

**ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025
4:00 PM**

Office	Address	City	Meeting Room
Department of Education	2080 E. Flamingo Rd.	Las Vegas	Suite 114
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St.	Carson City	Board Room/Silver Ore Conf. Room
Department of Education	Virtual/ YouTube	n/a	n/a

DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Rebecca Dirks-Garcia
Tameka Henry
Anna Marie Binder
Tom Hendrix
Duana Malone
Michael Roth
Delphina Martinez
Brenda Zamora
Brande Johnson

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (NDE) STAFF PRESENT

Anabel Sanchez, Education Programs Professional; Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE)

Kathryn Hoyt, Education Programs Professional; Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE)

Jackie Nygard, Education Programs Professional; Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE)

Rick Derry, Administrative Assistant; Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE)

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT

David Gardner, Senior Deputy Attorney General (DAG)

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

Chair Rebecca Dirks-Garcia called the meeting to order at 4:06PM following the roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

There was no public comment in Las Vegas, and no public comment in Carson City.

3. **INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2024, MEETING MINUTES** (*Information/ Discussion/ Possible Action*)

Members reviewed the minutes of the November 15, 2024, meeting. **Member Tom Hendrix made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Member Tameka Henry seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

4. **INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ON OPEN MEETING LAW TRAINING** (*Information/Discussion*)

Members received training on Nevada Open Meeting Law to ensure that they understood the legal expectations and requirements of members of the Council. The training was given by Sr. Deputy Attorney General (DAG) David Gardner (see meeting materials).

5. **INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ELECTION OF COUNCIL CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR PURSUANT TO NRS 385.610** (*Information/Discussion/Possible Action*)

Deputy Attorney General David Gardener facilitated elections for Council Chair and Vice Chair. **Member Anna Marie Binder nominated Rebecca Dirks-Garcia as chair, with no other nominations put forward. All members of the Council voted to approve Chair Dirks-Garcia. Member Michael Roth nominated Anna Marie Binder as vice chair. All members of the Council voted to approve Vice Chair Binder.**

6. **INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING NEVADA FAMILY ENGAGEMENT OFFICE UPDATES** (*Information/ Discussion*)

Anabel Sanchez, Education Programs Professional, Nevada Department of Education (NDE), provided updates from the Nevada Family Engagement office. The Parental Involvement Summit Steering Committee, made up of multiple NDE offices and district partners, are planning events on September 13, 2025, in Las Vegas, and September 20, 2025, in Carson City. The summits will target parents/caregivers, students, local education agencies, district personnel, and community partners. NDE is in partnership with the Clark County School District to host the Las Vegas event as an addition to their Family Academy program. Their partnership will provide NDE with a well-equipped venue, translation services, and childcare options. NDE is aiming to strike a similar partnership with the Carson City School District for the northern summit. Numerous organizations have inquired about contributing to the summit. Ms. Sanchez informed the council to contact her via email if they knew of any other organizations who may be interested in participating.

Ms. Sanchez shared that The Ohio State University Efficacy Beliefs survey preliminary results are available. Currently, there are 692 participants. Most respondents were educators with 5 or less years of service, indicating they worked at an elementary school or multi-level school. Educators working in rural areas indicated a higher level of confidence, compared to other areas such as small towns, suburban, and urban communities, when implementing family engagement strategies. The next step for educators participating is to complete a Parental Involvement and Family Engagement course offered by an approved provider, via the NDE approved Parental Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE) course matrix (available online). Participants will then retake the survey for a comparison of the results. Ms. Sanchez concluded family engagement updates and opened the floor for questions. Member Roth stated that he wondered what the data would show if the survey had been given to a middle school grade level, because of the specific challenges they are facing with parental involvement in the rural areas. Ms. Sanchez shared that the survey is mostly based on volunteer participants and NDE cannot control which schools they are coming from. While there

were a few middle school and secondary educators, most participants came from elementary and multi-level schools. Chair Rebecca Dirks-Garcia asked if the intention was to repeat the survey after the first round. Ms. Sanchez confirmed this was accurate. NDE is in communication with Ohio State University, and they are excited to see how the pre and post surveys compare. Chair Dirks-Garcia asked if the cycle is being repeated, is there a way to do more advertising at the secondary level to capture more answers. Ms. Sanchez mentioned she would touch base with Ohio State University to inquire about a second round of surveys.

Regarding the Parental Involvement Summit, Chair Dirks-Garcia asked if there was an online option. Ms. Sanchez stated that there would only be in-person availability, and that the department understands that it does not reach all the rural school districts. They are looking to use a software program that allows participants to register and provides the option to record the sessions.

7. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE NEVADA FAMILY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK *(Information/ Discussion)*

Anabel Sanchez, NDE, gave updates on the Family Engagement Guide. There will be 2 versions of the guide. The first version being a paper version, found in the meeting materials. The paper version will be broken into 2 parts: framework and toolkit for ease of use. The second version will be an interactive webpage with the content of the guide.

