

**Nevada Department of Education
Nevada State Board of Education
December 04, 2024
2:00 PM**

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

Draft Summary Minutes of the Board Meeting

Board Members Present

Felicia Ortiz, President
 Dr. Katherine Dockweiler, Vice President
 Tamara Hudson, Board Clerk
 Rene Cantu
 Maggie Carlton
 Tate Else
 Tim Hughes
 Michael Keyes
 Angela Orr
 Mike Walker

Board Members Absent Excused

Stephanie Goodman

Department Staff Present

Jhone Ebert, Superintendent
 Ann Marie Dickson, Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement Office
 Lisa Ford, Chief Strategy Officer
 Christy McGill, Deputy Superintendent for Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement
 Megan Peterson, Deputy Superintendent for Student Investment Division
 Barbara Bidell, Education Programs Professional
 Angie Castellanos, Administrative Assistant
 Lexi Kovalovich, Education Programs Professional
 Mandy Leytham, Education Programs Professional
 Anna Reynolds, Education Programs Director
 Julie Wooten-Greener, Public Information Officer

Legal Staff Present

David Gardner, Senior Deputy Attorney General

Audience in Attendance

Clayton Anderson, Superintendent of Elko County School District
 Tricia Braxton, Community Member
 Chris Daly, Executive Director of Government Relations, Nevada State Education Association
 Dawn Etcheverry, President of Nevada State Education Association
 Andrew Fueling, NASS Secretary/Treasurer and Carson City School District Superintendent
 Dennis Holmes, Superintendent of Pershing County School District

Susan Keema, Executive Director of the Nevada Association of School Superintendents
Lary Ruch, Community Member
Silvina Jover, ELL Student Success Advocate, Clark County School District
Sheena Judie-Mitchell, City Of Las Vegas, My Brother's Keeper
Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director of the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority
Pam Teel, Superintendent of Lincoln County School District (
Sean Tory, City of Las Vegas, My Brother's Keeper

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

Meeting called to order at 2:27 P.M. by President Ortiz. Quorum was established. President Ortiz led the Pledge of Allegiance and provided a land acknowledgement.

2. Public Comment #1

No Public Comments

3. Approval of Flexible Agenda

Member Dockweiler moved to approve a flexible agenda. Member Cantu seconded. Motion passed.

4. President's Report

President Ortiz opened it for the Board members to provide their updates.

Board Member Updates

Member Hudson mentioned that she was able to attend one of the days of the Power Up Nevada: A Summit for Change. She stated that she was impressed with the panels of educators and community members and noted that they also provided with information with resources that are available for the communities.

Member Hughes updated the Board on the progress of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence, noting that the commission will be reviewing the report on December 10th.

Member Walker reminded the Board about the upcoming Nevada Association of School Boards conference. Additionally, Member Cantu shared that he recently attended his first Nevada Nonprofit Legislative Caucus meeting that was hosted by Assemblymember Mosca.

Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Updates

NSHE report was not provided since Member Goodman was absent excused.

5. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Ebert presented her report, highlighting a statewide increase in graduation rates from 81.4% to 81.6%, with nine school districts achieving year-over-year improvements. She also stated that Esmeralda and Eureka counties had a 100 percent graduation rate, and five other districts exceeded the 90% graduation rate. She announced the winner of the Nevada Reading Week Art Contest, a talented student from Eldorado High School, Kaelynne Kindred. She went on to say the honorable mentions, from the High School category, Kelly Munn, from the Middle School category, Marina Sanuos, and from the elementary category, Riley Howard. Superintendent Ebert also shared that the Department has updated the Nevada Educator Performance Framework.

Deputy Superintendent Dickson also provided the Board with an update on the Read by Grade 3 Taskforce. She highlighted that the Taskforce met in November, where work groups presented their findings and

gathered feedback for further clarification. She also noted that the next meeting is scheduled for December 18.

6. Consent Agenda (*For Possible Action*)

Member Cantu moved to approve a flexible agenda. Member Hudson seconded. Motion passed.

7. 2:10 PM Public Hearing to Solicit Comments on Proposed Regulation R094-24 Pertaining to NAC 389.680, NAC 394.025, and NAC 394.200 (*Information, Discussion, and Possible Action*)

The Board heard and took action related to the proposed regulation R094-24 relating to the updating of the accreditation agency name found in the Nevada Administrative Code. Barbara Bidell, Education Programs Professional for the Office of Students and School Supports, provided the Board with a [presentation](#).

The hearing started at 2:28pm.

No public comments were received in person or via email.

