

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WORKSHOP/HEARING  
APRIL 15, 2024  
3:30 PM**

Office	Address	City	Meeting
Department of Education	Virtual/Livestream	Virtual	YouTube Link

**DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Felicia Ortiz, President  
 Dr. Katherine Dockweiler, Vice President  
 Rene Cantu  
 Tim Hughes  
 Michael Keyes

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT EXCUSED**

Tamara Hudson, Board Clerk  
 Joseph Arrascada  
 Maggie Carlton  
 Angela Orr  
 Tate Else  
 Mike Walker

**DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT**

Ann Marie Dickson, Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement Division  
 Christy McGill, Deputy Superintendent for Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement  
 Lisa Ford, Chief Strategy Officer  
 Angie Castellanos, Administrative Assistant  
 Cindi Chang, Director, Office of Teaching and Learning  
 Kevin Higley, Director, Office of Safe and Respectful Learning Environments  
 Nancy Olsen, Education Programs Supervisor  
 Craig Statucki, Director, Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning, and Education Options

**LEGAL STAFF PRESENT**

Greg Ott, Senior Deputy Attorney General

**AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE**

Mary Pierczynski, NASS Representative

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Meeting called to order at 3:31 P.M. by President Felicia Ortiz. Quorum was established.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1**

- a. Patricia Haddad Bennett, Director of Government Relations for the Clark County School District, provided comment regarding agenda item 3.
- b. Mary Pierczynski, Nevada Association of School Superintendents, provided comment regarding agenda item 8.

The following are public comments submitted via email.

- a. Sky Session, School Counselor, Sparks High School, provided written public comment regarding item 8.
- b. Joshua Berreman, Culinary Arts Instructor, Sparks High School, provided written public comment regarding item 8.
- c. Kindra Fox, Director of Secondary Curriculum & Instruction, Washoe County School District, provided written comment regarding item 8.
- d. Freeman Holbrook, Principal, Robert McQueen High School, provided written comment regarding item 8.
- e. Desiree Mandeville, Director of Student Accounting, Washoe County School District, provided written comment regarding item 8.
- f. Bradley Rose, Student Voice Facilitator, Washoe County School District, provided written comment regarding item 8.
- g. Tomas Macaluso, Principal, North Valley High School, provided written comment regarding item 8.

*(A complete copy of all the statements is available in Appendix A)*

**3. 3:35 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED REGULATION R072-23P AMENDING NAC 388.XXX RELATING TO SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS**  
*(Information/Discussion/Possible Action)*

The Board reviewed the proposed regulation that updates the language regarding social and environmental factors for students at each school within every school district or charter school. Presented by Christy McGill, Deputy Superintendent for Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement.

**Patricia Haddad Bennett provided public comment for this item.**  
**President Ortiz closed the workshop at 3:51 p.m.**

**4. 3:40 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED REGULATION R133-22RP1 AMENDING NAC 388.XXX RELATING TO STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY**  
Item number 4 was pulled from the agenda.

**5. 3:45 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED REGULATION R023-24 AMENDING NAC 389.672 and NAC 389.673 RELATING TO ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR COURSES OF STUDY IN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**  
*(Information/Discussion/Possible Action)*

The Board reviewed the proposed regulation, which aims to revise the periodic review, approval process, as well as limitations and prerequisites of courses of study in career and technical education. Presented by Cindi Chang, Director of the Office of Teaching and Learning.

**President Ortiz closed the workshop at 3:55 p.m.**

**6. 3:50 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED REGULATION R050-24 AMENDING NAC 390.XXX RELATING TO RIGOROUS COURSEWORK**  
Item number 6 was pulled from the agenda.

**7. 3:55 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED REGULATION R074-23P AMENDING NAC 388.830 RELATING TO END-OF-COURSE FINALS** *(Information/Discussion/Possible Action)*

The Board reviewed the proposed regulation aimed at removing provisions concerning end-of-course finals. Presented by Cindi Chang, Director of the Office of Teaching and Learning.

