

**Nevada Department of Education
Nevada State Board of Education
Special Meeting
August 28, 2025
9:00 AM**

Office	Address	City	Meeting Room
Nevada Legislative Council	7230 Amigo Street	Las Vegas	Room 165
Nevada Legislative Council	401 S. Carson Street	Carson City	Room 3138
Department of Education	Virtual	Virtual	YouTube Link

Summary Minutes of the Board Meeting

Board Members Present

Dr. Katherine Dockweiler, President
Tim Hughes, Vice President
Tamara Hudson, Board Clerk
Tricia Braxton
Annette Dawson Owens
Tate Else
Evana Lan
Angela Orr
Mike Walker

Board Members Absent Excused

Danielle Ford

Department Staff Present

Lisa Ford, Interim Deputy Superintendent for the Student Achievement Division
Angie Castellanos, Administrative Assistant

Legal Staff Present

Greg Ott, Chief Deputy Attorney General

Audience in Attendance

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

Meeting called to order at 9:12 A.M. by President Dockweiler. Quorum was established. President Dockweiler led the Pledge of Allegiance and provided a land acknowledgement.

2. Public Comment #1

- i. Pat Hickey, provided public comment regarding item 3.
- ii. Ignacio Prada, provided public comment regarding item 3.
- iii. Sean Parker, provided public comment regarding item 3.
- iv. Julie Pippenger provided written public comment regarding item 3.
- v. Joseph Morgan provided written public comment regarding item 3.
- vi. Assemblymember Erica Mosca written provided public comment regarding item 3.
- vii. Johnathan provided written public comment regarding item 3.
- viii. Tamara Shear provided written public comment regarding item 3.

3. Information, Discussion, and for Possible Action: Interview of Finalists for State Superintendent of Public Instruction (*Information and Discussion*)

The Board proceeded with the first day of interviews for the State Superintendent of Public Instruction position, interviewing four of the six finalists. The interviews adhered to the approved structure: Performance Task Presentation, Scoring Period, Eight Formal Questions, and Follow-Up Questions. Dr. Darryl Wyatt presented his performance task, "Statewide Early Literacy Plan to Create Strong Readers for a Strong Nevada," followed by responses to the eight formal interview questions. Next, Dr. Lisa Coons presented her performance task, which focused on accelerating student outcomes through strategies including closing academic gaps and increasing daily attendance, followed by her responses. Dr. Victor Wakefield then presented his performance task on college and career readiness, outlined by the three phrases: "Make it count, make it clear, and make it stick," followed by his responses. Finally, Ms. Amy Suman presented her performance task, "Accelerating Student Outcomes Across Nevada: Attendance = Success," proposing a two-strategy approach to eliminate chronic absenteeism, followed by responses to the eight formal interview questions.

Board Members submitted performance task and interview scorecards following the completion of each candidate's interview segment. No formal action was taken to select finalists at this stage.

4. Public Comment #2

- i. Glenn Christensen, Managing Director of Bilston Investments
- ii. Mark Newburn, Former Member of the State Board of Education
- iii. Punam Mathur, Community Member
- iv. Maria Wiczorek, Community Member

5. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:04 P.M.

Appendix A: Statements given during public comments

1. Pat Hickey, Community Member, provided public comment regarding item 3 during public comment period #1.
2. Ignacio Prada, Executive director of Futura Academy Charter School, Vice chair of the Charter School Association of Nevada, provided public comment regarding item 3 during public comment period #1.
3. Sean Parker, Co-founder and CEO of the Center for the Future of Learning, provided public comment regarding item 3 during public comment period #1.
4. Julie Pippenger, CEO, Andre Adassi Foundation for Education, provided written public comment regarding item 3 during public comment period #1.
5. Joseph Morgan, Community Member, provided written public comment regarding item 3 during public comment period #1.
6. Erica Mosca, Assemblymember District 14, provided written public comment regarding item 3 during public comment period #1.
7. Jonathan Synold, Community Member, provided public comment regarding item 3 during public comment period #1.
8. Tamara Shear, CEO, Opportunity 180, provided public comment regarding item 3 during public comment period #1.
9. Glenn Christensen, managing director of Bilston Investment, provided public comment during period #2.
10. Mark Newburn, Former member of the Nevada State Board of Education, provided public comment regarding item 3 during public comment period #2.
11. Punam Mathur, Community Member, provided written public comment regarding item 3 during public comment period #2.
12. Maria Wiczorek, Community Member, provided written public comment regarding item 3 during public comment period #2.