Member Hudson moved to approve the change of the regulation NAC 389.680, NAC 394.025, and NAC 394.200. Member Walker seconded. Motion passed.

Hearing closed at 2:38pm.

8. Information and Discussion Pursuant to NRS 385.040 Focusing on the Goals and Benchmarks of the State for Improving Student Achievement (*Information and Discussion*)

The Board heard from stakeholders. Adam Young, President from the Nevada Association of School Superintendents [presented](#) first to the board along with AJ Fueling, NASS Secretary/Treasurer and Carson City School District Superintendent.

The Nevada Association of School Superintendents (NASS) provided an overview of per-pupil funding comparisons, highlighting the legislatively approved estimated Nevada per-pupil amount for 2025 at \$13,368, compared to the national average of \$17,467 and the APA-recommended amount of \$17,609. Positive outcomes from funding allocations were noted, including improved teacher compensation, fewer unfilled positions, expanded programs and services, and enhanced student and staff supports. Chronic absenteeism rates have decreased in Nye, Douglas, and Storey counties, while graduation rates have risen in Nye, Washoe, and White Pine counties. However, NASS representatives emphasized that sustainable progress will take time. Statewide, small gains were observed in elementary ELA and math proficiency, as well as in Read by Grade 3 metrics. In the Clark County School District (CCSD), 13.4% of students in grades 3-8 met their Adequate Growth Percentile (AGP) in math, while an additional 21.8% (48,252 students) were identified as demonstrating “high growth.”

NASS also addressed ongoing challenges, including the interpretation of data, chronic absenteeism metrics, standardized testing, and creating more personalized learning experiences for students. They reviewed core skills essential for the future, such as analytical and creative thinking, flexibility, and motivation, emphasizing the need for learner-centered, future-ready education. NASS stressed the importance of innovative solutions to bridge gaps in the system and announced plans to return in January to present its legislative platform. Key areas of focus will include education funding, fostering a learner-centered system, implementing accountability measures that reflect meaningful outcomes, and investing in school mental health. The NASS [presentation](#) and [handouts](#) are available for further exploration.

Additionally, Superintendent Tate Else from Eureka County School District shared his [initiatives](#) for

increasing student engagement in the classroom. Strategies included book clubs, professional development, and new tools for fostering engagement, which have contributed to a noticeable reduction in student discipline referrals.

Ms. Pam Teel, Superintendent of Lincoln County School District (LCSD), provided the Board with an overview of her district's background. She expressed her gratitude to the Board for taking the time to hear from the districts. Ms. Teel highlighted that LCSD has been focused on student-centered learning for several years, in alignment with the Nevada Portrait of a Graduate. She also noted that the district was able to reinstate its art and music programs due to an increase in funding, which allowed for the implementation of new initiatives. Ms. Teel emphasized LCSD's appreciation for the additional financial support.

Mr. Dennis Holmes, Superintendent of Pershing County School District, shared background information about the district with the Board. He highlighted that Pershing County School District serves 676 students across four schools. Mr. Holmes also discussed the district's strong community engagement and the state of its facilities. Additionally, he provided insight into the district's goals and emphasized the importance of student growth.

Mr. Clayton Anderson, Superintendent of Elko County School District (ECSD), delivered a presentation to the Board, highlighting the district's successes, particularly in relation to the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) measures. He shared the number of ECSD students enrolled in dual credit courses and provided a comprehensive list of industry-recognized credentials earned by students. Mr. Anderson also showcased the district's work-based learning initiatives, including job shadowing, school-based enterprises, clinical experiences, industry tours, and apprenticeships. He reported that ECSD facilitated 1,612 work-based learning opportunities, with 57.1% of students engaging in at least one non-mandatory learning experience. Additionally, Mr. Anderson updated the Board on the district's implementation of the Learner-Centered Framework, emphasizing its role in enhancing the educational experience across the district. He also addressed several challenges and concerns, providing the Board with a clear understanding of the obstacles currently facing the district.

Ms. Melissa Mackedon, Executive Director of the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority, presented several key highlights to the Board. She provided a detailed breakdown of the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) results and offered recommendations for improving academic performance.

Ms. Susan Keema, Executive Director of the Nevada Association of School Superintendents, expressed her gratitude to the Board on behalf of all the School Superintendents in Nevada, sharing her appreciation for their support and commitment.

Mr. Mike Walker, President of the Nevada Association of School Boards (NVASB), provided the Board with updates on professional development initiatives. He highlighted NVASB's efforts toward advancing competency-based learning and the portrait of the learner. Additionally, he discussed several key priorities currently being addressed by NVASB, including securing optimal funding for all school districts, ensuring nutritious meals for all students, supporting capital improvements for rural districts, and promoting both physical and emotional safety for students. He also shared some notable accomplishments by the Carson City School District, emphasizing the district's continued growth and success in various educational initiatives.

