

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMISSION ON INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION
April 28, 2025
3:30 PM**

Office	Address	Meeting Room
Virtual	Zoom Videoconference Link	Dial-In: 1-206-337-9723 Meeting ID: 817 3571 0170 Passcode: 468988

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF COMMISSION ON INNOVATION AND
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION MEETING**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elysia Byrd, Teacher Strategist, John F. Miller School, Clark County School District
Dr. Mariluz Garcia, Commissioner, Washoe County
Tim Hughes, Nevada State Board of Education
Kali Fox Miller, Nevada PTA President
Sean Parker, Executive Director, Teach for America
Nicole Rourke, Director of Government and Public Affairs, City of Henderson
Joyce Woodhouse, Commission on School Funding Member
Adam Young, Superintendent, White Pine County School District
Marilyn Dondero Loop, Nevada State Senate
Peter Zierhut, Vice President, Haas Automation, Inc.
Patty Charlton, Chancellor, Nevada System of Higher Education
Paul Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, White Pine County School District
Erica Mosca, Nevada State Assembly
Maite Salazar, Owner and Co-Founder, 3F Initiatives LLC

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Tina Quigley, President and CEO, Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance
Dr. Angie Taylor, Nevada State Senate
Dr. Robin Titus, Nevada State Senate
Selena Torres-Fossett, Nevada State Assembly
Dr. Gregory Koenig, Nevada State Assembly
Malinda Riemersma, Teacher, Sonoma Heights Elementary School, Humboldt County School District
Anthony Nuñez, Principal, Cheyenne High School, Clark County School District
Teresa Dastrup, President, Elko County School District School Board
TBD, Director for the Governor's Finance Office, State of Nevada

AGENDA

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

Vice Chair Woodhouse called the meeting to order at 3:34 PM on Monday, April 28th and asked Lisa Ford to perform roll call. Also noted for the record, Senior Deputy Attorney General David Gardner was present at the meeting. Alexa Walsh from the Nevada Youth Legislature, Dr. Kenny Varner from UNLV, Laura Jeanna Penrod, and Dr. Lindsay Diamond, were acknowledged as guest participants of the meeting.

2. Public Comment #1

There were no public comments provided.

3. **Approval of January 23, 2025, Commission Meeting Minutes** (*Information, Discussion, and Possible Action*)
Vice Chair Woodhouse asked the Commission if they would like to discuss the January 23, 2025, Commission Meeting minutes. No discussion was initiated regarding any of the meeting minutes. Vice Chair Woodhouse entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes, and they were approved.

Marilyn Dondero Loop, Nevada State Senate moved to approve the meeting minutes. Kali Fox Miller, Nevada PTA President seconded. Motion passed.

4. **Welcome and Arc of Learning** (*Information and Discussion*)

- Nathan Driskell, Chief Policy Officer, NCEE
- Janice Case, Regional Director, West, NCEE

Janice Case Regional Director, West, NCEE, started the meeting discussing with the members what topics will be discussed in the meeting and provided some background information on each item.

5. **Update on the Legislative/Bill Process: Progress since January and Looking Ahead** (*Information and Discussion*)

The Commissioners received an update on the navigation of Senate Bill 403 (SB403) through the legislative session. The group engaged in a crosswalk between the bill, the filed conceptual amendments, and the original CIEE recommendations to affirm the ideas that were captured in SB403 and identify those that could be acted outside of the legislative process.

- Joyce Woodhouse, Vice Chair, CIEE
- Janice Case, Regional Director, West, NCEE
- Nathan Driskell, Chief Policy Officer, NCEE

Vice Chair Joyce Woodhouse provided the Commission members with an update on the progress of Senate Bill 403, which incorporated key recommendations from their work. She explained that, due to budget constraints, they had selected major components from each pathway to include in the bill. The bill had been introduced by Senator Dondero Loop, received positive feedback in the Senate Education Committee, and passed with a conceptual amendment. It was then referred to Senate Finance due to its fiscal impact.

Senator Dondero Loop noted that they were awaiting the results of the economic forum before scheduling further hearings.

