

**Nevada Department of Education
Education Service Center
June 12, 2026
3:00 PM**

Office	Address	City	Meeting Room
Department of Education	2080 E. Flamingo Rd.	Las Vegas	Room 114
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St.	Carson City	Board Room
Department of Education	Virtual	Virtual	YouTube Link

Draft Summary Minutes of the Board Meeting

Board Members Present

Chair David Jensen
Vice Chair Jesse Welsh
Jeremy Christensen
Tom Ciesynski
Scott Hammond
David Jensen
Angela Orr
Mary Pierczynski

Agency Staff Present

Dr. Victor Wakefield, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nevada Department of Education
Dr. Steve Canavero, Executive Director, Education Service Center
Lisa Ford, Chief Strategy Officer, Nevada Department of Education
Jerrad Barczynszyn, Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program
Annie Hicks, Northern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program
Nicole Jawhari, Nevada Regional Professional Development Program
Misty Chappell, Program Officer III, Nevada Department of Education
Zach Khan, Administrative Assistant, Nevada Department of Education

Legal Staff Present

Christina Georges Burns, Deputy Attorney General

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance, and Land Acknowledgement

Meeting called to order at 3:00 PM. by Chair Jensen. Quorum was established. Chair Jensen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comment #1

There were no public comments.

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

Motion was made by Member Orr and seconded by Member Ciesynski to approve the flexible agenda. **The motion carried unanimously.**

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

Motion was made by Member Welsh and seconded by Member Hammond to approve the Education Service Center Board Meeting Minutes, April 20, 2026. **The motion carried unanimously.**

5. Board Chair Report (*For Information and Discussion*)

Chair Jensen spoke about agenda items from the previous Education Service Center Board meeting and introduced Member Hammond and Member Pierczynski as newly appointed Board members.

6. Report on the Education Service Center (*For Information and Discussion*)

Dr. Steve Canavero, Executive Director, delivered a report to the Education Service Center Board regarding the establishment of the Center, requesting budgetary authority from the Interim Finance Committee, presenting to the Interim Finance Committee's Subcommittee on Education Accountability, the Governor's Office hosting the Education Service Center, and an interlocal agreement which connects the Nevada Department of Education as the financial host and the Governor's Office as the operational host of the Education Service Center in order to clarify its scope of work. Additionally, Dr. Canavero discussed the Education Service Center's funding for Fiscal Year 2026 which included the Executive Director's salary and funding for the Chief Financial Officer Network. A request for funding for Fiscal Year 2027 will go before the Interim Finance Committee to fund staff salaries, operational and fiscal components, support for the Chief Financial Officer Network, staffing for a reporting efficiency project, and funding for a Chief Financial Officer Academy contract. A nonexecutive budget account was created for the Education Service Center which will allow for unclassified positions to perform functions related to support for the Chief Financial Officer Network.

Member Ciesynski requested information regarding the Chief Financial Officer Network be shared with the Board including stakeholder engagement meetings with District Superintendents.

Dr. Canavero discussed details regarding the Chief Financial Officer Network including outreach to District Superintendents to gather information on how to best support school districts. Dusty Casey will be overseeing the project.

Member Hammond suggested that the Education Service Center should bring in more federal grants and hire a grant writer who can help bring in additional funding.

Member Orr stated that she appreciated the needs sensing summary and emphasized the urgency around building capacity amongst Chief Financial Officers. She suggested the Board consider the timeline of the Chief Financial Officer Network and whether or not it would be a long-term, short-term, or intermediate-term project.

Chair Jensen stated that he was able to speak with Dusty Casey at a Nevada Association of School Superintendents conference and emphasized that there has been significant turnover in both Chief Financial Officers and Superintendents throughout Nevada. This turnover should be a focus of the Education Service Center in the future.

7. Initial Development of a Vision and Mission Statement for the Education Service Center (*For Information and Discussion*)

The Board received information regarding the development of a vision and mission for the Education Service Center. The information included vision and mission statement examples to consider and improve upon.

Member Hammond stated he favors the word innovation used in the draft vision and mission statement as well as language regarding students centered in the Education Service Center's work.

Member Orr stated she appreciates rigorous evidence-based support as a parameter for the Education Service Center's work, and language regarding maximizing efficiency and collaborative systems

support. She suggested that a short vision or a vision that discusses desired outcomes would be preferred.

Member Ciesynski stated he appreciated the language “All students irrespective of where they reside in the state,” as well as language around collaboration and streamlining.

Member Welsh stated he appreciates the sample mission statements that detail the Education Service Center’s function and echoed Member Orr’s comments.

Member Pierczynski stated she appreciated the third mission statement and specifically the language “collaborative system support.” Stakeholders she has engaged with appreciate collaboration rather than “stepping on toes.”

Member Christensen stated he wants to de-emphasize language regarding “excellence,” believes the term could be seen as dull, and emphasized the vision and mission statement should contain support for every classroom and improvement for every student.

Chair Jensen raised the question of whether or not the vision and mission statement should be short and concise or more detailed.

Member Pierczynski preferred short and concise. The Board unanimously agreed with Member Pierczynski.

Member Orr suggested aligning the Board’s vision and mission statement to school districts and superintendents’ visions and mission statements would be helpful.

Chair Jensen stated that he would like to see the vision and mission statement aligned with an upcoming reporting study that will be released and discussed in an upcoming Board meeting.

Dr. Canavero stated that he had changed language around “evidenced-based interventions” to “evidenced-based supports.” He asked the Board if this change was acceptable.

Member Orr stated that was supportive of language containing “evidence-based supports.” She suggested the addition of language containing “targeted.”

Member Welsh concurred with Member Orr.

Chair Jensen agreed with the use of “targeted” language in the vision and mission statement. He also agreed that language containing “evidence-based supports” was more acceptable.

