

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ENGLISH LEARNER ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 24, 2026
2:00 PM**

Office	Address	City	Meeting
Department of Education	2080 E. Flamingo	Las Vegas	Board Room
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St.	Carson City	Silver Ore
Department of Education	Virtual	Virtual	Livestream

DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

In Carson City

None

Virtually

Dr. Alain Bengochea (UNLV)
Erick Casallas (Clark County School District)
Dr. Silvina Jover (Clark County School District)
David Lamb (Nye County School District)
Vanessa Mari (Nevada State University)
Janna Moyer (NDE)
Torrey Palmer (Deputy Superintendent, NDE)
Sarah Russell (Title III State Director, NDE)
Dr. Tanya Scott (Carson City School District)
Dr. Lidia Sedano (State Charter School Authority)
Lelsy Stewart (Elko County School District)
Diana Walker (Northwest Regional Professional Development)
Paola Zepher (Elementary Dual Language Principal)

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT EXCUSED

None

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

In Carson City

Kelly Hoffman, Secretary

Virtually

Amelia Thibault, Legislative Liaison

LEGAL COUNCIL PRESENT

None

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE

None

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 2:02 p.m. by Chairperson Erick Casallas. Staff person Kelly Hoffman conducted the roll call. Quorum was established.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

- a. **Las Vegas:** No public comments were submitted.
- b. **Carson City / Online:** No public comments were submitted.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Member Diana Walker moved to approve the August 10, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes. Member Paola Zepher seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. INFORMATION REGARDING TIMELINES AND PROGRESS

Amelia Thibault, Legislative Liaison, provided an update on the Council's progress and the statutory timelines for the upcoming legislative cycle.

- The Council has fully reviewed the *Interventions* prospectus, designating one item for a policy recommendation and two items for a Bill Draft Request (BDR). The *Focus On Educator's* prospectus will be reviewed during this council meeting. The Council has reviewed three and a half of the five items in the *Clarifying Metrics and Language* prospectus, with three moving forward as policy recommendations and two remaining for discussion.
- The statutory deadline for submitting the Council's final report containing findings and recommendations to the Legislature is October 31, 2026.

Chairperson, Erick Casallas noted a recommendation that the English Learner Advisory Council continue meeting after the October timeline.

5. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING PROGRAMMING IN THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Guest presenters Brie Johnson, Tammy Yetter and Hunter Smith from the Colorado Department of Education delivered a presentation on the [Colorado READ \(Reading to Ensure Academic Development\) Act](#)

6. PROPOSED POLICY PROSPECTIVES

The Council reviewed the *Focus on Educators* policy prospectus documents to categorize proposals as a Policy Recommendation, Bill Draft Request (BDR), or Tabled/Deferred.

Policy Prospectus: Focus on Educators

Topic: Work with NSHE

Require NSHE educator preparation programs and other pipeline programs to integrate standard coursework so all preservice teachers (early childhood through secondary) earn an ELAD or Bilingual endorsement as a condition of initial licensure.

Consensus: The Council voted to advance this proposal as Bill Draft Request (BDR) statutory language.

Topic: Work with RPDPs and/or NDE

Coordinate with RPDPs and school districts to make ELAD and Bilingual endorsement pathways highly accessible and affordable for existing in-service teachers who choose to pursue them.

Consensus: The Council voted to advance this proposal as a formal Policy Recommendation in the final legislative report.

Motion to Approve: Lelsy Stewart moved to approve advancing Item 1 as BDR statutory language and Item 2 as a formal Policy Recommendation. Dr. Silvina Jover seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Tabled Items: Due to time constraints, Vice Chair Bengochea benched the remaining items under the *Focus on Educators* prospectus and the review of Exit Criteria from the *Clarifying Metrics* prospectus to the next Council meeting.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

No public comments were received in Carson City or online. The Las Vegas Board Room livestream was not functioning, and no public comments were received.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Member Janna Moyer moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Paola Zepher seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.