

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
 COMMISSION ON INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION  
 January 23, 2025  
 3:00 PM**

Office	Address	Meeting Room
Virtual	<a href="#">Zoom Videoconference Link</a>	Dial-In: 1-206-337-9723 Meeting ID: 839 2710 1063 Passcode: 532208

**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  
 Kali Fox Miller, Nevada PTA President  
 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  
 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  
 Paul Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, White Pine County School District  
 Dr. Gregory Koenig, Nevada State Assembly  
 Marilyn Dondero Loop, Nevada State Senate  
 Erica Mosca, Nevada State Assembly  
 Maite Salazar, Owner and Co-Founder, 3F Initiatives LLC  
 Dr. Angie Taylor, Nevada State Senate  
 Selena Torres-Fossett, Nevada State Assembly  
 TBD, 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 3:00 PM on Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</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. Lindsay Diamond from UNR, 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 December 10, 2024, Commission Meeting Minutes and approval of November 12, 2024; November 14, 2024; November 18, 2024; and November 19, 2024; Subcommittee Meeting Minutes (*Information, Discussion, and Possible Action*)

Chair Quigley asked the Commission if they would like to discuss the December 10, 2024, minutes or the November 12, 2024; November 14, 2024; November 18, 2024; and November 19, 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 Arc of Learning (*Information and Discussion*)

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

Nathan Driskell, Chief Policy Officer, and Janice Case, Regional Director West, NCEE, were introduced. Janice Case provided an update on the legislative process since December, reminding the group that the last meeting concluded with a final draft of recommendations co-designed through a Google form. The feedback received indicated broad consensus on the recommendations in their current form, allowing them to move forward in the bill process. In cases where additional clarification or modifications were needed, individual outreach was conducted to ensure alignment while maintaining the document's integrity.

The item concluded with a forward-looking discussion on the upcoming months, outlining expectations for February, March, and April and how future sessions will continue to support the legislative and stakeholder engagement efforts.

## 5. Update on the Legislative/Bill Process: Progress Since December and Looking Ahead (*Information and Discussion*)

Commissioners will spend time considering the progress that has been made in translating the final recommendations to a bill and the timeline to bill submission.

- Nathan Driskell, Chief Policy Officer, NCEE
- Joyce Woodhouse, Vice Chair, CIEE

Vice Chair Woodhouse provided an update on the legislative bill process. The recommendations proposed by the committee will be incorporated into a draft bill. Vice Chair Woodhouse will work to ensure the draft bill aligns with the consensus reached by the committee members through their previous input.

Vice Chair Woodhouse discussed the progress of the policy bill, which is expected to be introduced by March 17th. She mentioned that the bill will be heard by the Senate Education Committee and potentially the Senate Finance Committee. Vice Chair Woodhouse also noted that the recommendations for the bill have received broad support, with 18 members indicating they are in favor of the recommendations. She expressed optimism about the bill's chances, given the support of Senator Taylor as the committee chair. Chair Quigley asked about the potential impact of the recent budget deficit on the bill, to which Vice Chair Woodhouse responded that it might lead to some adjustments, but the bill should still proceed. Vice Chair Woodhouse also mentioned that the bill will be introduced to the Assembly side, and that there are no conflicts with another bill being proposed by Senator Nicole Cannizaro.

Member Young expressed the superintendents' support for the commission's recommendations and sought assistance in gaining more traction. Vice Chair Woodhouse suggested continuing late afternoon meetings to discuss upcoming issues and aligning with the commission's work. Chair Quigley asked about accountability measures, and Nathan Driskell suggested looking globally for examples of innovation. Member Titus expressed concerns about using foreign countries as examples and suggested using states like Utah and Indiana instead. Nathan Driskell agreed to provide examples from both global and domestic sources. Member Parker highlighted the importance of using examples from similar environments and mentioned the Portrait of a Nevada Learner. Member Ebert discussed the need for student involvement in the accountability system and the potential for funding.

#### **6. Stakeholder Engagement: Co-Designing Resources and Schedules** (*Information, Discussion, and Possible Action*)

Commissioners will consider the initial drafts of stakeholder-specific resources and provide final input on design, language, etc. Commissioners will help map out the calendar of events to support the bill as it continues along the legislative process.

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

Janice Case led a discussion on stakeholder engagement and the development of concise tools for different stakeholder groups. She shared a link to a folder containing three documents for further discussion. She also opened breakout rooms for the participants to discuss and share any modifications to the documents. After the breakout sessions, Janice Case asked for any notable points or feedback from the groups. Chair Quigley, representing one of the groups, expressed that while the document was well-presented and accurate, it lacked a strong hook to engage businesses and didn't convey a compelling reason for their involvement.

The commission members discussed the need to improve their messaging and advertising strategy to better sell their educational system to parents, students, and businesses. They agreed that the current approach was too generic and needed to be more specific to Nevada. The team also acknowledged the need for a more engaging and persuasive pitch, possibly with the help of a marketing consultant. They emphasized the importance of selling the potential of their students and the benefits of their education system to attract businesses and talent to the state. The commission members agreed that the current document was factual but lacked the necessary hook to capture attention. They also discussed the need to showcase the resilience and potential of Nevadans in their marketing efforts.

Member Parker expressed his excitement about the work ahead and emphasized the importance of understanding the impact of the project on different audiences. Member Titus agreed, noting the need to tailor messaging to different groups and that the project could be a fluid one. Janice Case proposed that the feedback be taken back to the planning team for further discussion and decision-making. Member Ebert emphasized the importance of meeting Nevadans where they are and the need for a marketing strategy. The commission members agreed to consider these points and make decisions on how to proceed.

The commission members discussed plans for stakeholder engagement and messaging around the education funding recommendations during the upcoming legislative session. Janice Case outlined efforts to provide toolkits and resources to help members discuss the recommendations and related bills in a coordinated way with their constituent groups. Vice Chair Woodhouse and Member Dondero Loop agreed to work on opportunities for sharing information and building momentum. Member Titus cautioned the members to have realistic expectations as bills often get pared down through negotiations. The commission members plan to continue these conversations over the next few months, focused on the legislative calendar, stakeholder outreach, and defining metrics for long-term success.

## **7. Reflections, Synthesis, and Next Steps** (*Information and Discussion*)

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

The planning team will review feedback on stakeholder engagement documents and consider options for improving messaging and marketing; the planning team will explore potential PR/marketing strategies for promoting the commission's work; Vice Chair Woodhouse and Member Dondero Loop to continue developing a scope of opportunities for sharing information and building momentum during the legislative session; the commission members will continue to use the existing 2-pager document for stakeholder conversations while improved materials are being developed; the planning team will explore creating a tool summarizing education bills and their alignment with the commission's recommendations; the commission members will reach out to personal contacts in the legislature to gauge interest in supporting the bill; and Nathan Driskell and Janice Case will prepare updates on the legislative process, stakeholder engagement progress, and measuring long-term success for the next meeting.

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

There were no public comments provided.

## **9. Adjournment**

Chair Quigley adjourned the meeting at 4:43 PM.