals](#) of the Board in follow-up to their Silver State Governance Training.

Dr. Oliver reflected that the self-evaluation the Board completed during their [March 11, 2021](#) meeting was a great starting point for setting the vision and goals of the Nevada State Board of Education. Dr. Oliver hoped to develop no more than three goals during today's meeting, and began by reviewing the definitions for vision, goals, guardrails, and interim goals. She then asked for Board input related to vision statements.

The shared ideas of the Board were:

- That every student graduate prepared for a rapidly changing world having received a whole-child centered education that is culturally responsive.
- That every student has a world-class, rigorous, inspiring, and culturally relevant education; has access to resources, opportunities, supports, and interventions to ensure that they graduate as free-thinking, civically engaged, and prepared for a rapidly changing world and equipped to pursue their desired path.
- That students receive this education in the ways they need to receive it.
- That every Nevada child, regardless of circumstance or challenge, will become free-thinking, civically engaged citizens who are prepared for a rapidly changing world, and are empowered to build a better home, community, and society.
- That all graduating students have a clear path to success regardless of life circumstances.
- That all students receive a whole-child centered education and are well equipped when leaving the school system.
- That all students are provided access to resources, opportunities, supports, and interventions that ensure they maximize their abilities and potential, giving students what they need to meet their learning and well-being requirements with culturally relevant curricula.
- That all students receive a whole-child centered education, matched with unique opportunities and supports based on their skills and interests, within a system that is staffed with best practice ratios, and students graduate ready for success and civic engagement post-high school.
- That all students are equipped with the skills they need to confidently succeed in an ever-changing world.
- That all students are built up holistically, taking into account their personal and emotional needs, creating a connection between the student and the community, and emphasizing the role of the community in the student's education and vice versa.

The Board emphasized equity in addressing **all** students, the importance of student choice and voice, orienting the focus to outcomes and lifelong learning, centering the whole child to include their personal and emotional needs, looking forward to what students are equipped to do upon leaving the pre-K-12 system, and ensuring that education creates a better community and world. The Board differed in their discussion regarding how specific to be in their vision statements and goals, and in developing "how" rather than "what".

Dr. Oliver asked for the Board to develop a comprehensive definition of their role and emphasized that their role is an outcome. The Board should think in terms of inputs, outputs, and outcomes. The Board noted that Nevada is frequently ranked last in education, and that resolving this is a shared goal; they emphasized the importance of understanding this goal. Dr. Oliver noted that this could be an interim goal, and that the Board will be creating SMART (Specific,

Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-based) Goals. Dr. Oliver asked each Board member to write a short statement on their role, highlight the verbs, and share their responses.

Statements from the Board included:

- [Ensuring] that every student graduate prepared for a rapidly changing world.
- [Ensuring] that every student receives a high-quality education and graduates with the skills necessary to pursue their chosen path and be a lifelong learner.
- [Ensuring] that all students in Nevada will be empowered to pursue the future of their choosing as a result of an inspiring world class education.
- [Ensuring] that all graduates will be prepared to succeed in the world regardless of their selected career path.
- [Ensuring] that every student succeed in a multi-cultural society by ensuring they have the skills they need to advance.
- [Ensuring] that all Nevada's students will feel confident in the possibilities of their future as a result of their education preparation.
- Equipping/educating all Nevada students with the skills needed to confidently succeed in an ever-changing world.
- [Ensuring] that every Nevadan is given the support to succeed in a rapidly changing world through high quality education.

[Convenience Break]

Dr. Oliver noted that members had similar ideas in their vision, and the vision statement should resonate with all of them. She emphasized that it must be realistic, timely, and measurable. The goals should be their greatest hopes for Nevada, and their interim goals and guardrails would be in support of this. The Board's shared draft vision statement was that **all Nevada students are equipped and feel empowered to pursue the future of their choosing as a result of collective efforts to provide a world-class learning experience.**

Dr. Oliver asked members to think about and share the most important thing to them as an individual member. The Board highlighted equity, quality, diploma/credential of value, engagement, essential skills, community, access for all, resilience, and drive; they identified data as a key metric for accomplishing these goals. Guardrails included that equity should not be sacrificed in pursuit of goals, and that all subgroups should improve at the same pace.

