

NEVADA SUBCOMMITTEE FOR HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE EDUCATION
Thursday, May 6, 2026
4:00 PM

Office	Address	City	Meeting
Department of Education	Virtual	Virtual	<u>Holocaust and Genocide Subcommittee Meeting</u> <u>Quarter 1-</u> <u>20260115_160508-Meeting</u> <u>Recording.mp4</u>

Summary

Members Present

- Elliott Malin
- Esther Finder
- Janie Malorni
- Vartouhi Asherian
- Brande Johnson
- Alicia Meier
- Jolie Brislin

Department Staff Present

- Amanda Hughes

Audience in Attendance

Kendra Kelly

1. Call to Order; Roll Call; Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Elliot Malin. Roll calls were conducted and a quorum was established.

Land Acknowledgement was read.

2. Public Comment #1

No public comment was made

3. Approval of Flexible Agenda

A **motion** to approve the agenda with flexibility was made by Jaynie Malorni and seconded by Esther Finder

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The Subcommittee reviewed the minutes of the January 15, 2026, meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Esther Finder and seconded by Brande Johnson

Motion passed

5. Membership Recommendations and Vacancies

The subcommittee discussed current membership gaps and representation requirements outlined in statute.

Key Discussion Points

- Clarification was needed regarding Vartouhi's designated representative category.
- The committee identified an open position related to representation for "other genocides."
- Discussion included the difficulty of identifying qualified experts in genocides outside the Holocaust.
- The need for a State Board of Education representative was also identified due to prior membership changes.

Recommendations and Suggestions

- Members were encouraged to submit candidate recommendations directly to Amanda Hughes.
- Suggestions included:
 - nonprofit experts,
 - and representatives with genocide education experience.

The committee agreed that Amanda Hughes would compile recommendations and provide them with the Nevada Department of Education for consideration.

6. Professional Learning Update

Amanda Hughes presented an overview of current professional learning offerings and educator participation data.

Spring Professional Learning Courses

The Nevada Department of Education offered three professional learning courses during the spring term:

- Two genocide-focused courses
- One Holocaust and genocide education course

Participation Data

- 136 educators enrolled
- 45 educators had completed courses at the time of reporting
- Participants represented three Nevada counties

Survey Findings

Participants reported:

- Increased confidence in content knowledge
- Desire for:
 - ready-made lesson plans,
 - vetted resources,
 - direct links to instructional materials,
 - and classroom-ready activities

Additional Observations

- Most participants were elementary educators or non-content-area staff.
- Relatively few secondary social studies teachers participated.
- Teachers cited lack of time and competing professional development requirements as barriers.

Discussion

Members discussed:

- balancing teacher-created instruction with ready-made resources,
- the importance of vetted instructional materials,
- and the long-standing challenge of educator time constraints.

Brandy Johnson emphasized the value of teaching educators how to locate and vet quality instructional materials independently.

7. Standards alignment and Instructional Resource Guidance

Amanda Hughes presented proposed plans based on determined priorities for:

- standards alignment guidance,
- vetted instructional resources,
- and statewide instructional support documents.

Discussion Topics Included

- Variability among districts in Holocaust/genocide instructional guidance
- Lack of awareness in some districts regarding statutory requirements
- Possibility of creating:
 - grade-band guidance,
 - standards-aligned resource lists,
 - sample lesson plans,
 - and professional learning support materials

Existing District Models

Clark County, Washoe County, and Carson City were identified as districts already providing varying

levels of instructional guidance.

Concerns Raised

Elliott discussed challenges with:

- statutory language,
- legal definitions of genocide,
- and ensuring instructional accuracy regarding:
 - Cambodia,
 - Darfur,
 - Guatemala,
 - and other cases.

Members emphasized the importance of carefully distinguishing:

- genocide,
- crimes against humanity,
- persecution,
- and mass atrocities.

Members noted that similar discussions had occurred for several months and agreed it was time to formally establish a working group.

Motion

A motion was made by Esther Finder to create a working group/subcommittee focused on:

- standards alignment,
- instructional guidance,
- and vetted resources.

Janie seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Additional Notes

- Elliott, as chair, will appoint members.
- Membership will remain within Open Meeting Law limits.

8. Partnership Opportunities

Elliott shared updates regarding several new partnership opportunities.

Elliott announced:

- collaboration with the Srebrenica Memorial Center,
- access to educator resources,
- and potential acquisition of artifacts for the future UNLV Holocaust and Genocide Research Center and Museum.

Elliott also discussed efforts to secure Nevada access to USC Shoah Foundation

Potential benefits include:

- access to testimony archives,
- Armenian genocide testimony resources,
- and expanded classroom materials.

Jolie introduced a new ADL Aura resource developed by the Anti-Defamation League.

Features Discussed

- AI-supported lesson generation
- Closed-source educational content
- Holocaust and genocide instructional support
- Grade-level and content-area customization
- Integration of Echoes & Reflections resources

Members expressed interest in exploring the platform further.

9. Funding Opportunities

Amanda Hughes encouraged members to:

- monitor grant opportunities,
- share funding information,
- and support future funding requests.

Members discussed the likelihood of recommending renewed legislative funding during the next reporting cycle.

10. 2026 Meeting Calendar (Information)

Proposed meeting dates were presented:

- May 6, 2026
- August 6, 2026
- December 10, 2026
- March 4, 2027
- June 30, 2027

Members were asked to provide feedback if conflicts exist.

It was noted that a legislative report will be required and may be included in a future agenda.

11. Future Agenda Items

The next meeting is scheduled for **August 6, 2026**, at 4pm

Discussion topics anticipated for future meetings include:

- legislative reports and upcoming sessions
- instructional resource development,
- working group updates,

12. Public Comment #2

Esther Finder shared an update regarding the Governor's Advisory Council's work to develop a speaker's bureau that could support Holocaust and genocide education in rural and underserved areas.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.