Member Ciesynski concurred with Member Orr and Chair Jensen and reiterated his support for language containing “collaborative” and “streamlined operations.”

(A copy of the Draft Vision and Mission Statement is available on the [Nevada Department of Education’s website](#).)

8. Discussion of the Local Education Agency Initial Needs Sensing Summary Report (For Information and Discussion)

The Board received information regarding the Initial Needs Sensing Summary Report and discussed its implications on ESC’s priorities, long-term planning, and near-term activities.

Member Orr concurred that there is a need for a centralized support system for school districts and charter schools. She asked Dr. Canavero to make a comment on the idea that many of these needs

are further away from supporting teachers and students, and whether or not Dr. Canavero sensed any issue or concern with the Education Service Center being involved in legislation regarding teaching, learning, and new ideas in the education field.

Dr. Canavero stated there is not concern of how the Education Service Center can be involved in the level of support discussed. He stated that coordination with the Regional Professional Development Program relative to teaching and learning in schools would be discussed at a later agenda item. Dr. Canavero.

Member Ciesynski commended Dr. Canavero for the need sensing work her performed, applauding Dr. Canavero's school district tour and conversations with superintendents and the State Public Charter School Authority. Member Ciesynski believes that this work demonstrated the spirit of collaboration that the Education Service Center should strive towards.

Member Hammond stated that he has always believed the Regional Professional Development Program is instrumental in developing school capacity and teachers. He stated that he believes that the Education Service Center can also assist with developing capacity or education professionals in rural areas, as opposed to the Nevada Department of Education which specializes more in compliance and reporting.

Member Pierczynski stated that she received several positive comments during a recent Nevada Association of School Superintendents Conference, and that both the needs sensing summary and Dr. Canavero's school districts tour were well-received. She also stated that the Education Service Center should be prepared for the upcoming Nevada Legislative Session to advocate for adequate funding and programmatic support.

Dr. Canavero stated that an overall theme from school districts was a desire for the Nevada District Performance Framework to contain aspects or factors that are within the districts' control. Dr. Canavero raised the question of whether or not the Board was comfortable with him beginning to plan for the facilitation of capacity building in school districts.

Member Orr stated that she was supportive of Dr. Canavero beginning said planning and emphasized desired outcomes and measures of outcomes be stated at the beginning of the process. She is also supportive of a tiered support framework.

Dr. Canavero stated that Member Orr's comment related to the thoughtful intake of the work of the Education Service Center which would define a district's problem, what success looks like, and how success will be measured.

Member Ciesynski emphasized the importance of addressing the needs of the whole as litmus tests are developed.

Member Hammond stated that he is comfortable with the language regarding tiers and would accept something better later on, too.

Members Welsh and Christensen concurred with the rest of the Members of the Board and are comfortable with three-tiered support.

(A copy of the Initial Needs Sensing Summary Report is available on the [Nevada Department of Education's website](#).)

9. Ensuring the Coordination and Efficiency of Services (*For Information and Discussion*)

The Board received information regarding initial framing of how the Education Service Center, Nevada Department of Education, and Regional Professional Development Programs will coordinate roles and responsibilities to ensure a coherent system of public support to our Local Education Agencies.

Member Orr raised a question about opt-in support and solicited comments from the Regional Professional Development Program and Nevada Department of Education staff members regarding the scaling of systems of support and reaching broader audiences.

Annie Hicks, Northern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program, stated that her agency has been preparing internally for a shift at the larger system-level for entities that serve schools and districts. She and her team have been meeting directly with district and school leaders to analyze data and look at what needs these stakeholders have. Director Hicks and her team have been triaging the needs of schools and districts. She emphasized the change in the needs of districts and schools compared to what is statutorily required of the Regional Professional Development Programs and looks forward to working in tandem with the Education Service Center and Nevada Department of Education to serve districts and schools in Nevada.

Deputy Superintendent McGill, Nevada Department of Education, stated that the Department will continue to utilize the Multi-Tiered System of Supports school framework in order to look at the data, set up the system, and be able to check if progress is being made across the state. She stated that in the near future, Federal Title funding would be conditioned upon the use of evidence-based practices, that progress monitoring will be performed to ensure the best outcomes for students and teachers, and that overall, accountability will be aligned to funding.

10. Introduction of the Nevada School District Reporting Project (*For Information and Discussion*)

The Board heard an update from Dr. Canavero on the reporting efficiency project and planned next steps.

Chair Jensen stated that the Education Service Center has identified 89 reports required of school districts to address, including 34 identified for elimination, 29 reports identified for modification, and 26 identified for consolidation. He stated that Dr. Canavero would develop an oversight committee to carry out the elimination, modification, or consolidation of reports.

Member Pierczynski emphasized her own excitement as well as support from district superintendents on the elimination of certain reports, stating that they were time-consuming and took away from the focus of the classroom and school children.

Member Hammond stated that he initially was elected to the Nevada Legislature in 2011, left in 2023, and the Nevada Legislature passed a bill eliminating, modifying, and consolidating reports in 2025, emphasizing how long and onerous the process and desired outcome has taken to accomplish.

Member Welsh commended the work of identifying reports for elimination, modification, or consolidation. He emphasized from the perspective of his role in Clark County School District the duplicative nature of some of the reports required of school districts.

11. Public Comment #2

There were no public comments.

12. Future Agenda Items (*Information and Discussion*)

The following topics were suggested for future agendas:

- a. Member Ciesynski requested additional information regarding the Chief Finance Officer Network.
- b. Member Hammond requested additional information regarding future staff within the Education Service Center, such as a grant writer.
- c. Chair Jensen suggested that the report recommending the elimination, modification, or consolidation of reports required of school districts could be presented at a future Board meeting.

13. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:06 P.M.