

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOLOCAUST AND OTHER GENOCIDES**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025
4:30 P.M.**

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

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBERS' PRESENT

1. Elliot Malin
2. Ester Finder
3. Michelle Tusan
4. Kelly Miller
5. Jayne Malorni
6. Jennifer Goss
7. Brande Johnson
8. Nerses Kaplian
9. Vartouhi Asherian

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

- Amanda Hughes

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

Quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Elliot Malin, Chair

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

There was no public comment virtual and no public comment via email.

3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Members took turns introducing themselves.

4. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND UPDATE REGARDING THE HOLOCAUST AND OTHER GENOCIDES POSITION

NDE Representative Hughes shared that their previous full-time contractor was no longer part of the team, and two part-time contractors are now working on this project. Both are teachers from Clark County, Tracy Wilkins and Patrick Fitzgerald. The hope is to make this a permanent position. Chair Malin stated that it would take a legislative enactment, and it is not clear that that will happen this legislative session, but we would ask.

5. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING PROJECTS

The subcommittee reviewed and discussed the Canvas project, trunks project, and teachers.

NDE Representative Hughes stated that for the Canvas projects, the focus is on updating and expanding Canvas courses. Two contractors are working on these updates, ensuring that new courses are available. Due

to high enrollment numbers last year, with some courses exceeding 100 teachers, class sizes will now be capped at 50 participants. Once a course reaches 50 registrants, a new section will be opened to maintain smaller, more interactive discussions.

Additionally, efforts are underway to complete the genocide courses, which had been started but not finished. The goal is to have all Canvas courses updated and available for teachers by May. Two Holocaust Council members are also contributing to course development, expanding the current list of 15 courses. Regarding the Teacher Micro-Credential Project, it is a future initiative requiring a full year for completion. While it cannot start immediately, planning needs to begin before the end of the current school year to allow teachers to apply by May or June. Funding for this project would be included in next year's budget. For the Trunk Project, discussions have been ongoing and presented to the Council. A decision was made on one trunk. Three middle schools have been identified to receive the trunks. The suggested materials for inclusion will be provided to the committee. The current focus is on the logistics of launching the project, including determining where to ship materials, organizing assembly, and assigning responsibilities for creating primary source documents, gathering supplies, and physically assembling the trunks. The goal is to move forward as quickly as possible to utilize the available funds and demonstrate the need for additional funding.

Member Asherian expressed confusion about the status of the Canvas courses, specifically the genocide courses, noting that previously there was an effort to ensure each genocide was vetted appropriately. NDE Representative Hughes clarified that while the genocide courses have been started, they are not yet complete. Once finalized, they will be sent for review to ensure they meet the expectations of both the committee and relevant communities. A list of courses and their corresponding genocides was included in the meeting materials.

Member Asherian asked who is currently working on the genocide courses since the budget has elapsed. Hughes confirmed that two Clark County teachers, Tracy Wilkins and Patrick Fitzgerald, are working on them. It was also clarified that while Holocaust courses have been offered, genocide courses have not been launched yet.

Member Goss noted that Nathan, who was previously involved, had promoted the Shoah Foundation's micro-credential program, which focuses on antisemitism, Holocaust denial, and distortion. Many Nevada teachers have participated in the program. Chair Malin and Member Finder mentioned recent discussions with the Shoah Foundation about resources on the Armenian genocide, including testimonies from second- and third-generation survivor families.

Member Malorni asked who would be vetting the materials for the trunks

Regarding the Trunk Project, Member Hughes stated that the hope was for the committee to vet the materials. Chair Malin suggested dedicating the next meeting to this task to comply with open meeting laws. NDE Representative offered to send a list of materials to committee members before the meeting. Member Finder sought clarification on whether funding for the trunk project had already been approved. Chair Malin confirmed that no formal approval had been given yet, and it would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Member Tusan questioned whether the trunk project would cover multiple genocides or just the Holocaust. Chair Malin explained that the current project is a pilot focused on the Holocaust to test implementation before expanding to other genocides. NDE Representative Hughes reassured Tusan that she had planned for eight different trunks, with some including other genocides, and that the Holocaust trunk was chosen as a starting point.

Member Malorni raised concerns about the confusion regarding what had already been discussed and approved; emphasizing that some members had different levels of background knowledge. She also asked for clarification on the pilot's location, to which Member Hughes confirmed they were looking at rural schools like Dayton in Lyon County.

Chair Malin clarified that this is a pilot project, and we want to keep it simple with the idea that we will build additional trunks in the future.

Member Malorni expressed confusion about whether the trunk project had already been approved, as the language used made it seem finalized. They noted that some discussions had occurred within the Governor's Council but not within the Subcommittee, leading to a disconnect in understanding. They emphasized the need for clarity on what has already been discussed and decided.

They also echoed Member Tusan's question about the scope of the Holocaust trunk, asking who is responsible for developing topics, selecting materials, and shaping the project. The member reiterated that the project appears to still be in the pilot phase and sought confirmation from Member Hughes on whether it was intended for a middle school in Carson City. Member Hughes clarified that they were considering a more rural school, such as one in Lyon County.

Member Tusan asked if this committee could help fund a film about Armenia if they wanted to do a showing. Chair Malin replied No, stating that the budget language is specific as to how the money can be spent and it doesn't currently fall within our mandate, but we would take a look.

6. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION THE LEGISLATURE

Chair Malin stated that our recommendation that we previously voted on is to ask for the same amount of money as before.

Member Finder made a motion to grant Chair Malin to request this legislature fund the position again for the next 2 years. Member Goff seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Malin stated that the next meeting will focus on specific project updates and any necessary approvals or adjustments.

- **Project Updates:** A more detailed review of ongoing projects.
- **Traveling Trunks Review:** Continued discussion on development, implementation, and next steps.
- **Canvas & Micro-Credentials:** If applicable, reviewing any progress or updates for potential approval.

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

Members discussed and agreed upon the next meeting date of March 26, 2025, at 4:30 pm.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

There was no public comment virtual and no public comment via email.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm