

# **NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STATEWIDE SCHOOL SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY July 16, 2025**

**3:00 P.M.**

## **Summary of Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

### **In Attendance via Videoconference:**

#### **Committee Members**

**Chair Anderson**

**Vice-Chair Ravin**

**Member Grennan**

**Member Alonzo**

**Member Triana**

**Member Tims**

**Member Hoag**

**Member Miranda**

**Member Dzyak/Proxy Rodriguez**

**Member Blackeye**

#### **DEPARTMENT STAFF**

Lexi Hovalovich– Nevada Department of Education, Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment, LaNesha Battle, Director, Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment

#### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chair Anderson. Quorum established.

#### **Public Comment #1**

No public comment

#### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Vice-Chair Ravin made a motion to approve with a correction of the date to show as May 21, 2025, instead of March 19, 2025. Member Tims seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

#### **Social Media Survey**

Dr. Camille Tastenhoye gave a presentation on social media apps and algorithms.

Chair Anderson asked if Dr. Camille had an opinion on why groups of attorneys or law firms have not been successful in suing social media platforms on the algorithms in the past.

Dr. Tastenhoye mentioned that she believed that generally it comes down to first amendment laws and first amendment rights.

Vice-Chair Ravin was curious about the policy making perspective. He asked if there had been any successful interventions to protect younger users.

Dr. Tastenhoye said that some schools had tried banning phones, and that it has been somewhat successful at times. However, from her perspective, educating parents about the dangers of screen time and the danger of

the apps themselves; in addition to having a discussion with parents and children about what content to monitor and how to foster questions has been the most effective.

Member Grennan asked Dr. Tastenhoye if she knew of any resources available to schools regarding introversion, behavioral or lifestyle shifts to look out for in terms of threat assessment, integration, or any practices she could recommend.

Dr. Tastenhoye said she could see a role for school mental health to be able to intervene if they notice any changes in the student.

Member Alonzo asked Dr. Tastenhoye if she could recommend any resources or tools that support the identification and intervention of radicalization in school aged children.

Dr. Tastenhoye mentioned she didn't know any specific tools but there is a list of factors or warning signs, and she would try to find the specific reference.

Chair Anderson asked Dr. Tastenhoye if she had any suggestions for the council to consider in making recommendations to lawmakers to help keep students safe.

Dr. Tastenhoye said she didn't know how much power or scope there was for this, but she felt mental health integration was probably one of the highest impacts they could make in terms of identification intervention.

Vice-Chair Ravin mentioned the primary prevention is not likely to be very successful because the accessibility of those platforms and specific groups are abundant. So, the focus will probably be on a secondary prevention level regarding what we can do for those individuals who are at risk or who have been exposed to those materials. Interventions to consider would be access to mental health professionals and councilors and perhaps have additional information for parents to help screen.

Chair Anderson thanked Dr. Tastenhoye for her time and asked the council if there was anything else.

Vice-Chair Ravin recommended an idea to provide education to students and families on how easily accessible radicalized content is, the dangers of algorithms, and how to identify people at risk and how to get them help.

Member Grennan recommended developing a public awareness campaign for parents and educators and building a model for threat assessment teams in the schools around the radicalization through social media platforms.

### **Student Safety Panel**

Chair Anderson asked for a discussion on this.

Lexi Kovalovich mentioned that Jeremy Silva said we need to shorten the number of questions for the panel, and how do we recruit kids? What grades? Private, charter, or public schools? Male or female?

Chair Anderson said last year was a joint effort to reach out to districts and all different grade levels to recruit kids from across the state. He said he was willing to do that again.

Member Alonzo said she would be happy to reach out to the EPP's for private schools and SPCSA to get some assistance for inviting students who may be interested in joining the panel.

The council agreed upon an age range from middle school to high school which would be appropriate with about a panel of 6 students.

Council engaged in a discussion about the questions for the panel. There was a consensus for Chair Anderson, Vice-Chair Ravin, and Jeremy Silva to get together and review the current questions and reduced the amount to about 5 final questions for the student panel: to be voted on in the next meeting.

Member Triana said they could create some recommendations for parents on home cell phone usage for students.

### **Discussion on Alternative Fuel Vehicles**

Lexi Kovalovich said Jeremy Silva would like to emphasize how important it is in an emergency situation to be able to distinguish which fuels buses are using. To avoid a potential catastrophe the fuel needs to be easily identifiable from all angles on a bus to help emergency responders, in the circumstance they would need to rescue students or cut into the bus. For example, if the bus is an electric vehicle (EV) there should be blue and black stripes on both the front and the back bumper, or around the whole bus to indicate that it is an EV.

Chair Anderson asked the council to engage in a discussion around this topic.

Member Alonzo asked if there were any NRS statutes that outline the standards for the markings.

Lexi Kovalovich said the 2025 NCST put out guidance/recommendations on identifiable markings around school buses and mentioned this was something Daisy and Jeremy were going to bring to the board of education and about potentially adding to NRS.

Chair Anderson said he was not opposed to the idea as they already have to comply with certain reflectors and markings on school buses. It was something that the council could provide a letter of support for.

Lexi mentioned this could be a discussion going forward looking into the next biennium.

Member Grennan mentioned there would be a need for standardizing the verbiage across the state.

Chair Anderson said he thought it was something the council needed more information on.

### **Public Comment #2**

Leon Ravin recommended changing the survey questions.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Public awareness campaign for education to families on algorithms and radicalization, building a model for threat assessment to identify radicalization through social media, and student safety panel.

### **ADJOURNMENT 4:22PM**

Recording of this meeting and all other School Safety Committee Meetings can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/@NevadaSchoolSafetyCommittee>