

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
 COMMISSION ON INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION  
 December 10, 2024  
 11:30 AM**

Office	Address	City	Meeting
Southwest Career and Technical Academy	7050 W. Shelbourne Ave	Las Vegas	Ballroom Bldg. B

**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  
 Patty Charlton, Chancellor, Nevada System of Higher Education  
 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  
 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  
 Nicole Rourke, Director of Government and Public Affairs, City of Henderson  
 Maite Salazar, Owner and Co-Founder, 3F Initiatives LLC  
 Dr. Angie Taylor, Nevada State Assembly  
 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:**

Roberta Lange, Nevada State Senate  
 Amy Stephenson, Director for the Governor’s Finance Office, State of Nevada

**AGENDA**

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

Chair Tina Quigley called the meeting to order at 11:52 AM on Tuesday, December 10<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. Alexa Walsh and Sebastian Rios, from the Nevada Youth Legislature; Dr. 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 October 29, 2024, Commission Meeting Minutes and approval of September 30, 2024; October 15, 2024; October 16, 2024; October 21, 2024; and October 23, 2024, Subcommittee Meeting Minutes (*Information, Discussion, and Possible Action*)

Chair Quigley asked the Commission if they would like to discuss the October 29, 2024, minutes or the September 30, 2024; October 15, 2024; October 16, 2024; October 21, 2024; and October 23, 2024, subcommittee meeting minutes. No discussion was initiated regarding any of the meeting minutes. Chair Quigley entertained a motion to approve all of the meeting minutes, and they were approved.

## 4. Introduction and Review Process, Goals, Arc of Learning, and Agenda Review (*Information and Discussion*)

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

During this item, Commissioner Jhone Ebert highlighted Nevada's statewide administration of the ACT and the resources available to students, emphasizing the importance of the inclusion of student voices like Nevada Youth Legislature Representative Sebastian Rios, who is currently being highlighted by ACT, in the Commission's activities.

The Commission meeting focused on refining and advancing recommendations for pre-K–20 education reforms in Nevada. Discussions revolved around addressing existing policy gaps, aligning educational initiatives with economic development, and ensuring community and legislative buy-in for proposed changes.

Nathan Driskell, Chief Policy Officer, and Janice Case, Regional Director West, NCEE, were introduced and highlighted the Commission is two-thirds through its work, focusing on creating a globally competitive, innovative, and adaptable education system. Emphasis was placed on balancing the needs of current students and future innovations in the work of the Commission.

## 5. Draft Recommendations Document: Exploring Feedback and Reaching Consensus (*Information Discussion, and Possible Action*)

Commissioners will spend time individually and in teams reviewing the current version of the draft Recommendations Document. Outcomes include developing consensus around ideas generated from the most recent feedback/input loop.

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

The NCEE team highlighted that feedback from Commissioners and the community shaped revised drafts of the policy recommendations.

Key themes from the feedback included:

- Incorporating authentic Nevada-specific perspectives.
- Enhancing youth voice and agency.
- Addressing the role of education in democracy and AI.
- Developing innovative extended-day and competency-based models.
- Establishing clear and compelling professional learning pathways for educators.

## 6. Anticipating the Legislative Process: Reviewing the Upcoming Legislative Session and the Steps to Take to Bring Forth the Commission's Recommendations (*Information, Discussion, and Possible Action*)

Commissioners will deepen their understanding of the legislative process, the timeline to expect, and their role therein.

- Joyce Woodhouse, Vice Chair, Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education
- Nathan Driskell, Chief Policy Officer, NCEE

Vice Chair Joyce Woodhouse outlined the pathway for the Commission's recommendations to become legislation. Bill Draft Request (BDR 611) will serve as the foundation for legislative actions, with contingencies for additional drafts if needed. Engagement with legislators, committees (Education and Finance), and Assembly processes were discussed.

Policy Recommendations and Refinements:

- Key Areas Addressed:
  - Transitioning from traditional Carnegie units to competency-based graduation requirements.
  - Expanding teacher professional development and creating learning management systems (LMS) aligned with innovative goals.
  - Promoting flexibility and engagement through alternative school models and comprehensive evaluations.
- Stakeholder Feedback:
  - Commissioners expressed support for piloting new systems before widespread implementation.
  - Questions arose about aligning proposed changes with current state policies and defining key terms like "competency-based learning."

**7. Designing a Momentum Plan: Commissioners will Build a Shared Calendar of Events (January – June) Where They Can Partner to Share the Final Report with Constituents** (*Information, Discussion, and Possible Action*)

- Janice Case, Regional Director, West, NCEE
- Sean Parker, Member, Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education
- Adam Young, Member, Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education

Janice Case provided instructions for breakout sessions.

Commissioners participated in breakout sessions to review the latest draft recommendations, focusing on specific portions of the draft that were revised as a result of the most recent round of feedback opportunities.

Emerging Themes included:

- Broad support for aligning professional learning and student competencies.
- Strong emphasis on piloting programs and incorporating industry partnerships in education.
- Calls for clear, actionable language in policy drafts to ensure alignment with Nevada's educational goals.

*Major Discussion Points during the reconvening of the Commissioners:*

1. Policy and Legislation:
  - Concerns were raised about past legislation, such as the Tesla Bill, where education funding was implied but not explicitly mandated. Legislators emphasized the importance of clear language in future bills to ensure accountability.
  - The Commission deliberated on the process of implementing tax abatements for companies investing in Nevada, highlighting the lack of formal requirements for these businesses to engage with the state's education system.

## 2. Recommendations and Refinements:

- The need to encourage teacher professional development, compensation, and time allocation was discussed, with consensus favoring cautious language like “encourage discussions” to maintain flexibility while supporting growth.
- Piloting initiatives before full implementation emerged as a key strategy to ensure policies are practical and effective.

## 3. Community and Stakeholder Engagement:

- Commissioners emphasized the importance of building community buy-in for legislative success. Plans include creating one-pagers tailored for various audiences (e.g., parents, teachers, and business leaders), hosting presentations, and seeking input from key stakeholders across the state.
- A shared calendar for stakeholder engagement events and outreach will be developed to facilitate coordinated efforts.

## 4. Approval Process:

- Commissioners representing specific groups or agencies were tasked with securing endorsements or feedback from their respective constituencies. The planning team will distribute a Google form to collect formal approvals and comments.
- Language for the bill draft remains a priority, with a focus on balancing comprehensive recommendations and timely submission to legal teams.

## 8. Reflections, Synthesis, and Next Steps

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

The planning team will:

- Develop a timeline for stakeholder outreach and finalize one-pagers.
- Organize opportunities for commissioners to present to key groups and gather feedback.
- Draft and circulate a Google form to confirm support for the Commission's recommendations.

Commissioners will:

- Engage their constituencies to share the progress and secure buy-in.
- Provide updates to the planning team on potential outreach opportunities and meeting schedules.

The bill drafting process will proceed once there is consensus on the recommendations.

*Acknowledgments of Commissioners:*

- Superintendent Young was recognized as Superintendent of the Year.
- Trustee Dastrup was named School Board Member of the Year by the Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB).

## 9. Public Comment #2

There were no public comments provided.

## 10. Adjournment

Chair Quigley adjourned the meeting at 3:30 PM.