

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
December 12, 2022
3:00 PM**

Office	Address	City	Meeting Room
Department of Education	2080 E. Flamingo Rd., Suite 210	Las Vegas	Bristlecone
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St.	Carson City	Board Room
Department of Education	Virtual/Livestream	N/A	Lifesize Link

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Brande Johnson
Duana Malone
Stacie Wilke
Rebecca Dirks-Garcia
Sergeant Major Gary Schoolfield
Tameka Henry

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF PRESENT

Alberto Quintero, 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)

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Rebecca Dirks-Garcia called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m. Administrative Assistant, Rick Derry gave roll call followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Native American land acknowledgement led by Chair Dirks-Garcia.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

No public comment in Carson City, and no public comment in Las Vegas.

3. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 21, 2022

(Information/Discussion/Possible Action)

Agenda item 3 was postponed and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

4. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ON NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FAMILY ENGAGEMENT UPDATES

(Information/Discussion)

Alberto Quintero, Education Programs Professional, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE) provided three updates pertaining the 2022 Nevada Family Engagement Summit, The Nevada Family Engagement School Recognition Award, and the Family School Climate update. Mr. Quintero started with updates on The Nevada Family Engagement School Recognition Award in which Nevada Department of Education (NDE) is collaborating with the Colorado Department of Education to recognize the family engagement efforts of school sites. This

would be synonymous to the Nevada Purple Star School Awards. The goal is to launch the pilot for the beginning of the school year of 2024.

The Nevada Department of Education recently received a service agreement with the American Institute for Research to expand its School Climate Survey to include family voice. The first step within this work is to have focus groups with family members and care givers to elicit their input on what components of school climates are most important to them. There is a \$75 gift card incentive for family members who participate in the focus group as long as the child is in a Nevada public school or charter school. More information can be found on the NDE Nevada Ready Twitter, Facebook, and Linked-In accounts. In addition, parents are encouraged to sign up for the Spanish speaking family focus groups. Mr. Quintero has reached out to additional family engagement liaisons and community members to specially target the Spanish speaking demographic groups in hopes to hear from Spanish speaking households. These focus groups are set to begin at the end of this week, furthermore, if families who are interested in participating in either of the focus groups are able to input the days available or unavailable into the form. This will allow for the future creation of other focus groups dates which are all virtual. Mr. Quintero suggested that the information should be shared with any families, or organizations that work closely with families who are interested in being part of the process, and believes that it would be an excellent step in the direction in terms of schools and the state understanding what families desire within the school climate, making sure that schools and districts learn on how to make improvements for school climates for families. Mr. Quintero opened the panel for questions. Chair Rebecca Dirks-Garcia questioned what specific survey would be impacted, and what is the specific timeline for feedback being incorporated into survey updates? Mr. Quintero stated that this is specifically impacting the school climate survey that schools give to students and is included within the Nevada school performance framework. There is a certain participation level within the framework where students are given a user generated code that remains anonymous. The idea is that students participate in the survey providing feedback on the school climate. This component is adding a family component where families can respond to the survey. The contract with AIR (American Institutes for Research) is set to end February 10 in terms of obtaining feedback from the focus groups which would be the deadline. The idea is to gather information, know what families find important, what makes a school a good climate, and then AIR will take that information to the US Department of Education (who also has a school climate survey) to see if it aligns within their survey. Mr. Quintero will have updates on the development of the climate survey at a later date. Mr. Quintero presented a slideshow for the Nevada Family Engagement Summit Report which can be found in the meeting materials on the Nevada Department of Education website. ([See meeting materials](#)).

5. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE UPDATED NATIONAL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA) FAMILY-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP STANDARDS

(Information/Discussion)

Chair Rebecca Dirks-Garcia opened the agenda item with the updated National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Family-School Partnership Standards. Alberto gave a brief background on National Standards for Family-School Partnerships which was updated in 2008. There were three goals that the National PTA approached one of which was that they wanted to include new research within the standards since 2008, two; they wanted to include a family voice within the standards; and the third being that they wanted to make sure the standards had more usefulness to stakeholders in terms of the roles of educators, family members, community members, and advocates. The six standards are the same in regard to welcoming all families, communicating effectively, supports student success, speak up for every child, share power, and collaborate with the community, however, there were substantial changes in the goals and indicators, furthermore, there were added language to

acknowledge diversity and inclusiveness along with student outcomes, the approach was more of an holistic outcome for the child within those standards. The Family-School Partnership standards are our state boards family-school policy in which they were incorporated. Mr. Quintero stated that the family-school partnerships standards live in how teachers are evaluated in the Nevada Educators Performance Framework (NEPF) specifically, professional responsibility standards for family engagement which includes the language that lives within the family-school partnership standards. Furthermore, any information or content that is required is to be covered in the courses that Nevada educators are required to take for initial licenses. Changes to these national standards does create a domino effect regarding Nevada policies, guidance documents, and evaluations. Mr. Quintero added that the Nevada Family Engagement Framework organizes its best practices tool kit with the Family-School Partnership standards. Mr. Quintero presented The Updated National PTA Family-School Partnership Standards slideshow which can be found in the meeting materials section of the Nevada Department of Education website ([see meeting materials](#)). Member, Sgt. Major Schoolfield mentioned that a couple of years ago, the council consolidated a list of what different schools were doing in family engagement and wanted to know if the list was presented and shared the ideas with the new standards. Mr. Quintero added that the council created a family engagement promising practices booklet for Nevada prior to the pandemic. The way the booklet was organized was using the family-school partnership standards in which a school was to submit a best practice they were implementing. The practice would be included in the Promising Practices booklet and was organized to where it would appropriately fit within the standards. He also mentioned that they would like to recreate the promising practices, but with the family engagement framework. Mr. Quintero hopes to expand and continue this on a yearly basis. This plan is synonymous with the Colorado Department of Education best practices.

6. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICIES

(Information/Discussion/Possible Action)

Alberto Quintero shared a slideshow on the Nevada Policy of Parental and Family Engagement pursuant to NRS 385.620 ([see meeting materials](#)). Member Stacie Wilke-McCulloch commented on a highlight within the presentation and mentioned that the council had a working group that worked well, she believes that it would be a great idea to launch it again since things have changed. Chair Rebecca Dirks-Garcia believes that the working group should have contemporary language that is relevant and make sure all documents conform to the framework. Mr. Quintero stated that the standards were updated and the feedback that the council gives does not have to be limited only to family-school partnerships. The council can provide other feedback in terms of other information within the policy (i.e., the family engagement framework that Nevada has recently published and created). Chair Dirks-Garcia asked if there should be a motion to establish a working group to provide feedback on updates on the Nevada Policy of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement. **Member Gary Schoolfield made a motion, Vice Chair, Tameka Henry seconded, and with no further objections motion passed unanimously.** Chair Dirks-Garcia asked the council if anyone would be interested in serving in the working group. Member Duana Malone, Vice Chair, Tameka Henry, and Chair Dirks-Garcia all agreed to serve on the working group. Both Chair Dirks-Garcia and Mr. Quintero will send an email to members who were not in attendance that would like to join the workgroup on a first come first serve basis.

7. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON STUDENT CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

(Information/Discussion/Possible Action)

Chair Rebecca Dirks -Garcia opened discussion pursuant the NRS 385.620 that the council should

