

# ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT (FE)

DECEMBER 11, 2019 – 9:00 AM

## Meeting Locations:

OFFICE	ADDRESS	CITY	MEETING ROOMS
Department of Education	2080 E. Flamingo Road	Las Vegas	Board Room
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth Street	Carson City	Silver Ore Conf. Rm.

## Draft Meeting Minutes

(Video Conferenced)

### ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Carson City:

- Andrea Hughs-Baird
- Jennifer Hoy
- Malena Raymond

In Las Vegas:

- Darlin Delgado
- Duana Malone
- Gary Schoolfield

Via Telephone:

- None

### DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Carson City:

- None

In Las Vegas:

- Alberto Quintero
- Martha Warachowski

### LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

In Carson City: None

In Las Vegas: None

### AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Carson City: None

In Las Vegas:

- Nathalie Brugman, Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program

In Pahrump:

- Fern Gatson-Rush, Parent Engagement Specialist, NCSD
- Karen Holly, Coordinator of Federal & State Programs, NCSD

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

Chair Hoy called the meeting to order at 9:14 am.

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

Chair Hoy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Carson City: None

Las Vegas: None

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

Chair Hoy called for flexible agenda approval. **Motion:** Member Hughs-Baird moved to approve the flexible agenda. Member Raymond seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item # 4 – Approval of August 27, 2019 Minutes**

**Motion:** Member Schoolfield moved to approve the August 27, 2019 minutes with no changes. Member Raymond seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item # 5 – Nevada Department of Education and Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Updates presented by Alberto Quintero.**

Alberto stated that the last member vacancy should be in place by next the meeting on February 12, 2020 and let the council know that the new dates would be sent out to schedule the rest of 2020 and early 2021, the next meeting will finalize the schedule. He introduced Martha Warachowski as a new NDE staff member.

Superintendent Jhone Ebert is on a statewide listening tour finding out how the state could be doing better and this is about two-thirds done. The NDE is going through some divisional restructuring. The Office of Inclusive Education is putting on a family engagement series of informational sessions for families and caregivers of students with disabilities. These sessions are designed to highlight the various academic, social, and behavioral benefits of including students with disabilities in classrooms with their education peers. These sessions will take place in the Carson City and Department Boardrooms. For more information, contact Andrew Morgan at [amorgan@doe.nv.gov](mailto:amorgan@doe.nv.gov).

The Office of Safe and Respectful Learning Environments is inviting principals to participate in a Quarterly SafeVoice Principals Advisory Board. This Board will allow school leaders to comment or inquire about NDE/Department Public Safety Procedures and policies. If interested, please contact [safevoiceinfo@doe.nv.gov](mailto:safevoiceinfo@doe.nv.gov). The Pacific Southwest Mental Health Technology Transfer Center is proud to present a series of upcoming, no-cost trainings in collaboration with the California School-Based Health Alliance for educators, clinicians, school-based health providers, and other professionals working with young people. Optional CEUs are available for a fee. The goal of this workshop is to increase educators' and school-based providers' comfort in discussing suicide with children, adolescents, and their parents or other caregivers. Through a

combination of teaching methods including didactic work, lecture, and discussion, this workshop will address common myths and perceptions about suicide and suicidal behavior in children and adolescents. Participants will learn how to understand the combination of risk factors, warning signs, and protective factors that can increase suicide risk, and they will be better prepared to assess suicide risk. Emphasis will be placed on how to ask about suicidal thoughts and behaviors, how to talk about suicide, and how to conduct a risk assessment. This training is provided at no cost; however, space is limited. For more information please contact Pat Sanborn at psanborn@doe.nv.gov.

This month an email will be sent out from the PIFE office form a steering committee for 2020 family engagement summit that will take place in southern Nevada. Last year it was in northern Nevada at TMCC. It alternates destinations every year. We have partnered with the Public Education Foundation to serve as the fiscal agent for the summit; previously it was the Nevada PTA. Each summit has a different theme and the steering committee decides on the yearly theme.

The Rise Up for Equity, a national summit on community schools and family engagement, will take place on May 27 through May 29, 2020 in Los Angeles, CA. This combines two conferences. He will be having a call with accounting to see if they can send a member or two to the conference. There is a certain amount of funds available for this, but the issue is the registration money that makes things more difficult. A work program may be required.

Every month, the NDE office participates in a call with other state leaders and other family engagement leaders. Currently, the topic is evidence-based practices and programs utilizing funds that the federal government provides. Unfortunately, this eliminated funds for other family engagement programs. An ongoing conversation is happening about how to create a database to help. The Southern Nevada Family Engagement Collaborative is an organization that meets in southern Nevada to discuss best practices and share in family engagement events. They look to spread awareness and access to the programs. The subcommittee was created to help solve some of the issues with access.

#### **Agenda Item # 6 – Nevada PEP**

*Presenter could not attend last minute. This item will be rescheduled for next meeting.*

#### **Agenda Item # 7 – Superintendent’s Teacher Advisory Cabinet (STAC)**

Chair Hoy gave an update on the STAC, they have not had the opportunity to meet with the new state Superintendent as of yet. She looks forward to meeting with everyone again after the new year. They do get a lot of updates about potential gatherings, most of which are available in southern Nevada and some of the council members could attend things like Teach Plus.