**President Ortiz closed the workshop at 3:57 p.m.**

**8. 4:00 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED REGULATION R099-23 RELATING TO THE ADULT AND REGULAR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA** *(Information/Discussion/Possible Action)*

The Board reviewed the proposed regulation that seeks to amend specific eligibility and course requirements for graduating from public high school. Presented by Craig Statucki, Director of the Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning, and Educational Options.

**Mary Pierscynski, Sky Session, Joshua Berreman, Kindra Fox, Freeman Holbrook, Desiree Mandeville, Bradley Rose, and Tomas Macaluso provided public comment for this item.**

**The board chose not to eliminate Arts and Humanities as a mandatory credit, instead opting to reduce the required electives to five and delay implementation to ensure that current juniors and seniors are not affected by the change.**

**President Ortiz closed the workshop at 4:58 pm**

**9. 4:05 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED REGULATION R020-24 AMENDING NAC 390.117 RELATING TO ATTENDANCE AT ADULT HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR TEST PREPARATION** *(Information/Discussion/Possible Action)*

The Board examined the proposed regulation aimed at amending the language regarding the eligibility criteria for individuals under the age of 18 who obtain a high school equivalency and their access to adult high school programs. Presented by Craig Statucki, Director of the Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning, and Educational Options.

**President Ortiz closed the workshop at 5:01 p.m.**

**10. 4:10 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED REGULATION R019-24 AMENDING NAC 389.800 RELATING TO GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CTE PROGRAM** *(Information/Discussion/Possible Action)*

The Board reviewed the proposed regulation which seeks to revise the language regarding career and technical programs, specifically concerning the use of industry-recognized credentials as alternatives to end-of-program assessments when they are accessible. Presented by Craig Statucki, Director of the Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning, and Educational Options.

**President Ortiz closed the workshop at 5:03 p.m.**

**11. 4:15 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING TO SOLICIT COMMENTS ON PROPOSED REGULATION R145-22 AMENDING NAC 389.803 RELATING TO PROGRAM AREAS IN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION** *(Information/Discussion/Possible Action)*

The Board reviewed the proposed regulation that aims to amend the language regarding program areas within career and technical education offered in public high schools, middle schools, or junior high schools.

Presented by Craig Statucki, Director of the Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning, and Educational Options.

**President Ortiz closed the workshop at 5:09 p.m.**

**12. PUBLIC COMMENT #2**

- a. Pam Everitt, MCHS, HJHS, & Alt Ed Counselor, provided written comment regarding agenda item 8.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:11 P.M.

**APPENDIX A: STATEMENTS GIVEN DURING PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Patricia Haddad Bennett, Director of Government Relations for the Clark County School District, provided public comment regarding agenda item 3.
2. Mary Pierscynski, Nevada Association of State Superintendents, provided public comment regarding agenda item 8.
3. Sky Session, School Counselor, Sparks High School, provided written public comment regarding item 8.
4. Joshua Berreman, Culinary Arts Instructor, Sparks High School, provided written public comment regarding item 8.
5. Kindra Fox, Director of Secondary Curriculum & Instruction, Washoe County School District, provided written comment regarding item 8.
6. Freeman Holbrook, Principal, Robert McQueen High School, provided written comment regarding item 8.
7. Desiree Mandeville, Director of Student Accounting, Washoe County School District, provided written comment regarding item 8.
8. Bradley Rose, Student Voice Facilitator, Washoe County School District, provided written comment regarding item 8.
9. Tomas Macaluso, Principal, North Valley High School, provided written comment regarding item 8.
10. Pam Everitt, MCHS, HJHS, & Alt Ed Counselor, provided written comment regarding item 8.

**APPENDIX A, ITEM 1: PATRICIA HADDAD**

Patricia is the director of government relations for the Clark County School District. I believe most of our questions were addressed during this conversation. If we have any additional feedback, we'll be sure to work directly with staff to provide it. We appreciate the extensive amount of time taken to get the regulation to this point, as well as the thoughtful consideration that has gone into it. Thank you.

