

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
DECEMBER 15, 2022
2:00 PM**

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

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Felicia Ortiz, President
 Mark Newburn, Vice President
 Joe Arrascada
 Dr. René Cantú
 Malia Poblete
 Dr. Katherine Dockweiler
 Tamara Hudson
 Tim Hughes
 Dr. Summer Stephens
 Katie Coombs
 Mike Walker

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Jonathan Moore, Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement
 Craig Statucki, Interim Deputy Superintendent for Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement
 Jose Silva, Chief Strategy Officer
 Jeff Briske, Director, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE)
 Anna Severens, Education Programs Professional, Office of Early Learning and Development
 Rachel Stepina, Birth-3rd Grade Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT

David Gardner, Senior Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE

Kacey Edinton, Washoe County School District (WCSD) Learning Facilitator Coordinator
 Connie Hall, WCSD Kindergarten Teacher, Diedrichsen Elementary School, NDE Teacher of the Year
 Adam Young, Superintendent of White Pine County School District
 Jesus Jara, Superintendent of Clark County School District
 Dr. Seng-Dao Yang Keo, Deputy Superintendent of WCSD
 Tasha Fuson, Associate Superintendent of Carson City School District
 Andrew J. Feuling, Superintendent of Carson City School District
 Irene Cepeda, Chair, Clark County School District Board of Trustees

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

Meeting called to order at 2:01 P.M. by President Felicia Ortiz. Quorum was established. President Ortiz led the Pledge of Allegiance and provided a land acknowledgement.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Nancy Kuhles, Speech Language Pathologists, Nevada Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSHA) Coalition to Address Personnel Shortages. Provided public comment regarding item 6h(i). *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A)*

Anna Binder, community member, provided public comment regarding agenda item 10. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A)*

Ed Gonzalez, SOT member, Hickey Elementary School, provided public comment regarding agenda item 6h(ii). *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A)*

Amanda Morgan, Executive Director, Educate Nevada Now, provided public comment regarding agenda item 10. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A)*.

Chris Daly, Nevada State Education Association, provided public comment regarding agenda item 10. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A)*.

Darlene Anderson, community member, provided public comment regarding agenda item 10. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A)*.

Tiffany Thomas, community member, provided public comment regarding agenda item 8. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A)*.

Ken Paul, community member, provided public comment regarding agenda item 9. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A)*.

Nancy Brune, Research Professor, Desert Research Institute, provided public comment regarding agenda item 8. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A)*.

3. APPROVAL OF FLEXIBLE AGENDA

Member Katherine Dockweiler moved to approve the flexible agenda. Member Tamara Hudson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Ortiz reported that The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) is proud to announce five schools have been awarded the Purple Star School designation. Schools receiving this award have committed to supporting the unique educational and social-emotional needs of military-connected children. Nevada is home to almost 11,000 military-connected children.

The 5 schools are:

- Coral Academy of Las Vegas- Centennial Hills, State Public Charter School Authority
- Elizondo Elementary School, Clark County School District
- Lamb of God Lutheran School, Private School
- Mojave High School, Clark County School District
- Mt. Rose K-8 Academy of Languages, Washoe County School District

NDE chose to announce the designations in November because it is the Month of the Military Family. Each awarded school is presented with a certificate and banner, signaling that the school supports the social and emotional well-being of military students in adjusting to a new school and the absence of a parent during deployment.

The five recognized schools join 20 other Nevada schools and two school districts named since 2021. Other schools wishing to earn the designation can begin the application process online. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, and designations are awarded bi-annually during April and November.

President Ortiz reported that the election of the new Governor Elect will mean some potential changes to the makeup of the Board. The State Superintendent serves at the pleasure of the Governor, and it is the State Board of Education's responsibility to choose the candidates that the Governor would then choose from. President Ortiz noted that she hopes the Governor Elect will wait until after the upcoming legislative session to appoint a new State Superintendent.

President Ortiz congratulated State Superintendent Jhone Ebert, she was just named the University of Nevada Las Vegas College of Education's Alumni of the Year. Superintendent Ebert has spent most of her career, right here in Nevada first teaching our students, then in various leadership roles. She even attended UNLV while working in education. President Ortiz thanked Superintendent Ebert for all that she does for students here in our great state.

