

GOVERNOR'S STATEWIDE SCHOOL SAFETY TASK FORCE

MAY 3, 2018 10:00 AM

Meeting Locations:

Office	Address	City	Meeting Room
<i>Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE)</i>	<i>4300 S. Maryland Pkwy</i>	<i>Las Vegas</i>	<i>Room 102 (Boardroom)</i>
<i>Capital Building</i>	<i>101 N Carson Street</i>	<i>Carson City</i>	<i>Old Assembly Chambers (2nd Floor)</i>

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

(Video Conferenced)

Agenda Item I: Call to Order; Pledge of Allegiance; Roll Call

- Chair Dale Erquiaga called the meeting to Order at 10:00 AM
- Member Tarelo led the Pledge of Allegiance

Task Force Members in Attendance:

In Las Vegas:

- Dale Erquiaga, Chair - President/CEO Communities in School
- Mike Barton - Clark County Superintendent (designee)
- Zach Robbins - Principal, Cheyenne High School
- Katherine Dockweiler - Health Care Professional
- Margarita Gamboa, Vice Chair – Principal, Sunrise Acres Elementary School
- Jimmy Tarelo - JAG
- Anthony Petrosino - Wested (non-voting member)
- James Ketsaa - Law Enforcement
- Derek Krallman - Teacher Mack Middle School
- Dr. Leon Ravin - Dept. Health and Human Services
- Ashley Macias - Student Representative, State Board of Education
- David Jensen - Humboldt County Superintendent
- Traci Davis - Washoe County Superintendent
- Judge William Voy - Juvenile Justice
- Yvanna Cancela - State Senator
- Laura Hernandez - Parent

In Carson City:

- Jill Tolles, Vice Chair - State Assemblywoman
- Jason Trevino - Law Enforcement
- Della Frank - Indian Education Opportunities Program Project Facilitator
- Pilar Biller - Teacher, Damonte Ranch High School
- Pat Hickey - Charter School Association
- Brianne Thoreson - Principal, Bishop Manogue Catholic High School
- Steve Canavero - State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Caryn Swobe - Parent
- Katherine Loudon - Health Care Professional
- Bridget Peterson - School Board Trustee
- Steve Canavero Ph.D, Superintendent of Public Instruction

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas

- Amber Reid

In Carson City

- Sylvia Verdugo, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Kelly Nicholls, Administrative Assistant II
- Greg Bortolin, Public Information Officer
- Gunes Kaplan
- Christi McGill, Director Office of Safe and Respectful Learning

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

In Carson City

- Greg Ott, Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Las Vegas:

- Patrick Gavin, SPCSA Executive Director
- Bridget Phillips, Executive Director Doral Academy
- Aimee Hairr
- Mary Bryan
- Bill Garis
- Caleb Gage
- Agustus Mays
- Arianna Loya
- Kimberly Meza Martinez

Carson City:

- Addi Woelfle
- Malea Hoffman
- Mackenzie Clark
- Sonia Nemanin
- Sophie Dinning
- Tyler Johnson
- Najeh Abduljalil

Video Conference:

- Frank Staub
- Jennifer Thomsen

Agenda Item II: Public Comment #1

Las Vegas: None

Carson City: None

Agenda Item III: Welcome from Governor Sandoval

- Governor Sandoval welcomed the Task Force members, thanked them for their willingness to participate, and emphasized the importance of education. However, he noted that modern students, parents, and teachers are afraid of violence in schools, which is one of the great public safety challenges of our time. He provided a brief overview of the agenda and the presentations that members would see. He emphasized that time was of the essence and a solution needed to be found, but he was sure that the solutions developed by the members of the task force will help provide a solution.
- Chair Erquiaga thanked Governor Sandoval for his service and for convening the task force. He then invited task force members to introduce themselves, which they did.

Agenda Item IV: Orientation of the Task Force

- Chair Erquiaga reminded members that the work of the council needed to be done this year and focused the members on immediate solutions and potential laws that could be sent to the Governor. He stated that individuals will be divided into two working groups at the end of the meeting, asked for questions, and reminded the members that this is one of the first, if not the first, task forces of this nature in the United States. This is a response to the Parkland Shooting. Because students have led the response to that shooting, policy makers are paying more attention than they have in the past. While the task force is certainly dealing with mass violence, it should also examine day-to-day violence, suicides, bullying, and other issues facing students. As a result, the voices of students are some of the most important to the Chair. Nevada has a very diverse school environment (geographically, demographically, and school size), and that needs to be kept in mind when discussing these issues or proposing solutions.