Dr. Oliver noted that climate and culture surveys, as well as exit surveys, could support interim goals. She emphasized that the role of the Board was to goal set, and measuring data was the Department's job. The Board questioned if they were working in the right direction, as most of their goals aligned with the Department goals outlined in the 2020 Statewide Plan for the Improvement of Pupils. The Board hoped to establish metrics for comparison to other states with the goal of improving relative to those states.

Goals discussed by the Board included:

- Increasing Nevada's ranking
- Improving graduation rates
- Improving academic performance
- Increasing attainment of college and career ready diplomas
- Increasing responses to climate and culture surveys
- Increasing the number of pre-K seats available
- Providing greater opportunities for adult education
- Improving social-emotional wellness

Superintendent Ebert summarized ongoing discussions related to Nevada as the fastest improving state in the nation and the importance of defining what educational equity truly means.

4: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Board agreed that future work sessions would be needed to develop and refine their goals.

5: PUBLIC COMMENT #2

Christopher Amigo provided public comment. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A)*

6: ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

Appendix A: Statements Given During Public Comment

1. Raquel Johnson, ACCEL College and Career Readiness, provided public comment regarding funding for adult education.
2. Jeanine Collins, Executive Director, Nevada Succeeds, provided public comment regarding the Portrait of a Nevada graduate.
3. Christopher Amigo provided public comment.

Item A1, Raquel Johnson

COABE's State Advocates for Adult Education ask policymakers to provide funding for Adult Education. In Nevada, funding per adult education student is less than 1/10th of what elementary students are allocated. Our programs, such as the ACCEL program at Western Nevada College in Carson City and programs like ours in the south, need support to assist underserved adults to help them be a critical part of reviving our economy. Thank you.

Best,
Raquel Johnson
Lead Teacher, ACCEL

Item A2, Jeanine Collins

As the board continues to consider its priorities for the year ahead, I'd like to encourage statewide support for developing and implementing a future-ready profile or portrait of a Nevada graduate.

In December 2020, NV Succeeds along with members of Design Team 1 of our InspirED Global Fellowship in partnership with Tom Vander Ark from Getting Smart, facilitated a workshop with the State Board considering how equity and global preparation could be operationalized through vision-setting policy like a statewide profile of a graduate. In late January, we facilitated another community convening around this topic, garnering attendance and engagement with 80 + stakeholders including young people, educators, school and district leaders, non-profit partners, policy makers, our State Superintendent; curiosity, excitement, and desire was expressed to move this community-minded work forward to make a holistic vision of success that young people have for themselves - and their futures - true in NV.

Beyond a mission or vision statement, engaging in the creation of this document invites our system to specify the cognitive, personal, and interpersonal competencies that young people need in conjunction with content knowledge. The pandemic has further illuminated the critical need for education to center equity, focusing on whole child approaches to learning and teaching. By co-creating this true north star with key input from critical stakeholders, the profile or portrait becomes a clear visualization of priority goals that focus on outcomes. Identifying these mindsets and skills in relationship to knowledge, invites our system to coherently calibrate: curriculum, assessment, professional learning, and budgets for future-ready success.

Virginia and Utah are two states that offer models of this work at different stages of its progression. What we also know from looking at high performing international systems is that this kind of clarity creates the conditions for the coherence and alignment to sustain improved, even innovative learner outcomes.

What might be possible if we lean into this opportunity for transformation that is within the hearts of our community? By building on the successful steps Nevada has taken, and our engaged and strong leadership at NDE, we can leapfrog from a model of improvement to a leader of innovation.

Jeanine Collins
Executive Director, NV Succeeds

Item A3, Christopher Amigo

To teach means to prepare someone for daily living.