Janice Case, Regional Director of West NCEE, organized small breakout rooms for members to share their experiences with the bill thus far and to prepare questions for the legislative representatives in attendance.

The group discussed the fiscal note for the bill, which included appropriations for research, NDE staffing, and Commission operations. Vice Chair Joyce Woodhouse clarified that the total appropriation was around \$2 million, with additional funds allocated for competency-based learning and teacher and leader capacity building. Marilyn Dondero Loop explained that the fiscal note also covered various expenses such as travel, meeting spaces, and consultant fees to support the Commission's work.

Ms. Kali Fox Miller, President of the Nevada PTA, inquired about the fiscal note for the bill. Paul Johnson responded that he had located the fiscal note on the Nevada Department of Education website and provided information on its impact for the upcoming biennium. Interim Superintendent Dr. Canavero asked whether this was prior to the reprint. Vice Chair Woodhouse clarified that the bill contains three appropriation components and outlined those pieces for the members.

Nicole Rourke, Director of Government and Public Affairs, City of Henderson, mentioned that in her group there were asks about if the funding is not available, what would happen next. Senator Dondero Loop mentioned that the first step in the bill is to present it to the finance committee. The finance committee will then hopefully pass the bill and hopefully be able to move the concepts forward. If the funding is not approved, then she suggested pivoting on how to shorten it and make the current budget work. Vice Chair Woodhouse also mentioned the legislative process for the members on what happens after it leaves the senate floor.

Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Canavero sought clarification on the fiscal note in Section 25 on page 58, specifically regarding its purpose and how it correlates with the fiscal note and the Department of Education's responsibilities. Both Nathan Driskell, Chief Policy Officer at NCEE, and Senator Dondero Loop provided clarification to the Commission and Interim Superintendent Dr. Canavero, explaining that the allocation of \$2 million in funding is intended to support the development of professional learning resources for educators, school leaders, and youth related to world-class teaching and competency-based learning.

6. Stakeholder Engagement: Co-Designing Resources and Schedules (*Information, Discussion, and Possible Action*)

The Commissioners discussed the status of the campaign to build momentum for SB403 and the statewide recommendations. They worked to clarify roles for promotion and committed to actions for April through June.

- Joyce Woodhouse, Vice Chair, CIEE
- Marilyn Dondero-Loop, Commissioner

Janice Case, Regional Director of West NCEE, asked participants to review the working document for 8–9 minutes to gain a sense of what other groups had identified. The group then transitioned to a new activity in which they reviewed their recommendations alongside bill SB 403 R1, identifying key ideas present in or absent from the bill and prioritizing actions on a timeline. This exercise was intended to help develop a roadmap for future steps and inform scenario planning.

Upon returning, Sean Parker highlighted the importance of aligning the commission's recommendations with other ongoing initiatives, such as updating the Nevada School Performance Framework. Paul Johnson, Chief Financial Officer of the White Pine County School District, mentioned that the bills being introduced conflicted with the commission's work and emphasized the need to quantify the fiscal impact of proposed changes. Dr. Kenny Varner from UNLV added that many innovations were possible without additional funding and suggested focusing on actionable strategies.

7. Reflections, Synthesis, and Next Steps (*Information and Discussion*)

Commissioners will discuss updates on transitions and look ahead to the roadmap design process.

- Tina Quigley, Chair, CIEE
- Nathan Driskell, Chief Policy Officer, NCEE
- Janice Case, Regional Director, West, NCEE

The Commission discussed next steps for supporting the legislative process and preparing for future meetings. Janice Case asked members to document their efforts as ambassadors in a shared document. Joyce Woodhouse emphasized the importance of being ready to quickly provide testimony when the bill was heard in May. The next virtual session was scheduled for May 13th from 4–6 PM, where members would begin designing a roadmap for implementation. Nathan Driskell, Chief Policy Officer at NCEE, explained that the

roadmap would outline action steps, ownership, barriers, and needs. Members expressed appreciation for the work being done by the legislators and organizers.

8. Public Comment #2

There were no public comments provided.

9. Adjournment

Vice Chair Woodhouse adjourned the meeting at 5:38 PM.