9. Information and Discussion Regarding Discipline Data (*Information and Discussion*)

The Board received a presentation on the latest updates regarding discipline data. The presenters included Sheena Judie-Mitchell and Sean Tory from the City of Las Vegas, My Brother's Keeper Alliance; Christy McGill, Deputy Superintendent for Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement;

Lexi Kovalovich, Education Program Professional; Dr. LaMarca, Dr. Kendrick, and Dr. Scavella from Washoe and Clark County School Districts, respectively.

Deputy Superintendent McGill presented an overview of the discipline data for the 2023-2024 school year, highlighting expulsions by incident and noting improvements in the clarity of discipline definitions. She also provided an update on the implementation of restorative practices within the district. Ms. Lexi Kovalovich then outlined the nine general categories used to classify the 34 types of offenses. Deputy Superintendent McGill resumed the presentation by addressing national policy recommendations on discipline disparities, and she gave a detailed overview of the department's implementation of Assembly Bills 285 and 330.

Dr. LaMarca and Dr. Kendrick from the Washoe County School District started their presentations and shared the restorative plans and how to be preventative. They also shared with the Board about the work with formalizing the data based on restorative justice and created a system to use across the district so that the plan could move with the students if they switch schools. With the utilization of infinite campus and housing the plan on infinite campus.

Member Orr inquired about the strategies used to collaborate with staff and teachers to ensure they fully grasp the purpose of restorative justice. Specifically, how do you help them understand the significance of welcoming students back into the classroom after a serious harm has occurred? Additionally, how do you support parents of other students in the classroom when a student returns after causing significant harm, and why is fostering acceptance and understanding crucial in these situations?

Dr. LaMarca shared that they have partnered with the International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP) to provide training for the entire staff, starting with the leadership team. She went on to explain their ongoing implementation cohorts and the integration of restorative practices. Additionally, she highlighted their efforts to engage parents through initiatives like Parent University, offering strategies for use at home, and maintaining continuous communication with parents.

Ms. Sheena Judie-Mitchell and Mr. Sean Tory from the City of Las Vegas, My Brother's Keeper Alliance (MBK) began their presentation to the Board. Ms. Judie-Mitchell kicked off the presentation with an overview of the Las Vegas My Brother's Keeper initiative. Mr. Tory then highlighted MBK's six key milestones for success, detailing how these milestones are implemented. He also discussed the collaborative efforts with the Clark County School District (CCSD) and the mentorship programs they offer together. Additionally, he mentioned the various schools, community-based centers, and community agencies that MBK serves, including six key agencies and centers working in partnership with both MBK and CCSD to advance this important work.

10. Recognition and Celebration of State Board Members

Superintendent Ebert and the Board Members recognized Member Cantu and Board President Felicia Ortiz for their dedicated service as they transition off the State Board of Education.

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

- Dual Credit Programs by NSHE
- Clark County School District's Reorganization Compliance Report NRS 388G
- ESSER update
- State Board of Education, By Laws
- Absenteeism/T truancy
- Developmental Delay, Disabilities Education Act IDEA

12. Public Comment #2

Las Vegas Board room had one public comment Chris Daly, Nevada State Education Association.
(A complete copy of the statements is available in Appendix A)

13. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

DRAFT

Appendix A: Statements given during public comments

1. Chris Daly, Executive Director of Government Relations, Nevada State Education Association, provided public comment during public comment #2

Appendix A, Item 1: CHRIS DALY

I did want to make an observation or a couple of observations on the previous discussion, on student discipline data. And we do appreciate this Board looking deeper now into disparities, they're real, they reflect the disparities that exist more broadly in terms of sociality disparities. Schools being part of that impetus to address and effectively combat those disparities so we can move towards greater social/racial justice, we can move towards practices that work that address those, the majority of our member they love the kids, they love all the kids and support racial and social justice. At the same time, you look into some of the data, last school there was 944 students suspended or expelled for battery on a school employee. And that was up from the previous two years. We think anecdotal its actually gotten a little bit better and there has been more enforcement. No one wants the explosions but at the same time we are struggling with a lot of dynamics, the teacher vacancy issue. And when we talk to our members; their safety in their classrooms at their school sites; it's always number two, pay is usually number one and safety is usually number two. So, its real and that's part of one the reason we have been encaged with the legislature in support of AB 285, using those restorative practices but also having progress discipline system to address the real safety concerns.