Agenda Item V: Overview of the status of school safety, including state and national statistics, current law, and funding opportunities.

- Anthony Petrosino opened with a Presentation dealing with national statistics relevant to school violence and safety (presentation can be found at the [Department of Education](#) under “Item 5 Selected National Statistics Relevant to School Violence and Safety”).
 - Member Ravin asked about how students obtained weapons, the difference between suicides and accidental gun deaths, and education of students regarding gun safety and other issues. Member Petrosino answered to the best of his ability.
 - Member Cancela asked about background on the data and definitions of terms such as “bullying.” Member Petrosino provided information about the questionnaires used to collect data. Member Cancela asked how confident Member Petrosino was in the data, and Member Petrosino responded that it was quite representative of the nation as a whole.
 - Member Dockweiler asked about known mental health issues and treatment in the individuals addressed in the data. Member Petrosino responded.
 - Member Voy asked about the availability of more recent data due to increases in threats starting in mid-2016; he attributed this to gang violence.
 - Member Gamboa asked about the aftermath of shootings. Member Petrosino responded.
 - Chair Erquiaga echoed some of the comments of Member Voy in regards to an uptick in violence starting mid-2016.
- Chair Erquiaga transitioned to Frank Straub who went through a presentation (presentation can be found at the [Department of Education](#) under “Item 5 Averted School Violence Police Foundation”).
 - Member Canavero asked about what we know about student access to supports prior to the aversion of an act of school violence. Mr. Straub responded that students feel alone or a lack of connection to others.
 - Member Tolles asked about the “Rescue, Response, and Resilience” book mentioned on slide 2 of the presentation, and Mr. Straub said that the Police Foundation does studies of many acts of violence. That work is in regards to the Pulse Nightclub incident. However,

- they will be producing an analysis of the Parkland shooting in 3-6 months.
 - Member Voy asked about commonalities among non-averted shootings. Mr. Straub said that both completed and averted acts of violence are quite similar. Member Voy asked about system failures and commonalties between successful and completed acts. Mr. Straub said that greater levels of control are successful and important in averting violence, that mainly current/former students are the individuals responsible for acts of violence, and that resources officers are quite valuable when they do not act punitively but instead create connections with students.
 - Member Tolles asked for clarification, and it was provided.
 - Member Hickey asked about new technologies and their abilities to communicate among students. Mr. Straub mentioned Sandy Hook Promise and Clear Path Alerts.
- Chair Erquiaga transitioned to Jennifer Thomsen who went through a presentation (presentation can be found at the [Department of Education](#) under “Item 5 State Policy Responses to School Violence”).
 - Member Ravin asked about expulsion of students and attempts to work with troubled youth. Ms. Thomsen said that states are transitioning more to alternative discipline/restorative justice methods rather than expulsion.
 - Member Trevino stated that there is a difference between school police officers and school resource officers. Specialized SRO (school resource officer) training mentioned in various presentations has already been incorporated into the training of school police officers.
 - Member Tolles referred back to Mr. Straub’s comments about control and referred to Ms. Thomsen’s discussion of intervention/counseling model. Member Tolles asked for more data on how this approach helps avert violence. Ms. Thomsen responded that that data does not exist, but she will look into it.
 - Member Robbins asked about legislators encouraging restorative practices. Ms. Thomsen responded that this trend started with preventing younger students from being expelled. Legislators have been hesitant to be too prescriptive and leave it to districts to implement plans. Member Robbins asked if restorative justice should be used in middle/high school settings, and Ms. Thomsen stated that the exact relationship between these programs and school violence is unknown.
 - Member Loudon asked about community support and care for students and asked about coordination of efforts to intervene with students. Ms. Thomsen responded.
- Chair Erquiaga transitioned to Augustus Mays who went through a presentation (presentation can be found at the [Department of Education](#) under “Item 5 Federal Presentation”).
 - Chair Erquiaga asked for questions. There are none.
 - Member Voy stated that the discussion of grants is somewhat problematic.
 - Chair Erquiaga stated that working groups should look at funds but that the grants office needs to be involved. Any research questions for WestED or other organizations should be sent to Sylvia Verdugo who can then pass those questions/requests to the chair.

Agenda Item VI: Discussion and recommendation from students on the topic of school safety

- Chair Erquiaga passed the baton to Member Tolles. Member Tolles introduced a student panel in Carson City.
 - Student Addi Woelfle talked about lack of training on how to respond to student-caused emergencies.
 - Student Malea Hoffman talked about the need for more code-red drills in all periods and more training for student-caused emergencies.
 - Student Mackenzie Clark thanked the Members for their support of walkouts, talks about the experience of code-red drills, and says that this is a frightening new reality. More attention is necessary.
 - Student Sonia Nemanin talked about the need for preparation since lack of preparation causes confusion and chaos.
 - Student Sophie Dinning talked about FERPA and the need for digital privacy and identity

- protection.
- Student Tyler Johnson talked about social media, the need to police social media posts, and the lack of appropriate counseling services.
- Student Najeh Abduljalil talked about the Parkland Shooting and the need to create administrator approval before fire alarms are triggered.
- Chair Tolles thanked the student and transitioned to Chair Erquiaga.
 - Student Arianna Loya talked about emergency drills, the lack of attention to announcements, and confusion. All this resulted in students being sitting ducks.
 - Student Kimberly Meza Martinez talked about how easy it is to enter schools.
- Chair Erquiaga asked for questions.
 - Member Ravin asked about social media and asked for the perspective of the students on privacy and safety. Students responded by saying: such questions would require collaboration between teachers, parents, and students; teachers have asked them to report others; privacy is a concern for students seeking help; and other issues. Member Ravin asks about direct monitoring their social media usage. Students have a mixed response (some in favor while others express reservations).
 - Member Loudon asked about prevention and teaching responsible use of social media. Students respond by saying: in high school, there is less discussion of these issues; these issues need to start with the parents rather than schools; and that schools should monitor social media usage.
 - Member Tolles asked about how parents' usage of social media influences students. Student responded that some parents shut down students via social media and prevent their activism. This can be seen as bullying children.
 - Students in Las Vegas express mixed opinions about the questions asked in Carson City. Limits and guidelines are necessary for students and parents.
 - Member Davis talked about how videos on social media usage will be released for Washoe County schools and thanks students for participating.
 - Member Jensen noted that many students will resist having their social media usage being monitored. He asked about changing facilities and how students feel about security measures. Students said that: security cameras aid in keeping people safe, and entry buzzers are valuable; gates and cameras are for safety and don't seem prison-like; perhaps announcements could be triggered via phones/apps; security cameras can ensure that people behave correctly, but check-in systems can be problematic; and making schools more prison-like is not problematic.
 - Member Thoreson asked about what is present in schools now that helps students feel safe. Students responded by mentioning police officers, teachers, new locks, fire barriers, and small schools.
 - Member Peterson asked about teen being able to notice warning signs that could be reported. Students responded: students need to be educated on when to report; students need to be told that they won't be reprimanded for reporting their fellow students incorrectly; teaching students about mental illness is necessary; and teachers need to report threats of violence that they overhear.
 - Member Swobe asked about communication and where/when students should be required to learn about these issues. Students responded: parents should be involved, but as students get older, schools should rely on students themselves; World/US History courses would be one great place to discuss these issues; having materials in-writing is ideal, so sending out emails with instructions would be great; and check-in/check-out system for students who are known to have problems would help monitor them.
- Chair Erquiaga asks for comments from the student representatives on the Task Force.
 - Member Macias stated that she agreed with some of the comments raised by her fellow students (which are then reviewed). Member Macias states that there are more worries about peers than outsiders coming into her school.
 - Member Tarelo stated that safety was not discussed in depth in his school, but that it is an important topic. Fights and riots have happened due to loose controls; however, control over the grounds has tightened up a bit. He provided an in-depth discussion of problems at his school over the years (including a teaching committing suicide on campus).

- Member Robbins mentioned that these conversations happened on the east coast and resulted in the installment of metal detectors that now might be taken away. He asked if students would be upset if metal detectors were installed in Las Vegas. Member Tarelo responded. Member Macias stated that they would be useful as long as the importance of them was communicated with students. Some students express uncertainty about how long it would take to go through metal detectors and the cost.
- Member Gamboa asked for more input about what role students would like counselors to play on campus. Students respond that they should play more of a role in directly contacting troubled students, contacting students who sit alone at lunch, and being more active in the school community.
- Chair Erquiaga thanked the students and called for a recess.

Agenda Item VII: Overview of Nevada policies and funding to support safe and respectful learning environments.

- Gunes Kaplan PH. D State Report Card/Graduation Rates/Data Requests from the Nevada Department Education gave a presentation regarding the Summary of discipline data from the Nevada report card. (Presentation can be found at the [Department of Education](#) under “Item 7 NDE Statewide Discipline Data Presentation by Gunes Kaplan”)
 - Member Jason Trevino inquired if each incident represented a unique offender or can one student account for multiple data. Gunes clarified that one student can be involved in multiple incidents.
 - Vice Chair Tolles asked if there is a way to cross check this data with controlled substances or alcohol abuse. Gunes informed the taskforce that per it not being data required to be collected, there is no information regarding if alcohol or controlled substances were a factor in the incidences.
 - Member Leon Ravin commented on the data stating that 277 weapons were reported in elementary school and that cyber bullying was particularly high. Dr. Ravin wondered if there was an underlying reason for the statistics being so high.
 - Member William Voy remarked that there is evidence (i.e. cyber footprints) that make it easier to catch cyber bullies. He referenced texts, screenshots, etc.
 - Chair Erquiaga pointed out that incidents across the board are increasing over the last 3 year period. He wanted to underscore the point that Elementary school is grades 1st to 5th sometimes 6th grade. These children are under the age of 10 with weapons in these incidences. It shows that prevention and student wellbeing is of utmost importance and gives a great deal to think about when thinking of Nevada families.
 - Member William Voy observed that weapons in rural areas tend to be on the rise.
 - Vice Chair Tolles asked if there is a breakdown and definition of weapons and types of weapons. Gunes stated that the NAC & NRS are what is used to define the classification of weapons. The state level does not collect the data showing what weapons were used but the local level will have those kinds of details.
- Christy McGill Director, Office of Safe and Respectful Learning Environments from the Nevada Department Education gave a presentation. (Presentation can be found at the [Department of Education](#) under “Item 7 NDE School Safety Presentation by Christy McGill”)
 - Member Brianne Thoreson asked a question regarding Safe Voice and wanted to know how many schools and students it reaches from January to April. Christy McGill specified it is currently in 278 schools
 - Member Katherine Loudon thanked the Safe and Respectful Learning office, and she remarked that prevention is such a key part and that having so many components all the way through the tiers is very helpful.
 - Member Caryn Swobe asked a question regarding the training and background requirements of the social workers. Christy McGill clarified that they are licensed in two ways via through the Board of Examiners and through Nevada Department of Education.
 - Member Dockweiler stated that social workers are one piece of the puzzle and wanted to make sure that school psychologists and other mental health professionals on campus are

not forgotten about. Member Dockweiler also asks about any schools that are running combined PBIS/SEL models. Ms. McGill refers to the Partnership Network in Clark County School District. In the Partnership Network, the NDE is working with school districts to implement policies rather than relying on them do to all the work.

Agenda Item VIII: Overview of school safety plan statuses and implementation, recommendations from the school districts.

- Chair Erquiaga moved to Agenda Item VIII, noted that the two district superintendents (Dave Jensen & Tracy Davis) had to leave to catch a plane, and he moved to the State Charter School Authority.
 - Patrick Gavin introduced Bridget Phillips (Executive Director Doral Academy) and noted that charter schools are responsible for more than 40,000 students. Legislation in 2015 has allowed charter schools to access public safety officials. However, Kimberly Regan, who was going to speak on that issue, was not able to make it. He stated that it is difficult to speak for charter schools as a whole, but there are critical needs that need to be addressed (access to school resource officers, mental health supports, and access to facilities dollars to improve security).
 - Ms. Philips noted that, when she started, charter schools lacked supports that were supplied to regular schools. She mentioned two examples where lack of communication led to difficult situations with students. However, more recently, her schools have worked closely with the Metropolitan Police, and there has been more collaboration to gain access to mental health services. These supports need to be expanded and included in future funding streams. Security officers, cameras, and facility upgrades are needed.
 - Patrick Gavin transitioned to Member Hickey.
 - Member Hickey thanked Governor Sandoval for including charter schools on the Task Force. He addressed the situation at Ms. Regan's school and the need for security. He quoted Ms. Regan as stating that her school needed to hire its own security officers.
 - Chair Erquiaga asked for questions. There are none.