#### **Agenda Item # 8 – District Family Engagement Policy**

Utilizing the flexible agenda, this was heard after agenda item #3.

Fern Gatson-Rush, Parent Engagement Specialist from Nye County School District and Karen Holley, Coordinator of Federal and State Programs from Nye County School District presented updated on what they have been doing since July 2019.

Fern stated that one of their schools, Haithen, did a food drive that fed over 30 turkey dinners to people; this was spear-headed by two parent volunteers. Floyd, last week, had their breakfast with Santa. This engagement speaks volumes about the heart of our community and how hard they are trying to come up with a good program.

Karen stated that NCSD is a very large district in terms of mileage and the size of the county. The free and reduced rate is 100% and they have high poverty across the board. The turkey dinners are a big deal especially when food banks are struggling to provide for everyone.

Fern gave an overview of what she has been doing to get parents involved in activities; she enlisted the help of the local supermarket and pizza parlor as well as the Floyd Gardens. Fern further stated that she did extensive research looking at states and countries that had high parent engagement. She found that the key aspect that all had was “meaningful communication,” and this started with a parent advisory council, a parent council, or a parent leadership team. She has started to put together a parent advisory council acting as the facilitator and giving assignments to parents to create rules and regulations around their council. She is also gently guiding them with topics they can run with during their meetings, all to further their engagement. There are so many talented people that can help. There is a fledgling theater group looking to connect with the community. Nye County has a lot of construction workers and women who are into arts and crafts; the idea is to get the dads to build the sets and the moms to help with the costumes. She is developing a parent university online. She is attempting a family ESL class due to having a large number of non-English speaking parents to offer people a safe place to come. She is very excited about the prospects and is looking forward to growing a viable program to stand the test of time.

Chair Hoy asked Fern if she was the first parent involvement coordinator in her district. Fern replied that there was someone there 5-6 years ago who transferred to another department and the program was alive and kicking at that time. Since that time, nobody has been in the position since that time for more than a few months. Chair Hoy asked what they could do to help support the process for Fern as she is rebuilding her program. Fern replied that she would like any suggestions for reaching out as well as numbers on home visit programs. Chair Hoy asked Alberto if he had the data on the home visits, she knows that CCSD, WCSD and others have that data. Alberto stated he could connect Fern with other districts that use the home visit model. He would also be more than happy to help provide any additional support to Fern. Chair Hoy recommended Karen Mapp’s research on the dual capacity programming for family engagement. She has updated it and there’s a whole website dedicated to it.

Vice Chair Malone asked about creation of a parent university and if it was only for Nye County or for the rest of the state. Fern replied that at this point it was only for Nye County. The first year is going to be a test run with the posting of articles and videos and surveys during the year. The second year would be open to comments to be able to bring that discussion into a face-to-face arena.

Vice Chair Malone stated that the free and reduced lunches (FRL) were at 100% and would like to know the challenges and problems involved for Fern’s unit. Fern replied that they are going through the same thing that most people are and they are trying different solutions. Chronic absenteeism is a big obstacle. Another issue that she has personally experienced is the limited

options for kids when they graduate high school. They have someone who is doing CTE classes and some of the students will be placed in a racing garage to work. This person has worked with many vendors with amazing success. One of the things we are doing to make sure that students understand that chronic absenteeism is not their friend is to offer shadowing and part-time jobs with various businesses in the community.

Member Schoolfield stated that his expertise is in getting fathers to help and provide help. He also has a counterpart who does ELL and is able to bring in Hispanic nights to bring in more Hispanic parents. Alberto stated that he will send her the information.

Vice Chair Malone stated that Microsoft does parent nights for technology activities that she can provide information for. There is a state grant RFA for a STIM director for north and south, which is for CTE. Their assignment is to incorporate more activities both north and south.

Member Delgado stated that she is a principal in a Las Vegas high school and was blown away by the 100% FRL. She wanted to know what the infrastructure for internet was in Nye County. Fern replied that there was a lot of transience in Nye County. She has loaner Chromebooks and other avenues that people can use in her office. She is going off the assumption that every student has access somehow. She isn't too concerned that students or families will not be able to access everything, but she is open to any suggestions.

Member Delgado stated that she hears that in rural towns that access is lower. In her school, they have family events to bring parents in for things like the FASFA nights. They start with the 9<sup>th</sup> graders parents to give parents the opportunity to be informed about their kids' grades and academic history through the infinite campus system. This increases engagement quite a bit. To her it is about access and providing the needed tools for the parents to help their kids succeed. Fern replied that in every school there is a parent computer.