Appendix A, Item 1: PAT HICKEY

Good morning, Chair Dockweiler and members of the State Board of Education. My name again is Pat Hickey. I am a former member of uh, the state board. So, it's nice to be with you today. Although I feel a little lonely up here uh, in the north. I'm glad I physically can be here to represent but I know the board is represented well by people who care about education in the state. Just briefly along with that I also for a long time in my total years of service in the assembly I was always on education committees and am currently I serve as the vice chair of the Gwyn Center for policy priorities and I also write a column for the Reno Gazette Journal but none of those entities are I'm not representing either of those entities today but here to just speak about the task before you. From all indications, you have six excellent candidates to consider for Nevada's next superintendent of education. And I encourage you to take this process as seriously as you obviously are. My personal favorite because I've known him and just speaking brief briefly would be that of Victor Wakefield. Um I like the fact that Dr. Wakefield has been a successful classroom teacher. I think that's interictal. He may not be the only among your distinguished group. I also like the fact and remember the fact as a Nevadan and part of the education community here that he was the executive director of Teach for America in Las Vegas. Teach for America as all of you know is probably the kind of organization and having the experience that he did with it of recruiting um outstanding teachers and having them commit to the challenges of sometimes the more difficult areas in a state is exactly what TFA did and I think in this case Victor Wakefield's experience with them should serve us well in two of the big challenges and that is to attract and retain and lead teachers to help Nevada be more successful. I also appreciate that his advanced degree from John Hopkins is significant because that is one of the top innovative academic laboratories in the country. I also personally remember Victor as being a fellow at the Gwyn Center and some of the work that he did helping lawmakers like me at the time with understanding some of the intricate issues involved with education. Lastly, I am impressed with his strategic vision for the department of ed. Especially, I appreciated the comment to provide families with a voice, a choice, and a connection. I think that pretty much sums up where education needs to be headed in the area we

stand in.

Appendix A, Item 2: IGNACIO PRADA

My name is Ignacio Prada and I'm the executive director of Futura Academy Charter School, a public charter school in the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority. Our school is in its ninth year currently serving grades K to 5 for 475 students and their families. Every NPF rated year, our small independent school significantly outperformed our neighboring schools, breathing life into our mission to provide a quality option for students in Las Vegas's east side. I'm also the vice chair the charter school association of Nevada representing the more than 70,000 students in public charter schools in Nevada our second largest K to 2 public school system however I want to make clear speaker I'm uh speaking only in my personal capacity in support of uh Victor Wakefield as well and not communicating an endorsement of either organization at this point uh but want to provide a few anecdotes that make salient Victor Wakefield's qualities I'm sure you saw from his resume Victor has the experience of a well-qualified uniform candidate a unicorn candidate. He has national level experience to glean lessons from all sorts of other sectors and places, but he also has a deep context in Nevada and deep experience here in Nevada to understand our history and our context. The two anecdotes I want to provide you with. My first close interactions with Victor came in the form of participating in hot topic events where Victor organized a series of guests across disciplines and industries to talk with educators across a range of ideological backgrounds, experiences, and context. for example, the press, nonprofits, and industry. The conversations were intellectually challenging, fruitful, and even though this happened almost 15 years ago, they stand out as some of the safe and creative spaces to form ideas of experience in Nevada, where he remained a respectful and a fair facilitator. Secondly, when not when launching Coutura Academy, Victor was one of the first community members I met with to gather some feedback in 2016. The conversation with him still stands out for the level of radical candor in challenging and probing questions he asked about our plants. Victor is the kind of person that has the integrity to be the steward of the people and the greater good above all not just in public but in private as I've experienced. There's no doubt in my mind he can be a fair and exceptional superintendent for the differing people and institutions in our diverse state. Thank you for your time this morning.

