

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
COMMISSION ON SCHOOL FUNDING**

**March 22, 2024**

**9:00 AM**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Room</b>
Department of Education	2080 E. Flamingo Rd.	Las Vegas	<u>Bristle Cone</u>
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St.	Carson City	<u>Board Room</u>
Department of Education	Virtual	Virtual	<u>YouTube</u>

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Guy Hobbs, Chair  
Joyce Woodhouse  
Punam Mathur  
Nancy Brune  
Jim McIntosh  
Dr. David Jensen  
Jason Goudie  
Mark Mathers  
Kyle Rodriguez  
Paul Johnson

**DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT**

Megan Peterson

**LEGAL STAFF PRESENT**

Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott

**AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE**

Amanda Morgan  
Ryan Reeves  
Ann-Marie Dixon  
Jana Wilcox Lavin  
Kelsey Krausen  
Sean Tanner  
Justin Silverstein

## SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING

### 1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chair Hobbs. Quorum was established. Chair Hobbs noted for the record that they are joined by Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Amanda Morgan and Ryan Reeves provided public comment. There were no written or call-in public comments.

### 3. APPROVAL OF FLEXIBLE AGENDA *(For Possible Action)*

**Member Woodhouse moved to approve the flexible agenda. Member Rodriguez seconded. Motion carried.**

### 4. MINUTES APPROVAL *(Discussion and Possible Action)*

The Committee will vote on whether to approve the February 23, 2024, meeting minutes.

- Guy Hobbs, Chair, Commission on School Funding

**Member Woodhouse moved to approve the flexible agenda. Member Mathur seconded. Motion carried.**

### 5. NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION Update *(Information, Discussion, and Possible Action)*

The Commission will receive an update on the progress made by the Nevada Department of Education since the last meeting.

- Megan Peterson, Deputy Superintendent of Student Investment Division, NDE

Megan Peter gave an update on the status of contracts and updates on the grad score indicator. She confirmed they have been working with DAG to understand legal implications of higher education system where race and gender are identified as not constitutional for purpose of admission. She gave highlights from the conference they attended and the presentations.

Anne-Marie Dixon gave an update and overview of the acing accountability matrix. A discussion was held regarding paralleling efforts. Megan Peterson gave an overview of the working groups schedules and the deadline for recommendations.

### 6. DISCUSSION OF THE RELEASED AUDIT OF NEVADA'S PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY. *(Information, Discussion, and Possible Action)*

The Commission will discuss the recently released audit and implications for the Commission.

- Guy Hobbs, Chair, Commission on School Funding

Chair Hobbs discussed the recently released audit. *(See "4A - EO 2023-005 Audit Report\_03.18.2024.pdf" for details)* and gave his perspectives. Members discussed the audit and their concerns. Chair Hobbs stated he is willing to draft a letter to the Governor for them to communicate their views on the audit.

**Member Johnson made a motion for the Chair to a letter on behalf of the Commission of School Funding as a response and clarification to the items that were identified in the executive order audit. Member Brune seconded. Motion passed.**

### 7. COMMUNITY EDUCATION PARTNER PRESENTATION *(Information, Discussion and Possible Action)*

The Commission will receive a presentation from a community education partner on their feedback and input regarding reporting and accountability measures identified in Senate Bill 98 and Assembly Bill 400.

- Guy Hobbs, Chair, Commission on School Funding

Jana Wilcox Lavine discussed a centralized data hub that they have built. She gave a presentation on opportunity.

(See “#6 Opportunity 180 Presentation FINAL ADA.pdf” for details.) and answered questions the members had.

**8. DISCUSSION OF THE USE OF GRAD SCORES TO IDENTIFY AT-RISK PUPILS FOR WEIGHTED FUNDING** (*Information, Discussion, and Possible Action*)

The Commission will discuss the use of the Grad Score to identify pupils at-risk and any recommendations for its continued use.

- Guy Hobbs, Chair, Commission on School Funding

Chair Hobbs summarized the information Infinite Campus provided at their last meeting and the questions the members had.

**Chair Hobbs made a motion recommend continuing the use of the Infinite Campus grad score model to identify those most at-risk of not graduating, subject to the following three things: One, that the grad score and percentile ranking method be reviewed by qualified third party to ensure that it is meeting the objective of identifying those most risk of not graduating. This should include research into whether there are more accurate or effective methods of identifying the target group. And if so, bringing those for consideration. As an alternative, it should also include an evaluation as to the effect of weighted and funding between and among districts. This review should be repeated each biennium by a third party subject matter expert and must be completed and delivered to the Nevada Department of Education, the State Board of Education and the Commission on school funding no later than September 1, proceeding the next session of the legislature. So it could be used in any budgeting or legislative amendments that may be required. Number two, that the 20th percentile ranking that's currently encoded into laws of fixed value be changed to a value to be determined each biennium by the Nevada Board of Education. So it would be more of a floating value and changed as it needed to be changed. And certainly with experience and with recommendations from a third party expert, there would be a basis for moving that value and not marrying ourselves through that value. Continuing on with that notion that Nevada Board of Education must consider input, it would be the Nevada Board of Education that would determine that value prior to each session of the legislature. And the Nevada Board of Education must consider input from the Nevada Department of Education and the Commission on school funding in setting the effective percentile each bi. So they're required to get some input. And again, these are recommendations. We can't place a requirement on an elected body, but we could certainly recommend that this become part of the process. And finally as I mentioned earlier, the term at-risk should be changed throughout Nevada statutes to a new term. Anything that we want to do to refine this name, we could do before we file our final report. But I have in there student success support as an alternative to at-risk.**