The Family Engagement Advisory Committee assisted with recommendations for the updated draft, providing suggestions for visual appeal, omission of outdated resources, and accessibility for multilingual families. The toolkit has been organized by roles: families, educators, and community members, and offers resources applicable to varying age groups/grades. This will assist the public in locating specific information, creating a point of contact with NDE, and offering potential resources to be vetted and added to the toolkit as a living document. Ms. Sanchez opened the floor for questions. Member Roth asked if there was still time to make any recommendations or suggestions for the guide. Ms. Sanchez shared that the paper version has been finalized, however, NDE is still working on the website version and can take recommendations for the project. Member Roth wondered if there was a way to add work around social media training regarding how schools can effectively navigate through social media. He added that when the community posts negativity towards a campus, a leader, or a teacher, it would be nice to be able to maximize social media and learn how to respond to different things. Member Roth also recommended training or preparation for school administrators when the culture of discipline has changed. He added that there was a generation when the school would discipline students and families were supportive, backing up their teachers and the schools, but now it has flipped to where no matter the condition or situation, a family is automatically attacking a school based on a discipline situation. He stated that he knows there is complexity around this topic, but it might be good to have something in the guide providing school leaders strategies to build their capacity to effectively handle discipline situations in their schools. It would be a potential opportunity to build a connection with the family. Chair Dirks-Garcia agreed with Member Roth, sharing that she was a former state PTA president and runs a large online parent group in southern Nevada. Ms. Sanchez thanked member Roth for his recommendation and made note of his suggestions. She mentioned the toolkit will be a living document, with the ability to add resources.

8. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION *(Information/ Discussion/Possible Action)*

Anabel Sanchez, NDE, gave an overview of proposed legislation of the 2025 Session of the Nevada Legislature. Ms. Sanchez stated that Senate Bill 78 (SB78) proposed various changes, consolidations, and termination to the composition and operation of various boards, commissions, and councils, and would directly impact the membership of the Advisory Council for Family Engagement. Section 40 of SB78 proposed the following changes: membership would be reduced from 11 to 7 members with cuts being made in the number of teacher members (from 2 to 1), the removal of a private business or industry member and assembly and state members, member term limits would be changed to 2 years, the appointing authority for all members would be the Superintendent of Public Instruction. It also removes the compensation, per diem, and travel expenses for legislators by including conforming language. The bill has been heard at multiple subcommittee hearings, but no action has been taken. NDE will keep the council informed if the item moves to a floor vote.

Member Anna Marie Binder asked if any of the council members or members of the public disagreed with this recommendation. They should they follow the bill on NELIS. Member Binder believed the recommendations being made came from the Legislative Council Bureau, the Governor, and the department. That multiple committees would be impacted. If members of the public did not agree with it, or wanted to suggest amendments, they should speak up. Ms. Sanchez stated that the council is allowed to adopt a position for or against the senate bill. Chair Dirks-Garcia opened the floor for questions or comments. Members further discussed SB78. While the council is in support of changing the appointment of members from the Governor's office to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, they would oppose the bill because they cannot support all aspects of the bill as currently written. **Chair Dirks-Garcia entertained a motion for the council's opposition to SB78, as it removes council member voices, such as business members and teachers. Vice Chair Anna Marie Binder made a motion. Member Brande Johnson seconded. Motion carried.**

9. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** (*Information/ Discussion*)

Ms. Sanchez shared that she would send out a survey for possible meeting dates for the rest of this year, including Tuesday, June 10 at 4:00PM, Tuesday, September 30 at 4:00PM, and Tuesday, December 9 at 4:00PM. She added if any of those dates created a scheduling conflict to let her know in the comments section of the survey. Furthermore, any proposed legislation impacting the council will be shared during the next meeting. Chair Dirks-Garcia opened the floor for suggestions or comments. Vice Chair Binder asked if there would be a presentation on the interactive family engagement toolkit website once it goes live and what the anticipated date will be. Chair Dirks-Garcia shared it would be great to get a walkthrough of the online site for the Nevada Family Engagement Framework. Ms. Sanchez stated it can be added as a future agenda item once the website is finalized.

Chair Dirks-Garcia suggested adding a legislative update related to family engagement pieces, even if they are not SB78 or something else directly related to the composition of the council. Member Binder asked if the department were planning any summer activities around family engagement leading up into the next school year other than the summit. Ms. Sanchez shared that NDE was not because they are currently focusing on the summit. Members also discussed the possibility of inviting school districts to showcase positive family engagement initiatives.

Member Malone mentioned that she was familiar with a bill which recently passed that would create a framework to regulate artificial intelligence (AI) in Nevada and wanted to know if it can be added as a future agenda item to discuss the benefits and challenges of AI, and what the future will look

like in relation to AI in education and school systems. Member Brande Johnson agreed with member Malone about the importance of teaching AI, adding that she believes it is important for the council to discuss how beneficial AI is and how it can be used as a tool for families and students.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

There was no public comment in Las Vegas, and no public comment in Carson City.

11. ADJOURNMENT

With no further objections the meeting was adjourned at 5:28PM.