**APPENDIX A, ITEM 2: MARY PIERSCYNSKI**

Good afternoon. My name is Mary Pierscynski, and I'm here representing the Nevada Association of School Superintendents, which is comprised of 17 School District superintendents and the Charter School Authority. NASS can certainly support changes that ultimately align with NAC and NRS. However, in developing regulations that impact graduation requirements, the regulations cannot affect high school students who are already in the four-year cohort. Regulations should not alter students' graduation requirements once they have already started their freshman year on a certain path. For example, the current proposal put into place for the class of 2025 would negate 25% of the kids in Lyon County School District from graduating. NASS is asking that once a student enters a cohort of freshmen, whatever the requirement is at that time remains throughout their high school career. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share our thoughts.

**APPENDIX A, ITEM 3: SKY SESSION**

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to you today with concerns regarding changes to the graduation requirements to the standard diploma, effective next year with our senior class of 2025.

I feel adding a new requirement to group of students in their senior year is incredibly unethical and creates an equity issue since it will largely impact students trying to earn a standard diploma. Therefore this will disproportionately impact our learners who are on IEP's, EL, struggling learners, and I imagine other minority and underrepresented groups if you were to look at the data. For some students, they will have now earned a required credit in the category of Arts/Humanities/CTE, only now to find that it may not count as anything but an extra elective credit that they won't need, and they will have wasted the time they put into that class. This could also mean that we will have students now at risk for not graduating, being off track for credits, when they have been on track up until now. Another scenario is that we could have kids going for an Honors or Advanced diploma, fail a math class their senior year and then suddenly not just be in jeopardy of not earning that higher level diploma, but of not graduating at all.

I feel strongly as a high school counselor that any new requirement for graduation should be rolled out with a new freshman cohort, where thoughtful planning to earn credits and meet requirements can occur. This requirement being rolled out in the manner that it is, in the senior year for our class of 2025, is harmful and not beneficial.

I urge you to reconsider the timeline of this new requirement.

**APPENDIX A, ITEM 4: JOSHUA BERREMAN**

Hi, My name is Josh Berreman. I am a teacher at Sparks High School.

I'm writing today to weigh in on the proposal to change Graduation requirements for the class of 2025.

From my understanding, the NVDOE is asking that students in the class of 2025 (and onward) is required to earn 2 flex credits instead of one.

It seems like a bit of a rug pull to change course on the students who are on track to graduate. The students

already in HS shouldn't have to hit a moving target to graduate on time.

I can see the benefit in making this change; but it shouldn't be enacted until the class of 2028.

Thank you.

#### **APPENDIX A, ITEM 5: KINDRA FOX**

Dear State Board of Education,

I am writing to express concerns about portions of #8 on the April 15 agenda.

The timeline of implementation for the standard diploma on page(s) 10-12 is problematic as some of the students have already graduated or are getting ready to graduate. The timeline for these changes will be detrimental to the students as they have already planned courses to graduation based on current requirements as spelled out in the NAC. Please hold off on making any changes for the students currently in high school. In the past, graduation changes have always started with the cohort that is incoming to high school or have been given a reasonable amount of time to implement.

I am also very concerned about removing the arts/humanities/CTE credit requirement for the Standard Diploma. These courses are what keep students interested and engaged in school. It greatly worries me that our arts programs will disappear as a result.

Please consider implementing these changes with the graduating class of 2029 and keeping the arts/humanities/CTE credit requirement for the Standard Diploma.

Thanks.

#### **APPENDIX A, ITEM 6: FREEMAN HOLBROOK**

Good afternoon, President Ortiz, and esteemed members of the Nevada State Board of Education.

My name is Freeman Holbrook, and I am the past president of the Washoe School Principal's Association (WSPA) where I represented 98% of the administrators in Washoe County. More importantly for this public comment I come to you as the principal of McQueen HS and an educator who served on this very board for two terms under Governor Sandoval, so I have the rare lens of looking at agenda item #8 from all angles.

The concern from high school principals will revolve around the change in graduation requirements for the junior class. This cohort of students has been told the graduation requirements and have been following a graduation plan since the first day of their freshman year. They have been told if they work hard and take the correct classes, they would be able to choose most of their elective courses as they enter their senior year. This change in required courses for the 2025 cohort changes the rules for all our juniors and does not allow for an equitable resolution.