Appendix A, Item 3: SEAN PARKER

Good morning, President Dockweiler, members of the board. My name is Sean Parker for the record. My day job is the co-founder and CEO of the Center for the Future of Learning, and I also sit on the Commission for Innovation and Excellence uh in education. But today I'm here speaking as a private citizen of Nevada. I've had the honor of working alongside and learning from several great state superintendents from Superintendent Urkiaga to Superintendent Canavero to Superintendent Ebert and back to Superintendent Canavero. Nevada needs another great leader. We need someone who holds a high bar for academic excellence for our young people. We need someone who will ensure that safety and well-being of you of our young people is centered. And we also need somebody who understands that the world is rapidly changing, that Nevada is rapidly changing, and we must innovate and change alongside that. We need somebody who understands that the competencies laid out in the Nevada portrait of a learner aren't just nice to have, but essential to have as we go forward in a new and changing world. Today and tomorrow, I look forward to learning from six candidates alongside you as a member of the public. I trust you to pick those candidates that you feel are going to put forth the best for our state and the best for our students. But of course, like every citizen, I'm not unbiased. I bring my own biases into this space. One of the finalists is responsible for my development, is responsible for a lot of what I have been able to accomplish as a leader in this community and a leader for kids. I know Victor Wakefield to be a strong leader, a consensus builder, a great manager that lifts up his teams to achieve strong results. He is a builder of culture, and a builder of impact. So today I encourage you to consider Victor Wakefield alongside the many amazing candidates. Learn from them and ensure that we pick the best possible candidate. And right now, I believe that to be Victor. Thank you so much.

Appendix A, Item 4: JULIE PIPPENGER

President Dockweiler and Members of the State Board of Education:

My name is Julie Pippenger, and as a member of the Andre Agassi Foundation for Education team, I have spent decades working in Nevada's education system and school communities. I am writing to express my strong support for Dr. Victor Wakefield as our next State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Having worked at the national level as well as extensively in Nevada, Victor brings the vision and leadership Nevada needs to continue driving growth and improvement in our schools. His passion for education and deep commitment to student success uniquely position him to bring together the diverse stakeholders required to create lasting, positive change.

It is imperative that Nevada's next Superintendent of Public Instruction not only understands the challenges our state faces but also has a clear vision of what success can look like for students, teachers, principals, and extended communities. Victor embodies that vision and is the right leader to champion the future of education in Nevada.

I strongly urge you to consider Dr. Wakefield for this critical role.

Julie Pippenger

Appendix A, Item 5: JOSEPH MORGAN

To the Members of the Nevada State Board of Education,

I am writing to strongly support the appointment of Dr. Victor Wakefield as Nevada State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

I have had the privilege of working with Dr. Wakefield for more than 15 years, most closely during his tenure as Executive Director of Teach For America Las Vegas Valley. Throughout this time, I have been consistently impressed by his deep knowledge of the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional factors that shape outcomes for Nevada's diverse students. He demonstrates humility in learning, thoughtfulness in connecting systems and initiatives, and a strong commitment to listening to stakeholders when making policy decisions.

Dr. Wakefield is among the most collaborative and passionate educators I have known. His combination of local experience in Nevada and national perspective equips him to guide our state forward with vision and pragmatism. He has the skillset, mindset, and collaborative spirit to work effectively with educators, families, and policymakers to ensure every student has access to a high-quality education.

As a Nevada educator with more than 20 years of experience, I give Dr. Wakefield my highest recommendation. I urge the Board to appoint him as our next State Superintendent of Public Instruction. He is the right leader to help Nevada continue moving toward the goal of educational excellence for all students.

Respectfully,
Joseph Morgan, Ph.D.

Appendix A, Item 6: ERICA MOSCA

Dear Honorable Nevada State Board of Education Members, August 28, 2025

Thank you for all that you do for our state and community. I am grateful for the work and dedication of your body, the deep expertise and commitment to educational equity in our state from Ely and Elko to East Las Vegas where I live. As a former Clark County School District teacher, former education non-profit Founder & Executive Director and current Assemblymember serving on the Nevada Legislature's Committee on Education, I am proud to personally recommend Mr. Victor Wakefield for Nevada's Superintendent of Public Instruction. Thank you for considering this personal recommendation.

More than anything, I'm proud to be the first person in my family to graduate from college. I attended 7 different schools growing up, experienced what it was like not to be tracked for accelerated courses and know I can only be where I am today due to education access. In 2008 I moved to East Las Vegas after graduating Summa Cum Laude from Boston University to join Teach for America Nevada (TFA). I would go on to create an after-school nonprofit for my former students to sponsor/pass laws such as AB241 ensuring all students are tracked on the College & Career Readiness Diploma. TFA was—and continues to be—the foundation of my

work, professional development and is the reason I was able to become a Nevadan. Mr. Victor Wakefield, as the former Executive Director of TFA, was someone I directly worked with and for, supported me along my journey and is one of the reasons I have been able to support NV students, families and community members for nearly 2 decades. I would be proud if he were to become our Superintendent of Public Instruction. Thank you for seriously considering him.