identify the manner in which the level of parental involvement and family engagement affects the performance and attendance, and discipline of pupils. Chair Dirks-Garcia shared that this information is found in the council NRS guidelines. Mr. Quintero presented a slideshow on [Chronic Absenteeism] ([see meeting materials](#)). The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) defines chronic absenteeism as students who are absent ten percent or more of their enrolled school days. A student is considered absent if they are fifty percent or more of a school day. Mr. Quintero opened discussion for questions or comments. Member Gary Schoolfield commented that there are so many things that contribute to the chronic absenteeism within the districts and believes that if classrooms are filled with long-term substitute teachers, then they are not inclined to go to that class. He added that most individuals believe that there are long-term substitute teachers due to current educator shortages, however, he stated that this is not the truth and believed that some educators are not in the classroom due to a magnanimous amount of sick leave time, he added that educators find it feasible to take sick leave instead of cashing sick leave out before retirement which results in about twenty-two cents an hour. He believes that this also contributes to student chronic absenteeism. Mr. Schoolfield mentioned that Human Resources or the Board should come up with a better resolution such as compensation being one solution to solve the issue. Chair Dirks-Garcia agreed that there are a several influences contributing to chronic absenteeism. Vice Chair Tameka Henry expressed that she is thankful for the presentation as she can relate to it. She stated that in some cases students are absent due to mental health or medical reasoning and wishes that the students wouldn't be penalized for it resulting in threatening truancy letters. Mr. Quintero explained that with chronic absenteeism the idea is that—is the child receiving the educational services they need? If there is an extended absence, what type of programming or service is in place to ensure that the child is receiving their educational needs. He added that theoretically distant, and remote learning should be easier. Furthermore, If a student is chronically absent, the approach should not be punitive or reprimanding. The approach should be having a conversation with families letting them know if the child is on track or in line to be chronically absent, and make sure that the family has the support system they need for their child. Chair Rebecca Dirks-Garcia shared a personal experience of absenteeism and wanted to know what the council can do to help encourage recognition on how schools choose to approach the topic of chronic absenteeism with families. Mr. Quintero explained that it is about the importance of the approach is how do the schools support the students and families to allow them to attend school. Mr. Quintero shared [A Need for Collective Impact Approach] ([see meeting materials](#)). Chair Dirks-Garcia suggested that the council includes commentary in the report to legislatures if members feel that the council should emphasize that proactive family engagement efforts would improve efforts to address chronic absenteeism in Nevada. Chair Dirks-Garcia opened discussion for ideas and comments as to what the council could do to beyond commentary in the report to legislatures. Member Gary Schoolfield commented that he agreed with the “check engine light” section of the presentation and should be added to the commentary in the report to legislatures. He added that there should be a teachers log (similar to what he uses for his classroom) where educators log when a student is absent for a couple of days. He stated that Nevada Department of Education suggest educators to use this method and believes that it would help in the areas of chronic absenteeism. Chair Dirks-Garcia believes that there are not enough family voices included in the professional development that are given to educators and believes that it could be an opportunity to include the family voices and how educator outreach made a difference for families in the scope of absenteeism. She added that the quality of the administrators setting the standards of what is expected makes a difference. She agreed with member Gary Schoolfield on how to bring educators and families together to create the playbook.

8. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

(Information/Discussion/Possible Action)

Chair Dirks-Garcia shared with the council that the report is due on or before February 1, 2023, to the legislative council bureau. Mr. Quintero shared that the council would receive a draft of the report. Based on the items that were covered in today's meeting, the family-school partnerships standards would be included in the draft report as well the chronic absenteeism. Furthermore, there will be a workgroup on the state's policy and providing feedback. All the items will be included in the drafted report. Since the date is approaching, council members will receive the drafted report to review and edit and make any suggestive changes during the January meeting. Chair Dirks-Garcia asked if the council are able to send back revisions and redlines individually, so that Mr. Quintero can compile them or hold them for public discussion. Mr. Quintero stated that they can be sent in individually.

9. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT 2023 MEETING SCHEDULE

(Information/Discussion/Possible Action)

Chair Dirks-Garcia asked are there any comments or suggestions regarding the 2023 meeting schedule. The council initially switched to the third Monday of each month from 3:00pm – 6:00pm. The council decided that the next meeting in January would be on January 23 at 3:00pm. Mr. Quintero will send out a poll to see if the date works for the council. The council will later decide future meeting dates.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

(Information/Discussion)

No information or discussion on future agenda items.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

No public comment in Las Vegas. No public comment in Carson City.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm