

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
 COMMISSION ON INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION  
 October 29, 2024  
 1:00 PM**

Office	Address	Meeting Room
Virtual	<a href="#">Zoom Videoconference Link</a>	Dial-In: 1-206-337-9723 Meeting ID: 842 3643 8229 Passcode: 391743

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMISSION ON INNOVATION AND  
 EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION MEETING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Elysia Byrd, Teacher Strategist, John F. Miller School, Clark County School District  
 Teresa Dastrup, President, Elko County School District School Board  
 Jhone M. Ebert, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State of Nevada  
 Dr. Mariluz Garcia, Commissioner, Washoe County  
 Tim Hughes, Nevada State Board of Education  
 Paul Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, White Pine County School District  
 Dr. Gregory Koenig, Nevada State Assembly  
 Marilyn Dondero Loop, Nevada State Senate  
 Roberta Lange, Nevada State Senate  
 Kali Fox Miller, Nevada PTA President  
 Erica Mosca, Nevada State Assembly  
 Anthony Nuñez, Principal, Cheyenne High School, Clark County School District  
 Sean Parker, Executive Director, Teach for America  
 Tina Quigley, President and CEO, Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance  
 Malinda Riemersma, Teacher, Sonoma Heights Elementary School, Humboldt County School District  
 Maite Salazar, Owner and Co-Founder, 3F Initiatives LLC  
 Amy Stephenson, Director for the Governor’s Finance Office, State of Nevada  
 Dr. Robin Titus, Nevada State Senate  
 Joyce Woodhouse, Commission on School Funding Member  
 Adam Young, Superintendent, White Pine County School District  
 Peter Zierhut, Vice President, Haas Automation, Inc.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Patty Charlton, Chancellor, Nevada System of Higher Education  
 Nicole Rourke, Director of Government and Public Affairs, City of Henderson  
 Dr. Angie Taylor, Nevada State Assembly

**AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call**

Vice Chair Joyce Woodhouse called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM on Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> and asked Felicia Gonzales to perform roll call. Also noted for the record, Senior Deputy Attorney General David Gardner was present at the meeting. Hannah Villatoro and Sebastian Rios, from the Nevada Youth Legislature; Kenny Varner from UNLV, and Dr. Bernnell Peltier-Glaze from Nevada State University were acknowledged as guest participants of the meeting.

**2. Public Comment #1**

There were no public comments provided.

**3. Approval of August 28, 2024, Commission Meeting Minutes** (*Information, Discussion, and Possible Action*)

Vice Chair Woodhouse asked the Commission if they would like to discuss the August 28, 2024, minutes. No discussion was made regarding the August 28, 2024, minutes. Vice Chair Woodhouse entertained a motion to approve the August meeting minutes and they were approved.

**4. Introduction and Review Process, Goals, Arc of Learning, and Subcommittee/Commission Deliverables** (*Information and Discussion*)

- Nathan Driskell, Chief Policy Officer, NCEE
- Janice Case, Regional Director, West, NCEE

Nathan Driskell outlined the plan for the next phase of the policy development process, which includes virtual subcommittee meetings, an in-person commission meeting, and stakeholder engagement. He emphasized the importance of aligning and strengthening the recommendations based on feedback from the commission members and subcommittees. The commission also discussed the legislative process, with Commissioner Dondero Loop and Commissioner Titus explaining that they may need to call on commission members for support during hearings. Commissioner Parker suggested the possibility of implementing a more robust mandate in 2027, but Commissioner Dondero Loop expressed concern about waiting too long. The commission also discussed the possibility of using the NELIS system to track bills and the potential for NCEE to provide research and resources for the legislative session.

**5. Draft Recommendations: Identifying Alignment, Coherence, and Redundancies** (*Information and Discussion*)

Commissioners will spend time individually and in teams reviewing recommendations across the four subcommittee areas. Outcomes may include identifying areas where teams will work together to ensure alignment.