I know that Mr. Wakefield is someone with deep convictions and values, has dedicated his life to educational equity and has continued to support and contribute to Nevada even when he did not live here. With a vision-aligned north star, capacity to foster relationships and partnerships and an unwavering belief in all students, parents and community members, I know Mr. Wakefield would be able to move our state forward—I'm proud to recommend him.

Appendix A, Item 7: JONATHAN SYNOLD

To the esteemed members of the Nevada State Board of Education,

I wholeheartedly recommend Wakefield for the position of Nevada State Superintendent. I began my career in 2004 as a member of Teach for America Las Vegas Charter Corp. I taught several different grade levels for years before becoming a principal of a charter, Career and Tech, and comprehensive high school. I have known Victor for over a decade, and I have always been impressed with his ability to reframe challenges and propose and act upon solutions. Victor is a true transformative leader who possesses the unique skills and vision required to guide Nevada's educational system into a new era of success. I have had the privilege of working alongside Mr. Wakefield and have witnessed firsthand his exceptional leadership, positivity, poise, and deep commitment to improving educational outcomes for all students.

Victor distinguished himself as a leader of strength and resolve as the Executive Director for Teach for America, Las Vegas, from 2011 to 2015. Despite deep economic challenges, Victor was able to reframe the difficult situation as an opportunity to redesign Nevada's education system. He masterfully brought together a diverse coalition of stakeholders—including business leaders, community organizations, policymakers, and other non-profits—to establish a shared agenda focused on education. He grew Teach for America to over 200 corps members a year to support the greater mission. This was nearly four times the typical corps before Victor, demonstrating his incredible ability to raise funds from the community and recruit talent from across the country to come to Nevada. Victor proved himself as a community organizer and visionary leader, so it was no surprise that he was selected to be a member of the Nevada Board of Education by Governor Sandoval in 2015. What really impressed me as a Teach for America alumnus was Victor's emphasis on rebuilding the alumni network. Victor hosted alumni dinners at his house, where he celebrated all the pathways that followed the two-year Teach for America commitment. He highlighted alumni who stayed as teachers or school administrators. During Professional Learning Saturdays with the new teachers, Victor would have long-term teachers and administrators present about the reasons to stay in the Nevada education field. These conversations had a significant impact on new teachers, as many are still teaching and leading in CCSD and charter schools today. Victor was the first Executive Director I saw who truly recognized that those closest to the work of education at the school level need to be heard and understood. I know Victor will continue to value educators as he develops a deep vision for Nevada.

Victor Wakefield is not just a capable administrator; he is a servant leader who understands that the future of Nevada depends on the strength of its schools. His experience at the helm of a pivotal educational organization during a time of crisis, combined with his proven track record of uniting communities, makes him the ideal candidate to serve as our next State Superintendent. I am confident that he will be an extraordinary leader for Nevada.

Appendix A, Item 8: TAMARA SHEAR

Good morning. I'm Tamara Shear, CEO at Opportunity 180, a nonprofit committed to a North Star of every student graduating from high school college and career-ready, prepared to live the life they dream.

- Leadership at the State level, including this Board and the State Superintendent, is foundational to ensuring

every student in Nevada has a clear path to future success.

- We believe this must include setting strong systems of accountability, ensuring fiscal responsibility and efficiency, and protecting equitable access to the programs and pathways students need to thrive. It also means creating conditions that give schools and districts the autonomy to serve students in ways that meet their unique needs.
- We are committed to working with the new State Superintendent and believe that the candidates moving forward in the interview process bring with them the best intentions for students and education in the State of Nevada.
- I am here today to speak in support of candidate Victor Wakefield. I have known him since we worked together at Teach for America in 2014. His experience blends a deep understanding of Nevada's local context with a national perspective on best practices and lessons learned that can help shape what's possible and drive the necessary change needed for our state.
- As surfaced in many of the community survey responses, understanding Nevada education and the local context is important to our community. Dr. Wakefield brings a strong understanding of education policy and process in Nevada, given his experience on this board, matched with regional and national success leading large and complex initiatives across multiple departments or regions. He is deeply dedicated to students and educators, and to ensuring our education system prepares graduates for their next step. His candidacy for State Superintendent represents a tremendous opportunity for our state.
- As I noted earlier, regardless of the outcome of this process, Opportunity 180 looks forward to partnering with the new State Superintendent as they take on this critical role and continuing to partner with this board and the department to ensure all kids in Nevada graduate from high school college and career ready. Thank you for your time and for your service to Nevada's students and families.