President Ortiz invited Member Joseph Arrascada to provide an update on the Nevada System of Higher Education's Board of Regents. Member Arrascada reported that the Board of Regents held its quarterly meeting in Las Vegas at UNLV. Some highlights include the unanimously approval of new masters' programs at the UNLV that include a Master of Arts in teaching elementary education and a Master of Arts in teaching secondary education. Both are designed for prospective teachers who are not currently licensed. The Board also unanimously approved a new policy requiring anti biased and anti-discrimination training for staff members of each institution. The training will address the effects of biased and discrimination including racism, antisemitism, age, disability, gender, military status/obligation, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, national origin, race, color, and religion. The Board also renewed a memorandum of understanding for the MGM college opportunity program this program allows an MGM employee to attend one of the more than 100 programs at any of the NSHE institutions with MGM covering the costs after financial aid is applied. The Board received an update on the strategic alliance between Great Basin College and the University of Nevada Reno including new and existing consolidation of services. Lastly, the Board of Regents elected new officers. Regent Byron Brooks and Regent Joe Arrascada both have been active participants with the various committees and collaborations with students, faculty, and communities. Member Arrascada noted that they are committed to continuing the positive direction of the system of higher education.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent of Public Instruction Jhone Ebert reported that last month she, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Jonathan Moore, Director Christy McGill, CJ Fields, Elizabeth Callahan, and Superintendent Anderson visited the Owyhee Combined School. They sat down with the tribal council of the Shoshone-tribes of the Duck Valley Indian reservation in the tribal chambers. The council, including Tribal Chairman Brian Mason and Vice Chairman Arnold Thomas explained how Owyhee Combined School needed major improvements to building infrastructure. The tribe wants an entirely new school but cannot put together a local bond because of federal land issues and wants the State to help out. Tribal council members also details how there were major internet connectivity issues on the reservation that were negatively impacting learning for Owyhee Combined student. After a productive meeting with the Tribal Council we toured Owyhee Combined School to see what was happening firsthand. We met principal Justin Streeter teachers and

administrators that care deeply for students and are working hard to provide as much as they can with what they have. We were able to see that things like heat and bathrooms and windows were all functional but the building itself is an older building and as such, does need improvements. Students, teachers and administrators all brought up internet connectivity and the challenges they all face because of it. Principal Justin Streeter Principal Justin Streeter also detailed about how the teacher shortage was impacting the school. He discussed the idea of the Elko County School District using Idaho's recruitment center for Native American teachers. Another issue that was brought up was the school's heritage murals were painted over with grey paint.

They visited Elko County and sat down to lunch with Elko County School District Superintendent Clayton Anderson along with partners from Nevada Goldmines and Discovery Education. We discussed our ongoing partnerships and what's to come in the future. Then we toured classes at Flag Staff Intermediate School and met with principal Bobby Steensen. During our classroom tours, we asked students what changes they want to see. We were told by students that they want more science, more P.E. and a longer school day.

They visited Lander County and met with Lander County School District Superintendent, Russell Klein along with board members, Doug Staton, Mike Chopp, Manuel Villanueva, and other school leadership. The Superintendent updated us a presentation. He showed how the district is working hard and seeing improvements in student outcomes, but they are facing funding issues. Most of the funding they receive goes to keeping the schools staffed and running, leaving very little for building upgrades and other improvements.

They visited Humboldt County and sat down with district administrators to discuss district plans and learn about successes and challenges. Then we toured classes at Winnemucca Jr. High. Students in a modeling and design class have access to a 3D printer, Laser engraver and embroidery machine. As part of the class, students make and sell their own good. There is also a Community in Schools program at the school to help meet students' needs.

Pershing County School District Superintendent Russell Fecht gave us tours of Pershing County High School, Middle School and Lovelock Elementary School. Pershing County High School showed off its fully functional news station. The school partnered with a local news station to make sure students have real-life experiences. We also visited Chelsea Montes' classroom who teaches business and marketing. Her class designs school spirit items such as shirts and hats and sells them to students, staff, and the community to promote school spirit.

Lyon County School District Superintendent Wayne Workmen gave us tours of Fernley High School and Fernley Middle School. At Fernley High School we were greeted by Principal Ryan Cross. Then we visited Rebecca Mayer's Classroom. She was recently awarded the Nevada ACTE Carl Perkins Community Service Award. Ms. Mayer teaches Accounting and Graphic Design. She started the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistant) Program at Fernley High School for accounting students. VITA is sponsored by the IRS and allows high school students to provide free income tax returns for senior citizens, low-income individuals and the disabled. The ETA (Electronic Tax Administration) Report the IRS's official count of all federal e-filed returns reported that 59 Federal returns were filed by the students of Fernley High School. The total refunds were \$45,348. We met with groups of teachers at both Fernley High School and Fernley Intermediate to hear their concerns. Teachers at both schools detailed how the teacher shortage is impacting them. They said their workload keeps increasing but there aren't enough other teachers and staff members to share the load. They also discussed issues with licensing and how changes to licensing requirements, in recent years, add extra strain. One complaint centered around the breakdown of required yearly professional development.

Superintendent Ebert noted that it is bittersweet that Deputy Superintendent for Student Investment Heidi Haartz will be retiring after the first of the year. However, I would like to welcome Megan Peterson back to the Department. Megan has been appointed as Deputy Superintendent for Student Investment.