- Nathan Driskell, Chief Policy Officer, NCEE
- Janice Case, Regional Director, West, NCEE

Janice Case outlined the process for the next hour, which involved individual reflection and then subcommittee discussions. The commissioners were asked to review four documents and use a document to identify ways the recommendations from each policy area support each other, areas where they could be tweaked for better alignment, and ideas for innovation. Commissioner Dondero Loop asked about the differences in projects with other states. Nathan Driskell responded that while the field and research base is generally aligned, the way states contextualize it for their priorities varies. Janice Case then demonstrated a document for notetaking.

Janice Case led a discussion, emphasizing the importance of refining individual recommendations into a cohesive group document. She encouraged the commissioners to eliminate any duplications and streamline their suggestions. The group was then divided into subcommittees to work on this task. Janice Case also mentioned that the chairs would facilitate the conversation within their respective groups. The conversation ended with the group transitioning to Section 5 of the document, with Janice Case explaining the next steps.

**6. Draft Recommendations: Revising to Resolve Redundancies and Misalignment** (*Information and Discussion*)

Subcommittee Chairs will take input from Item Five and work to resolve conflicts and build alignment across all four policy areas.

- Anthony Nuñez
- Dr. Mariluz Garcia
- Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop
- Representative Erica Mosca
- Janice Case, Regional Director, West, NCEE

The chairs of each subcommittee discussed revising and resolving redundancies across the policy recommendations from the different subcommittees. The chairs of each subcommittee will work together to

ensure the recommendations are aligned and support each other. A few key points were made: the recommendations need to be innovative and inspire real change, not just maintain the status quo. There is discussion around whether unanimous support is required for the full set of recommendations, or if commissioners can dissent on specific components while supporting the overall vision. The goal is to produce recommendations that focus on improving education, not politics. The chairs will review the feedback and comments, particularly in Tab 2 of the shared document, to identify areas needing revision before the next subcommittee meetings.

## **7. Reflections, Synthesis, and Next Steps**

- Nathan Driskell, Chief Policy Officer, NCEE
- Janice Case, Regional Director, West, NCEE

A reflective discussion focused on consolidating the work of different subcommittees into a cohesive vision and set of recommendations for transforming Nevada's education system. Key points were: the group discussed aligning career coaching with competency-based learning; there was debate around ensuring recommendations are innovative enough while still being pragmatic; the need for a clear vision of what skills should be measured was emphasized; and there were suggestions to combine the subcommittee documents into one overarching plan with shorter-term "Horizon 1" goals and longer-term "Horizon 2" aspirations. The group aimed to elevate the key transformational components, like a new accountability dashboard and earlier career exploration, while articulating the theory of change behind the recommendations.

Identified next steps included: NCEE to create a draft unified document integrating all subcommittee recommendations with Horizon 1 and Horizon 2 approaches; NCEE to develop a draft rudimentary theory of change for the overall recommendations; subcommittees to review and provide feedback on the unified document and theory of change; NCEE to incorporate indicators showing which policy area each recommendation originated from in the initial unified document; the Measuring What Matters subcommittee to clarify the vision and specific metrics for measuring student achievement and transferable skills; the World-Class Teacher subcommittee to address the disconnect between teacher training and classroom practice; the Next Generation Career Pathways subcommittee to emphasize early career exploration and exposure in middle school; all subcommittees to identify key innovative components in their draft recommendations to highlight for the legislature; NCEE to prepare materials for December meeting to allow commissioners to react to Horizon 2 draft recommendations; all subcommittees to consider how to incorporate AI and emerging technologies more prominently in draft recommendations; subcommittee chairs to discuss how to effectively communicate recommendations to maintain credibility with parents and stakeholders; NCEE to develop a recommendation for a public awareness campaign strategy for the new accountability dashboard system; all subcommittees to review recommendations to ensure they address student engagement and relevance; and NCEE to prepare a recommendation for a strategy for engaging additional stakeholders in refining recommendations from January to June 2025.

## **8. Public Comment #2**

There were no public comments provided.

## **9. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Woodhouse adjourned the meeting at 4:09 PM.