Appendix A, Item 9: GLENN CHRISTENSEN

Thank you and good afternoon uh President Dockweiler, Vice President Hughes, and members of the board. My name is Glenn Christensen. I'm managing director of Bilston Investments and a longtime education advocate in our state. First, thank you for the service to our state and taking on the important assignment of determining the finalist for the state superintendent of public instruction. All the candidates are very capable, and the selection will not be easy. I know many of you, but for those of you who don't know me, my benefits for my comments today include chairing Governor Sandaval's spending and government efficiency or sage commission, chairing at the request of the 2017 legislature the implementation of cons uh instrumentation council for AB469, chairing several external committees for multiple superintendents of the Clark County School District, and I hope all of you have had the opportunity to visit the Glenn and Andy Christensen School of Education at Nevada State University. I believe selecting the state superintendent is the most important function of the state board. Leadership is at the heart of every successful endeavor and the leadership by the next state superintendent will be critical in order for every child in our state to receive a quality education. If I were a member of the state board of education, I'd look for the following characteristics in the next superintendent. Obviously, someone who is smart, but not just books smart. Someone who can articulate the challenges in pre-K through 12 education in a way that makes others want to help. Someone who can articulate possible solutions to those challenges besides just asking for more money. We already know we need more money and someone who has operational experience and manages an organization. One thing I'd struggle with is the age-old challenge that we have here in Nevada. Do we select someone who lives in Nevada and understands the unique characteristics of our state and community? Or do we select someone from out of state who has new ideas and experiences to address our issues? One candidate that has all the characteristics outlined above is Victor Wakefield, which is why I urge you to forward his name as one of the candidates for the governor governor's

consideration for the state in uh superintendent role. My wife Andy and I worked with and supported Victor when he headed up Teach for America here. Victor is a forward thinker, a problem solver, and is passionate to help kids get a great education. We were sad to see Victor leave our state. We are now excited about what experiences he could bring back to Nevada. I know you would enjoy working with Victor and I believe he would do a great job for the children of our state. Thank you

Appendix A, Item 10: MARK NEWBURN

Good afternoon, President Dockweiler and members of the Nevada State Board of Education. My name is Mark Newburn and I'm a former member of the Nevada State Board of Education. Speaking today in support of Victor Wakefield. In my tenure on the state board, I served with four different state superintendents and participated three times in the state superintendent selection process. During those three selections, I always felt I was able to gauge the candidates' knowledge and experience through their resumes and their answers to our questions. But I also needed to know what a candidate might be like to work with. To be successful, the state superintendent and the state board must work in close partnership. They must have mutual trust and a shared focus on improving education for students. I had the pleasure of serving with Victor on the state board of education. He brought extensive knowledge to the board and was always prepared with insightful questions. In developing policy, it was never about his ego, but always about doing better for students. I found him to be collaborative, and he was always open-minded to my ideas and priorities. When Member Ortiz and I went to battle to expose an institutional process that invisibly diverted real dollars from inner city schools out to wealthier suburban schools, Victor was there with us, matching every bit of our passion for those kids. I believe Victor's time on the state board of education gives him a unique insight into the importance of the partnership between the state board and the state superintendent. Thank you

Appendix A, Item 11: PUNAM MATHUR

Good morning, President Dockweiler, Vice President Hughes, Members of the Board, and Superintendent Canavero.

My name is Punam Mathur. Thank you for the opportunity to offer an enthusiastic recommendation to advance Dr. Victor Wakefield in this critical selection process.

I have worked with Victor since 2011. We met at Teach for America Las Vegas where I watched as he took what was essentially a startup operation and led it through a period of rapid expansion and impressive success. Then, I worked closely with him in his role as a member of the State Board of Education and watched as he successfully leveraged his statewide relationships, credibility and knowledge to help build buy in and steward implementation of significant education reforms. More recently I have cheered his ascension to the national level and witnessed his professional evolution (and impact) as he has continued to refine his system-level leadership skills and chisel his extensive capabilities.

Beyond impressive credentials, I believe Victor possesses personal attributes that Nevada needs in NDE's next leader. Victor is a listener, a deep thinker and a gifted communicator. He is an innovator and dedicated also to getting the details of implementation right. He is an authentic collaborator. He operates with urgency while exercising the patience necessary to pace for the long game. He cares about data and its practical implications. And, maybe most importantly, at his core Victor is an educator with an indomitable belief in the potential of every child and an unshakeable resolve to deliver results on behalf of *all* of Nevada's students.

President Dockweiler, to step back for a moment, it was a personal and professional privilege to have ridden side car with Elaine Wynn for the nearly eight years she sat in your seat. During those years, Elaine and I were heartened by the leadership demonstrated by our Governors, the Legislature, your predecessors (including Victor), and all of you, to place Nevada on what she believed was an immutable path to a better tomorrow. Most of all, we were optimistic that after decades of pursuing 'silver bullets' until they tarnished, Nevada began making real strides in taking the long-term, strategic, multi-faceted and data informed approach essential to creating transformative and durable change in outcomes for Nevada's children. I know Elaine was proud of the work and grateful to have played a small part. She was also mindful that success would take time and persistence.

Thanks to those efforts, I feel as though Nevada is finally on an undeniable trajectory to meet the future. As evidence of progress, I would point to historic investments in a modernized funding formula, bipartisan reforms and broad public engagement we have seen in recent years. I would also point to the Department of Education which is better positioned than ever as a hub to drive, support and measure change throughout the state. The opportunity now is to select a Superintendent who will lead NDE in a manner that builds upon good work already done and turbocharges progress. Someone with a proven record of results, statewide and national expertise, an extensive Nevada network and the personal attributes to inspire followership on Day One. I believe strongly Dr. Victor Wakefield fits the bill perfectly.

Thank you again for all you do and for the chance to be heard.

Respectfully,
Punam Mathur

Appendix A, Item 12: MARIA WIECZOREK

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great confidence and admiration that I recommend Dr. Darryl Wyatt for the position of Nevada State Superintendent of Public Instruction. I had the privilege of working under his leadership for twelve years while he served as my principal in the Clark County School District. During that time, I witnessed firsthand his visionary leadership, his unwavering commitment to equity, and his ability to transform schools into thriving learning communities.

Dr. Wyatt is not a leader who settles for the status quo. He consistently led our staff to embrace innovative practices that placed us far ahead of many neighboring schools. At the time, I did not fully realize how groundbreaking his vision was until I later worked under other principals, and at other schools after his retirement, and recognized just how forward thinking and transforming his leadership had been. He trusted and empowered teachers to do what was best for students, creating a culture where creativity and professionalism flourished.

A clear example of his visionary style came when our school first introduced iPads and laptops into classrooms. Rather than viewing the integration of technology as a passing trend, Dr. Wyatt immediately saw its potential to revolutionize instruction. When he noticed that I was embracing this new tool, he encouraged me to take on a leadership role, training my colleagues on how to integrate technology into their teaching. Dr. Wyatt invested time and resources to ensure staff received proper training and access to nationwide best practices, giving us the confidence and tools to integrate technology effectively into our classrooms. This kind of forward-thinking leadership built a culture where educators were trusted, valued, and equipped to meet the future head-on. His ability to recognize strengths in others and elevate teachers into leadership roles created a ripple effect that advanced the entire school.

Perhaps most telling of his leadership is the loyalty he inspired. When Dr. Wyatt transitioned from leading an elementary school to a middle school, the majority of our staff which included teachers, nurses, office staff, and even custodians chose to follow him. We wanted work where he was. I personally, as well as several others, drove an hour each way, past more than a dozen other schools, just to continue working under his leadership. That kind of commitment from an entire staff is rare, and it speaks volumes about the respect, trust, and admiration he cultivated.

Equally important, Dr. Wyatt was unwavering in his dedication to equity. He led a school community where families often lacked the financial means to provide the resources their children needed. He never accepted that as a limitation. If the school budget could not meet a need, he went beyond the walls of our building to secure community partnerships, ensuring our students had the same opportunities as children in more affluent neighborhoods. This kind of creative, relentless, and gritty advocacy demonstrates exactly the kind of leadership Nevada needs at the state level.

Even beyond our years of working together, Dr. Wyatt has remained my go-to person for professional advice. Whether I had questions about education policy, law, or needed guidance in navigating new challenges, he has

always been there as a trusted mentor. The fact that I still rely on his counsel years later speaks to both his depth of knowledge and his unwavering dedication to supporting educators long after they leave his building. Above all, Dr. Wyatt built a culture of trust and respect. Every staff member knew that he valued our work, supported our growth, and would fight to provide us with the tools we needed. His leadership made it possible for both educators and students to thrive, and his vision continues to influence my practice to this day. Nevada deserves a State Superintendent who understands innovation, equity, and the power of empowering educators. Dr. Wyatt embodies all of these qualities. I am proud to recommend him without reservation, knowing that his leadership will not only elevate Nevada's schools but also transform the lives of countless students and families across the state.

Maria Wiczorek
7th Grade ELA at Scholfield Middle School