

**NEVADA SUBCOMMITTEE FOR HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE EDUCATION**  
**Thursday, January 15, 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**

- Elliot Malin
- Jolie Brislin
- Esther Toporek Finder
- Jayne Malorni
- Kelly Miller
- Jennifer Goss
- Alicia Meier
- Brande Johnson

**Department Staff Present**

- Amanda Hughes

**Audience in Attendance**

Haber Family

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Chair Elliot Malin. Roll call was conducted and a quorum was established.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by a committee member.

A discussion occurred regarding the inclusion of a land acknowledgment in future agendas.

## **2. Public Comment #1**

Amelia Haber provided public comment regarding her experiences as a Jewish student in a Nevada school during Holocaust instruction. She described incidents of antisemitism, including harassment by peers, and expressed concerns about feeling unsafe and unsupported during instruction.

She stated that Holocaust education in her school lacked depth and historical context, noting the use of excerpts rather than full texts such as *The Diary of Anne Frank*. She also raised concerns regarding misinformation presented in the classroom and the absence of instructional materials such as textbooks.

Amelia emphasized the need for clearer guidance for educators to ensure accurate, comprehensive, and supportive Holocaust instruction, as well as appropriate responses to antisemitism in schools.

Shannon Haber submitted a written statement for inclusion in the official record.

Chair Malin thanked Amelia Haber for her public comment, acknowledged her experience, and emphasized the importance of addressing antisemitism and all forms of bigotry affecting students.

## **3. Approval of Flexible Agenda (For Possible Action)**

A motion to approve the agenda with flexibility was made by Member Jennifer Goss and seconded by Member Kelly Miller.

The **motion passed** unanimously.

## **4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)**

The Subcommittee reviewed the minutes from the October 23, 2025 meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Member Janie Malorni and seconded by Member Kelly Miller.

The **motion passed** unanimously.

## **5. Open Meeting Law Presentation (Information)**

Deputy Attorney General Christina Georges Burns provided an overview of Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements, including:

- definition of a meeting and quorum
- agenda and posting requirements
- public participation requirements
- appropriate handling of public comments
- potential violations (including email communication, walking quorums, and chat use in virtual meetings)

Members were advised to avoid “reply all” communications and to ensure deliberation occurs only in properly noticed meetings.

A question was raised regarding interaction with members of the public following public comments. The Deputy Attorney General advised that questions may be asked but cautioned against extended dialogue that could be considered deliberation.

## **6. Overview of Nevada Social Studies Standards (Information)**

Amanda Hughes provided an overview of Nevada Academic Content Standards for Social Studies.

It was clarified that:

- The Holocaust and specific genocides named in statute are **not explicitly listed** in the standards
- Instruction related to genocide is implied through broader standards addressing oppression and human rights

Discussion included:

- variability in district implementation
- lack of educator awareness of statutory requirements
- the role of districts in curriculum development
- the potential need for guidance documents to support implementation

Members discussed the use of existing district resources, including Clark County School District guidance documents, as potential models.

## **7. Professional Learning Update (Information)**

Amanda Hughes provided an update on professional learning:

- 603 educators have participated in courses
- Completion rates increased from 11% to 66%
- Majority of participants are from Clark County School District

Discussion highlighted:

- limited awareness of statutory requirements across districts
- educator misconceptions and gaps in content knowledge
- need for vetted instructional resources
- challenges with teachers using unvetted online materials

Members emphasized the importance of:

- improving dissemination of resources
- shifting professional learning toward pedagogy (how to teach), not just content
- ensuring age-appropriate and accurate instruction

## **8. Review of Resources and Courses (Information and Discussion)**

The Subcommittee discussed available instructional resources and courses related to the Armenian and Rwandan genocides.

Amanda Hughes noted:

- limited availability of age-appropriate K–12 resources beyond the Holocaust
- reliance on sources such as Echoes & Reflections and the Genocide Education Project
- need for additional classroom-ready materials

Discussion included:

- challenges in accessing appropriate resources
- potential partnerships with external organizations
- differentiation between teacher background materials and student-appropriate resources
- consideration of grade-level appropriate instructional approaches

## **9. Two-Year Plan Presentation (For Possible Action)**

Amanda Hughes presented a proposed two-year strategic plan outlining three priority areas:

1. Standards alignment and instructional clarity
2. Vetted instructional resources
3. Professional learning aligned to implementation

Discussion included:

- the advisory role of the Subcommittee
- the need for guidance rather than mandates
- capacity limitations and lack of funding

A motion to approve the two-year plan was made by Member Brandy Johnson and seconded by Member Jennifer Goss.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **10. 2026 Meeting Calendar (Information)**

Proposed meeting dates were presented:

- May 6, 2026
- August 6, 2026
- December 10, 2026

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 (Information and Discussion)**

Discussion included:

- potential creation of subcommittees to support work
- need to comply with Open Meeting Law when forming subcommittees
- Legislation changes
- October report

Staff clarified that subcommittees may be created through future agenda action and may make recommendations but not take final action.

### **12. Public Comment #2**

No additional public comment was provided.

### **13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.