The time restraints now put on this group of students is simply not fair. To tell this group that they are going to take world history or world geography and it will not count as a flex credit is unfair to those who have already taken it as a flex and is unfair to those who will now be forced to take as a senior versus other areas of interest. The timing of this rule change also causes large disruptions within our master schedules and determining which courses we will be offering next year.

We have already completed all the registrations for the 24-25 school year with our course catalog being published in January. This will need to be adjusted heavily for this need and will lower numbers in many areas such as CTE and raise numbers in areas such as PE where we are not currently allocated the correct teachers or building space.

Please listen to your administrators and slow this process down so that schools can properly prepare for the change with their staffing, classes offered, and most importantly allowing the time to properly implement for students. The implementation of change in graduation requirements should not apply to a junior class who has been told since day one what the expectations for graduation are.

I know you are hearing many different viewpoints on this topic, but please put weight in listening to the leaders who are working in our schools with students and staff each day!

Thank you.

#### **APPENDIX A, ITEM 7: DESIREE MANDEVILLE**

The graduation requirements that are being proposed beginning with the Class of 2025 should be pushed back to the Class of 2028. The NRS 389.018 and NAC 390.440 do not currently align which has added to the confusion around the graduation requirements. Districts and schools use these laws to guide their practice for students and ample time has not be given in regards to the proposed changes.

These changes do not harm our high achieving students but do harm and put extra challenges in the way of our struggling learners; our students who often find it a challenge to meet the standard diploma requirements. We are not talking about a handful of students but several hundred students who will be negatively impacted by this change at such a late date without the time to earn the credits. Making these changes for the Classes of 2025, 2026, and 2027 causes many inequities and undo hardship. Our goal as educators is to provide a level platform for our students and help them achieve at their highest level. Schools start a student's education pathway during the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year, therefore making these changes with little time for students to meet the change sets them up for failure. Students, their families, and their team of educators have a pathway set up for a student's graduation and this completely flies in the way of these already established plans and for some could derail them completely.

We request, as has been past practice, that these graduation requirements for the standard diploma begin with the Class of 2028, providing ample time to ensure our students can meet the requirements.

Thank you.

#### **APPENDIX A, ITEM 8: BRADLEY ROSE**

Good afternoon,

My name is Brad Rose, and I am the Student Voice Facilitator for the Washoe County School District. I'm writing this email on behalf of the students I represent in WCSD. For the last several years we have had discussions with students about engagement and attendance in schools. Students have repeatedly said in multiple meetings that the attendance and engagement issues are tied to being required to take so many courses that don't fit student interest/career direction. The changing of the graduation requirements could only further the disconnect that our students are describing. Students are seeking more opportunities to take classes that they see as a direct correlation to the things they enjoy and the futures they foresee for themselves. I would ask to consider this when making this decision.



Thank you.

**APPENDIX A, ITEM 9: TOMAS MACALUSO**

Good afternoon, President Ortiz, and esteemed members of the Nevada State Board of Education.

My name is Tomas Macaluso and I am the proud Principal of North Valleys High School in Washoe County. I am writing to express my concern about the changing of the graduation requirements for next school year. Our current juniors have already met with their counselors and chose their classes for next year working from the previous requirements. They worked together and developed a plan that will need to be revisited. Making students work toward a moving target is not valuing the work that they have already put in.

This decision will not help schools improve their chronic absenteeism numbers. By directly forcing students away from the Arts and Humanities, you are pushing students away from the subjects that are connecting students to school. Connecting those students is one of our focuses and it is built on providing students with the subjects that spark their passion and make them want to attend.

The other main point that I need to bring up with this decision to implement this now is the impact on school with lower socioeconomic circumstances. Since this change will just impact the standard diploma, the impact on lower socioeconomic students will be so much higher than those on schools with higher socioeconomic students. Creating this type of a barrier for students is not the work of a board built to support them.

All in all, I am not fighting that we do not change the requirements. I would just please ask to start with the incoming freshman class, so they have all four years to meet these changes.

Thank you for your time and understanding,

**APPENDIX A, ITEM 10: PAM EVERITT**

I am in Mineral County. I beg you to not start these until the class of 2028 which would be the incoming freshmen next year.

We also use World History/Geog for Flex credits.