Member Hughs-Baird stated that she was a parent in Washoe County and her perspective is that someone with the personality and energy of Fern is what is required to be a great piece in increasing the parental involvement. She likes the parent university aspect that Fern is spearheading. She believes in parent councils and believes they are absolutely necessary, it gives the parents access to be able to talk to school officials and it draws more parents in. This is critical to get participation and add more volunteers. In Washoe County, they have home visits, but she is sure it is a community group of ministries that work in partnership with WCSD. Fostering communication is another key. She gave some examples of numerous resources to Fern to be able to access.

Member Raymond stated that she is a trustee on the school board for WCSD and she appreciates Fern's enthusiasm. She had the opportunity a few weeks ago to go along on a home visit and believes it is one of the most valuable things that they can do, it impacts students and their families. She would definitely encourage that Fern focuses her energy on a few aspects, so that she can make the biggest impact. Fern replied that she has a 3-year plan and thanked everyone for their feedback and ideas.

Chair Hoy asked for recommendations for Nye County on their policy document. The Council recommended that the policy be fine-tuned and some of what Fern had spoken of in her testimony be incorporated into it. They would also like more specifics on their policy.

**Motion:** Member Hughs-Baird moved that the Council create a report on the comments given to Gatson-Rush and present it to Nye County School District and express general support for the direction they are headed. Member Raymond seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Agenda Item # 9 – NRS 392.456: Form for use in elementary schools concerning status of pupil and participation of parent; restrictions on use.**

Alberto Quintero gave a presentation of NRS 392.456; the PowerPoint presentation is available upon request from NDE staff.

Member Hughs-Baird asked if there was a way to use the report to show that the school has paid attention to what the parent has been able to do so far and act as a way of asking how we could do things different to increase parent participation.

Alberto asked for clarification and if the report would be in the form of a survey. Member Hughs-Baird stated that what she imagines is that it would be a yes or no survey to be able to find the critical areas. Finding out if there's a way to make it a self-reflective review and find out why parents may not be attending. The data could be invaluable.

**Agenda Item # 10 – Nevada Family Engagement Framework**

Alberto presented a recap and stated that the Department of Education partnered with 12 other states to form a State Consortium on Family Engagement, where one of the goals is for each state to develop its own statewide birth through grade 12 family engagement framework. There is a draft coming soon, they are gathering family engagement practices, and gathering information from other states. The original intent was to finish the framework in December 2019, but we do not want to rush the process and get it done right, which will take a bit more time.

**Agenda Item # 11 – Senate Bill 185**

Alberto Quintero presented a PowerPoint presentation with a synopsis of Senate Bill 185 which revises provisions relating to background checks required to become a volunteer at a school. The presentation is available upon request from Department staff.

Vice Chair Malone stated that she had to go through a background check with the partnership about 4 or 5 years ago and was curious if there was a time requirement happening every certain amount of years. Alberto replied that it was required every 5 years and to contact the district to find out what their specific process and guidelines were.

Chair Hoy asked if a district could be more stringent than the 5 years on the background checks. When she works with volunteers, they are required to do their background checks yearly. Alberto replied that he would have to forward that question on and find out from the districts what their policies were.

Chair Hoy stated she has friends who are teachers in the various districts and they have to fill out volunteer forms if they are volunteering at a different school and she was curious if working for

the district if they would need to do this background check. Alberto replied that the bill states that there is an exemption in the bill for certain scenarios.

Member Raymond stated that the district part of the volunteer form is to calculate the number of volunteers for grant proposals. She is not sure if that related to this bill.

### **Agenda Item # 12 – Advisory Council for Family Engagement 2020 Legislative Report**

Chair Hoy stated that the 2020 report is due February 1, 2020. We must approve the report. The supporting materials for this report are available upon request from Department staff.

Alberto stated they could add more suggestions to be amended into the report.

Chair Hoy suggested adding the discussion regarding Nye County into item number 3 of the report along with notes that Members of the Council were in attendance in a dual capacity at the Community Engagement Conference. The attendance at the conference would also be added to number 4 of the report.

**Motion:** Member Raymond moved to accept the proposed the Legislative Report with the changes suggested. Member Hughs-Baird seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item # 13 – Future Agenda Items**

Chair Hoy asked to see Nevada PEP back on the February agenda since they had to cancel on today's meeting. She would also like to hear from the State's counties about the various changes in statutes and regulations.

Member Hughs-Baird stated she would like to hear from more parent groups who interact with districts to hear about their barriers. Chair Hoy stated that would be Nevada Hopes and Communities in Schools. Member Hughs-Baird added that she'd like to see Gifted and Talented Advisory Panel (GTAP) and something from Clark County and perhaps other individual PTA's. Chair Hoy agreed and asked Alberto to reach out to the districts family engagement offices to find out what other smaller councils and panels exist.

Vice Chair Malone suggested HUD as they are working closely with government agencies to provide free internet access and computers in their community centers. The City of Las Vegas also announced free internet to families. She feels it is very relevant as it empowers families. She will share her contacts with Alberto.

Chair Hoy suggested Big Brothers Big Sisters as another source of family engagement.

### **Agenda Item # 14 – Public Comment # 2**

Carson City: None

Las Vegas: None

### **Agenda Item # 15 – Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 am.