

NEVADA FINANCIAL LITERACY ADVISORY COUNCIL

**WEDNESDAY, February 5,
2025 4:00 PM**

Office	Address	City	Meeting
Department of Education	Virtual	Virtual	Virtual Teams Link

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBERS' PRESENT

1. Ray Specht (via videoconference)
2. Scott Arkills (via videoconference)
3. Sarah Brown (via videoconference)
4. Armand Lorgulescu (via videoconference)
5. Kristin Reagan (via videoconference)
6. Nadya Rousseau (via videoconference)
7. Ana Sanchez (via videoconference)
8. Stacy Watkins (via videoconference)
9. Michelle Wheatfill (via videoconference)

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

In Las Vegas

In Carson City

- Amanda Hughes (via videoconference)

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE (via videoconference)

- Shelia Salehian NGPF

1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 4:14 pm by Chair Ray Specht. Quorum was established. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Daisy Marglin

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

There was no in-person public comment in Carson City or Las Vegas and no public comment via email.

3. OPENING REMARKS

Chair Specht welcomed new and returning members of the Financial Literacy Council, expressing appreciation for their participation. Chair Specht emphasized the importance of financial literacy for Nevada residents, noting that many lack access to financial literacy counseling. Council members' contributions will help expand financial literacy efforts statewide.

4. OPEN MEETING LAW REVIEW INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Brief presentation by Amanda Hughes, NDE was provided over open meeting laws and requirements

5. INTRODUCTIONS, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Each council member introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their role.

6. INTRODUCTIONS, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair Specht shared a humorous story about being “volunteered” for the position and expressed his willingness to continue serving. Member Watkins requested descriptions for each of the roles and Chair Specht shared that they are on the deck provided. Chair Specht clarified the expectations and time commitments for various officer positions:

Co-Chair: The primary responsibility is to prepare to take over the Chair position in the future. This involves learning about the Council and its committees. The estimated time commitment is minimal—likely around 1-2 hours per month, with some months requiring no additional time.

Treasurer: Oversees funds raised for financial literacy initiatives. These funds are administered through the Public Education Foundation, meaning the Treasurer’s role is primarily oversight rather than direct financial management. The workload is minimal.

Secretary: Handles governance-related tasks, with minimal commitment required.

Additionally, Chair Specht explained the Council’s meeting structure:

- Quarterly full Council meetings.
- Subcommittee meetings held in between Council meetings to focus on specific initiatives.

The overall commitment for officers remains low, with responsibilities mainly tied to oversight and participation in meetings.

Nadya volunteered to head up the website committee.

Chair Specht asked Member Arkills if he would be willing to step up to the co-chair position and he agreed.

Member Jackson stated her willingness to step into the secretary role.

Member Watkins motioned to nominate Chair Specht to continue as Chair, Member Arkills as Co-Chair, and Member Jackson as Secretary. Motion was seconded by Member Woodhouse. Motion passed unanimously.

The group discussed committee roles and responsibilities. Committee choices are:

Website	Fundraising	Professional Development/Curriculum	Community Outreach and Education
Nadya Rousseau	Ray Specht	Michelle Wheatfill	Scott Arkills
Michelle Jackson	Stacy Watkins	Ana Sanchez	Joyce Woodhouse
		Sarah Brown	Kristin Reagan
		Dennette Suddeth	
		Shelia Salehian	

Member Jackson made a motion to approve the committee members. Member Wheatfill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING SENATE BILL 314 The council members will review Senate Bill 314. Amanda Hughes, NDE

Member Hughes provided a summary of the bill and other Financial Literacy related bills.

8. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING FY25 BUDGET

Member Hughes shared that we have an account with the Public Education Foundation. At the highest we had \$279,460 dollars in grants and personal donations. We have a remaining balance of \$290.66. There is a separate NDE account as well, but this budget is much smaller and restricted.

9. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING STRATEGIC PLANNING

Previous goals and what was accomplished were shared by Member Hughes as well as recommendations from the Rand Report. Some options for the next steps were provided including an upcoming camp provided by NGPF in Las Vegas on June 18th.

Member Watkins raised several points regarding the expansion of financial literacy programs, particularly around Green Our Planet and Junior Achievement. She expressed concerns about the status and direction of Green Our Planet's financial literacy offerings, noting that they are still developing their program. In contrast, she highlighted Junior Achievement's longstanding and well-tested curriculum, especially with their BizTown initiative in Southern Nevada.

Member Wheatfill suggested that it might be worth exploring the possibility of future collaboration with Junior Achievement. She emphasized the need for multiple options for schools and teachers, as relying

on a single provider may not meet everyone's needs. She proposed that the Professional Learning and Curriculum Committee take on the task of exploring these options further.

Member Wheatfill also questioned the facilitation of potential camps, expressing a desire to ensure that all options are evaluated before moving forward.

Member Suddeth expressed confusion about the current situation regarding the financial literacy camps. She noted that there was no planned camp for Southern Nevada in June and questioned how multiple providers could be involved if the only planned camp was with Green Our Planet, which doesn't yet have a developed curriculum. She also asked if NDE was working with Junior Achievement on utilizing their existing curriculum.

In response, Member Hughes clarified that the camp in question was specific to Southern Nevada and was one camp, with no camps planned for Northern Nevada right now. The goal was to have more camps in the future with multiple vendor options. Green our Planet has offered to provide a training once their materials are complete, but this is not scheduled.

