

**Nevada Department of Education  
Nevada State Board of Education  
Special Meeting  
August 29, 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     | <a href="#">YouTube Link</a> |

**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 9:03 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. Sarah Culler, provided written public comments.

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

The Board proceeded with the second and final day of interviews for the State Superintendent of Public Instruction position, adhering to the previously approved structure: Performance Task, Eight Formal Questions, and Follow-Up Questions. On this day, Dr. Sylvia Mitchell presented her performance task, "Bridge the Gap Nevada," followed by responses to the eight formal interview questions asked by Board Members. Following learning and her Sanchez presented her performance task, which focused on literacy

and early learning, and subsequently provided responses to the eight formal interview questions asked by Board Members.

**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**

None

**5. Information, Discussion, and for Possible Action: Deliberation and Selection of Finalists for State Superintendent of Public Instruction (*Information, Discussion, and For Possible Action*)**

The Board moved into deliberation, referencing the aggregate scores from the six candidates interviewed over two days.

The initial discussion focused on the top three candidates by numerical score: Dr. Wakefield, Dr. Sanchez, and Dr. Coons. However, the conversation soon expanded when Member Braxton introduced Dr. Sylvia Mitchell for consideration, citing her strong community-focused approach and specific examples regarding budget crises and stakeholder feedback. Similarly, Member Else advocated for Dr. Daryl Wyatt, noting his familiarity with Nevada's context and systems and referencing the efficiency study. Following extensive discussion regarding candidate fit, long-term consistency, and qualitative factors (such as diversity experience and communication style) alongside the quantitative scores, Member Dawson Owens ultimately motioned to select three specific candidates.

**Member Dawson Owens moved to select Dr. Victor Wakefield, Dr. Heather Sanchez, and Dr. Sylvia Mitchell as the three finalists to be forwarded to Governor Joe Lombardo for consideration and appointment. Member Braxton seconded the motion, and it subsequently passed unanimously (9-0-0) by a roll call vote of the Board Members present. The three names, along with the interview materials and recordings, were then directed to be forwarded to the Governor's office.**

**6. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:49 P.M.

**Appendix A: Statements given during public comments**

1. Sarah Culler, Community Member, provided written public comment during public comment period #2.

**Appendix A, Item 1: SARAH CULLER**

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I write to recommend Dr. Darryl Wyatt for the position of Nevada State Superintendent of Public Instruction. As both a lifelong educator and a parent of children in the NV public school system, I have a deep appreciation for the kind of leadership our schools need, and I can say with confidence that Dr. Wyatt exemplifies those qualities.

I have had the privilege of witnessing Dr. Wyatt's leadership firsthand, and I can attest to his rare ability to connect policy with practice in ways that truly serve students, families, and educators. He leads with integrity, listens with empathy, and acts with purpose. In an era where educational systems face increasing pressure and complexity, Dr. Wyatt brings clarity, vision, and a genuine commitment to equality and excellence.

As an educator, I've seen how his decisions empower teachers and improve outcomes in the classroom. With 33 years of experience in Nevada classrooms, He understands that the foundation of a strong education system is built on supporting educators, fostering innovation, and ensuring every student, regardless of background, has access to high-quality learning opportunities. His leadership is grounded in both data and humanity.

As a parent, I've seen the impact of his values on students. Values like accountability, inclusion, and high expectations. Dr. Wyatt doesn't just talk about putting students first, he demonstrates it in every initiative he leads and every conversation he has. He understands that behind every statistic is a child, a family, and a future.

Nevada's public education system needs a leader who can inspire trust, build coalitions, and make courageous decisions in the best interest of all students. Dr. Darryl Wyatt is that leader. I offer my highest recommendation and unwavering support and in his run as State Superintendent.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Culler