Superintendent Ebert reported that as of 8:30 am on Thursday 12/15/2022, the CCR Stakeholder Survey has received a total of 1458 responses. Of these responses, 1451 were submitted to the English survey link, 7 to the Spanish survey link, and zero to the Tagalog survey link. In identifying race/ethnicity, 249 respondents, about 17%, chose not to provide an answer. Of the 1209 provided responses, the vast majority of respondents identified themselves as white, with Hispanic respondents making the second-largest group. Respondents were given the opportunity to identify their local education agency. Thirty-eight respondents left this survey item blank. Of the remaining 1420 responses, Clark County represented a majority segment relatively consistent with state student population distributions. Within each location, respondents were asked to identify their stakeholder role. Thirty-eight respondents left this item blank, and 22% respondents selected multiple roles, which will be disaggregated in the final data. Of single-item responses, secondary classroom staff, parents, and students, comprised a majority of responses.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Vice President Mark Newburn moved to approve the consent agenda. Member Tim Hughes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE NEVADA DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE KINDERGARTEN POLICY STATEMENT

President Ortiz noted that agenda item 7 would be postponed and added to the January meeting.

8. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING POSSIBLE REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT LATER START TIMES FOR HIGH SCHOOL

President Ortiz began the discussion by stating that the meeting materials for this agenda item are research documents around this topic. It has been research proven that later school start times for high school students has resulted in better student outcomes. One of the topics heard quite frequently across the State is the concern for school safety and student safety. This is also a research proven benefit that students will suffer from less mental health issues. President Ortiz invited the Board to provide their input on the matter.

Member Malia Poblete noted that she is a high school student, and her school starts at 7:00am which means her morning starts at 5:00am. Even just an hour of extra time before they needed to start would be greatly appreciated and help immensely.

Member Sumer Stephens noted that most superintendents in the country are most likely not opposed to the idea of later High School start times. The high school in her district offers a zero period and does not start until 8:20am and she believes it is still a bit too early. Rural communities often have students that are riding a bus to school for an hour or more and currently, with the available staff, her district is unable to have multiple routes that would reduce the time a student spends on a bus.

Member Tim Hughes noted that Nevada's school model is built for a very different era and the rate of change for the workplace does not match the rate of change of the school models. Member Hughes noted that he understands all the challenges and adult issues that will make implementing a regulation for later start times difficult but generally he believes this is a good step towards improving student outcomes.

Member Katherine Dockweiler noted that the data is clear about the benefits of the later start times and reinforced the information about the behavior and the mental health aspects to students. There are several benefits to academics from the later start times, but it will also decrease the violence and behavioral

incidences therefor increasing the safety and positive climate on campuses which benefits students and staff.

Member René Cantú asked the superintendents in the audience to provide their insight and opinions on this matter. Adam Young, Superintendent, White Pine County School District noted that before his district implemented a four-day school week, the high school started at 8:35am and released at 3:05pm and since implementing the four-day school week, the high schools start at 8:00am and release at 4:00pm. There are students who take advantage of their Friday morning to catch up on sleep and there are varying positions on what the research says about that as well. Superintendent Young noted that there is not resistance to being able to start later in the day, it just comes down to the barriers that have been mentioned such as transportation and facilities.

9. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION PURSUANT TO NRS 385.040 FOCUSING ON THE GOALS AND BENCHMARKS OF THE STATE FOR IMPROVING STUDENT ACHIEVMENT

Christy McGill, Director,

10. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S POSITION STATEMENT FOR THE 82nd LEGISLATIVE SESSION

President Ortiz noted

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

President Ortiz noted that the December meeting will be the annual stakeholders meeting to discuss Statewide goals and benchmarks.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

Darlene Anderson, community member, provided public comment regarding disproportionality. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A.)*

Jamie Tadrzinski, High School Teacher, Clark County School District, provided public comment regarding later high school start times. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A.)*

Anna Binder, community member, provided public comment regarding legislative priorities. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A.)*

13. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 P.M.

APPENDIX A: STATEMENTS GIVEN DURING PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Nancy Kuhles, Speech Language Pathologists, Nevada Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSHA) Coalition to Address Personnel Shortages. Provided public comment regarding item 6h(i).
2. Anna Binder, community member, provided public comment regarding agenda item 10.
3. Ed Gonzalez, SOT member, Hickey Elementary School, provided public comment regarding agenda item 6h(ii).
4. Amanda Morgan, Executive Director, Educate Nevada Now, provided public comment regarding agenda item 10.
5. Chris Daly, Nevada State Education Association, provided public comment regarding agenda item 10.
6. Darlene Anderson, community member, provided public comment regarding agenda item 10.
7. Tiffany Thomas, community member, provided public comment regarding agenda item 8.
8. Ken Paul, community member, provided public comment regarding agenda item 9.
9. Nancy Brune, Research Professor, Desert Research Institute, provided public comment regarding agenda item 8.
10. Darlene Anderson, community member, provided public comment regarding disproportionality.
11. Jamie Tadrzinski, High School Teacher, Clark County School District, provided public comment regarding later high school start times.
12. Anna Binder, community member, provided public comment regarding legislative priorities.

APPENDIX A, ITEM 1: KYLE ROGERS