Sheila Salehian provided additional context, explaining that NGPF (Next Gen Personal Finance) had previously hosted popular camps in Nevada, funded by their organization. This year, they secured a summer camp in Las Vegas on June 18th, and a virtual camp for Northern Nevada. She also mentioned that NGPF focuses on grades 6-12, but she has connected with various nonprofit organizations that offer financial literacy curriculum for elementary grades, and she was eager to support these initiatives through the curriculum committee.

Member Suddeth asked if, once they gain access to the archived materials, they would be able to review committee minutes or documents from the previous year. She wanted to understand the status of the council's work and execution with potential vendors without continuing to take up meeting time.

Chair Specht responded, explaining that after discussing the matter with Amanda, he discovered that the previous meeting materials could not be located. He suggested that they would need to start fresh and move forward with new plans. Chair Specht also mentioned past discussions about ensuring financial literacy education is available to every resident in the state, not just for K-12 students, but also for college students and their parents. He emphasized the importance of offering financial literacy programs to both high school and college students due to issues like the student loan crisis. He pointed out that in his past experiences, parents often expressed interest in receiving financial literacy education after hearing about it from their children.

Chair Specht emphasized the vision of offering online financial literacy classes to adults statewide, allowing anyone to access the material, which would reduce costs and increase accessibility.

Member Suddeth acknowledged the importance of the idea but stressed the need to comply with the mandates in the NRS (Nevada Revised Statutes). She emphasized the importance of following statutory requirements while supporting financial literacy.

Member Woodhouse confirmed that the NRS currently mandates financial literacy instruction from grades 3 through 12 and suggested that if the council wanted to expand the scope to include adult literacy, a short amendment could be made to an existing bill.

Sheila S and Member Jackson offered support for the adult literacy and dual immersion needs, mentioning that some resources, like those from Junior Achievement and NGPF, are available in Spanish, which could aid in expanding access for dual language learners.

10. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The topic of expanding financial literacy education to all residents will be discussed further at a future meeting, with the potential for amendments to the bill to include adult programs.

Chair Specht stated the previous goal was to offer online financial literacy courses for adults statewide. This would allow anyone in Nevada to access classes at their convenience, rather than focusing on in-person events. The aim is to make these resources available to everyone, reducing costs.

Member Woodhouse mentioned that the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) mandates financial literacy instruction for grades 3-12. If there are suggestions for family or adult literacy programs, a short amendment would be needed to include them in the legislative process.

Sheila suggested discussing recent regulations (R-099-23) that could impact financial literacy education in high schools, as it might be seen as a step backward.

Member Watkins expressed interest in understanding the Council's responsibilities more clearly, especially for new members. She suggested reaching out to former members or arranging one-on-one sessions with Chair Specht for onboarding and strategic planning. Chair Specht agreed to assist and emphasized that this meeting should focus on moving forward and creating a new vision for the Council.

Member Woodhouse emphasized that any changes, such as extending financial literacy to the entire state, require legislative amendments, especially since the state is currently in a legislative session. She noted that the existing statute limits financial literacy education to grades 3-12, and any changes would need to be addressed promptly to avoid delays until the 2027 session.

Chair Specht agreed with expanding the initiative to all residents but noted that online programs would be the focus to avoid additional financial burdens. Member Wheatfill raised concerns about professional development (PD) requirements for the broader population, stressing that once PD is involved, it often requires funding, which might be outside the scope of the Council's current mandate.

Some members expressed concern about "mission drift," suggesting that the Council should first focus on doing well with its existing mandate, supporting the Department of Education's current objectives before expanding further. There was consensus among several members, including Member Suddeth and Sheila, that while expanding the scope of financial literacy is important, the Council should prioritize completing current projects effectively before pursuing broader goals.

Member Woodhouse suggested that an amendment might be possible to adjust the seal but stressed that time was limited due to legislative deadlines, and any action would need to be taken quickly.

Member Sanchez raised a question regarding the financial literacy seal and its requirements, specifically asking about the exam, who administers it, its publisher, and whether it is available to seniors. She also inquired about any associated fees and the possibility of administering it at local high schools.

Member Jackson asked for recommendations on what GPA threshold to set for a requirement, noting that the current GPA requirement might need reconsideration.

Sheila Salehian from NGPF provided an update about the financial literacy test aligned with Nevada's academic content standards. She emphasized the need for a review if changes to the test are proposed.

There was concern from Deputy Attorney General David Gardner about straying off the agenda, as some discussions, like changing the financial literacy test, had not been scheduled for that meeting. The decision was made that Member Hughes will provide Member Woodhouse with recommendations on changes to the literacy seal. The committee will wait for further legislative moves and use the next year to plan a more comprehensive plan for moving forward.

11. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING FUTURE MEETING DATES

Member Hughes gave the next meetings dates; April 2, June 4, and September 3. Committees will meet between those dates.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

Andrew Woods from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), spoke about the Center for Business and Economic Research's efforts in financial literacy education. He shared that UNLV has been collaborating with the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) and Green Our Planet to develop K-5 financial literacy curriculum and has been running economic workshops for public school teachers. They have been working to integrate the economic aspect of financial literacy, particularly for high school teachers, and are redesigning the program for the next two years. He expressed appreciation for the committee's efforts and emphasized their continued commitment to enhancing financial literacy education in Nevada schools.

Amy Miller, who works with Andrew Woods at UNLV's Siebert, expressed her appreciation for the committee's work and the discussions around financial literacy education. She noted that while Green Our Planet is in the process of writing curriculum, she has only seen one grade level so far. She emphasized the importance of not limiting their efforts and shared her admiration for the goals and vision of the committee. As a long-time educator in the Clark County School District, she feels inspired by the committee's work and is excited to continue collaborating for the betterment of the community.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Specht adjourned the meeting at 5:53 pm.