Agenda Item IX: Update from Division of Emergency Management, discussion of coordinated response, and recommendations.

- Chair Erquiaga transitioned to Caleb Gage, Chief and Homeland Security Advisor.
- Chief Gage went through a presentation (presentation can be found at the [Department of Education](#) under "Item 9 School Emergency Operations Plans Presentation by Caleb Gage"). He then discussed four recommendations. First, continue the task force beyond the executive order period. State and local emergency management and public safety representatives need to be included as well. Monthly meetings and an annual conference would be ideal. Second, update the emergency response plan requirements to include extensive, multi-year recovery plans. Third, it is also important to keep track of these by making them due at a certain date each year. Fourth, training first responders and others according to those plans is necessary as well.
 - Member Tolles asked about the confidential nature of the response plans and any comments from Chief Gage. Chief Gage responded that transparency is important but confidentiality is crucial. Some meetings can be kept from complying with open meeting laws.
 - Member Loudon asked if there is a mandated level of training for students and staff in regard to these plans. Chief Gage stated that teachers are currently required to undergo training once per year. Training must result in individuals understanding the plans and then being able to implement them. That allows for improvement in the future.
 - Member Ravin asked if there was some way to require compliance for private schools. Chief Gage responded that creating an enforcement mechanism is one of the issues that needs to be addressed. He deferred to educational professionals to design an enforcement mechanism. Chair Erquiaga stated that he is not aware of any such mechanism.

Agenda Item VIII: Overview of school safety plan statuses and implementation, recommendations from the school districts.

- Chair Erquiaga transitioned back to Agenda Item VIII and the materials left by Superintendents Jensen and Davis. The Superintendents asked that three big buckets of work be considered. First, the availability of SROs needs to be addressed. The superintendents are requesting a budget of over \$100,000 for each SRO for each school. Second, social worker grant programs are available, but the superintendents want it expanded to fully cover salaries and benefits. \$22 million might be necessary. Third, there needs to be assistance for infrastructure upgrades. Security cameras, metal detectors, and other items could be implemented if funds were provided. The superintendents are unified in understanding the need to protect students. However, money for this will need to be included in the Governor's Budget.
- Member Canavero stated that preventative measures around social/emotional work should continue to be a key element of the task force's efforts.

Agenda Item X: Creation of working groups

- Chair Erquiaga stated that he wanted to create two working groups each one chaired by one of the Vice Chairs. One will examine school security (physical infrastructure, SROs, coordination with police, training of staff, safe voice program, and other topics). This will be chaired by Member Gamboa. The second will examine student wellbeing (social/emotional development, mental health, community programs, supporting families, social worker grants, and other issues). Member Tolles will chair this group. These two groups will separate out the discussion of physical responses and recovery. The Chair encouraged members to pick a group and email Sylvia by the end of the week to volunteer. Members are not required to participate in a working group, but these groups are where the main work of the Task Force will be done. Working groups will not necessarily deal with current laws; current laws are the domain of Chair Erquiaga.

Agenda Item XI: Announcement of future meetings and work plans

- Chair Erquiaga noted that the July 11th meeting could cause issues and may change in the future to later that week or later the next week. However, a meeting in July is necessary to get a report to the Governor in August.

Agenda Item XII: Public Comment #2

- Chair Erquiaga asked for public comments.
- In Las Vegas:
 - Aimee Hairr talked about her son having an unsafe environment in his special education class when he was eight years old. In the past three years, access to good mental health professionals has declined. He now attends a charter school. More resources for students who need mental health support is necessary. Bullying is also an issue, and her son was sexually assaulted. Member Tolles' TED Talk encouraged her to come forward and address these issues publically. Member Tolles responded.
 - Mary Bryan addressed the lack of safety in the Clark County School District. She is contacted by parents who need support for their children. Mental and emotional wellbeing of students is paramount for students. Trained counselors and social workers are necessary.
 - Bill Garis asked that the task force look at long-term solutions to these issues. The most at risk students are creating havoc on campus, and they need intervention and pathways to gaining diplomas. CCSD principals state that the best change that has happened is the addition of school social workers.
- In Carson City:
 - None
- Chair Erquiaga thanked the members of the task force and adjourned the meeting.