**Member Woodhouse seconded.**

**Member Johnson suggested a minor edit: Replace the word “most” at-risk students so that it read “ensure that it meets the objective of identifying those students at-risk of not graduating.” Motion passed as made and amended.**

**9. WORK GROUP REPORTS AND DISCUSSION** (*Information, Discussion, and Possible Action*)

The Working Group Leads will report on the progress made since the last Commission meeting. The Commission may discuss and make possible recommendations based on information shared by the working groups.

- Working Group #1, Pupil-Centered Funding Plan Technical Changes, Joyce Woodhouse

Member Woodhouse stated an addition to the report from the last meeting is that they have also had a listening session with NDE staff. We have four or five technical suggestions that we discussed. One addressed the hold harmless part, basically the impact on weighted categories. Another one was the attendance area adjustment. A third one was timing up on true ups. There's a direct conflict there. And another one was the ending balance, needing more clarity. The last comment made was that was the people centered funding plan has streamlined the work of the funding getting to the school districts. We are meeting with the working group. We'll have a meeting with Amy Stevenson in the Governor's Finance office next Wednesday. We did receive

an email from the head of LCD's legal division, and we are not able to speak with them due to separation of hours. We'll have our final set of what we've learned to you at the April meeting, and we'll be finished.

- Working Group #2, Optimal Funding, Guy Hobbs

Chair Hobbs stated he thinks our collective relief we heard earlier today that the contract is in place retroactive to a couple of days ago to do the work on updating the report that we filed November of '22. We'll work to update that basic report that we did previously. That'll have the revised target funding levels in it. Then we get to the fund sections that follow that methods of potential funding, where previously we had 16 or so illustrations of different ways to deal with property tax abatements and such things, and different ways of viewing the base for the application of the sales and use tax. This report would focus less on showing all of the different ways that that could be done and more on those that we might actually wish to recommend further consideration of. That will be the discussion that we'll have here with respect to those recommendations. I'm still hoping that we can bring that back in the May timeframe, June for sure, to have that discussion, which will finish that element of our work. I've already spoken with the vendor that was selected and work is already underway on doing all this stuff.

- Working Group #3, Current Reporting and Data, Jason Goudie

Jason Goudie stated they're essentially compiling the CCESD list of all the reporting requirements. We're overlaying that with the information that NDE has provided us. And then working with the two other members on the committee to help vet it. I met with the external consultants and really just focused on them looking at that data and providing some feedback as to how we can collect the data a little better. We've gotten some recommendations from them on how to better format that. We've resent that back to my teams to just kind of fill in that data. Once we get that, we'll then resend that to the group and ultimately after the other CFOs to NDE to go through and say, okay, check this off. If there's things that you're doing that we didn't capture, let's put them on as we get comprehensive list. Then the funds part starts, which is that evaluating which of these things cross reference and data is the same. Then this will be a process that'll have to keep continuing.

- Working Group #4, Accountability and New Reporting Framework, Paul Johnson

Paul Johnson stated the mission of these two groups is working together to simply identify the volume of stuff that's out there and of that volume of stuff, identify the stuff that's useful. I would hope that we could get rid of the ancillary NRS and have them in some central spot in NRS that now gets rid of all the other things and creates a new reporting method. We still have stuff that's relevant for the Nevada plan and class size reduction is one of those that we have to pick through. And then each one of these statutes has its tentacles into other things too. One of the problems that I've run into in the group is just finding time and coordinating schedules in and among all of the other working groups in order to get folks together. We're able to get help from some professionals that have been working with NDE to help facilitate this and schedule meetings and get together on a more aggressive schedule every two weeks, which we're going to have a meeting next week to go through and identify those things. The purpose is more to come up with the design of a system. We saw the Nevada School Performance Framework from the opportunity 180, who has used the existing Nevada School performance framework and identified an alternative measures that are in there. I think the group we're going to have is going to kind of have that on steroids. The difficulty is going to be the fine line between comprehensive and simple to use. There's a short-term, midterm and long-term objectives that we're working on. I've been working on putting together a report already that will modify as we go through and have our meetings and discoveries and get information. We'll have a deliverable report by the time that you need it to make information by May, June of this year. It'll at least have the framework to identify the categories that we want to have information in. We will have that populated because we already have stuff in the statute that's required.

Nancy Brune stated she has connected with the person who's going to be supporting my group, Mikayla Tonkin. I know she acknowledged that she knows that our group has a soft handoff from Paul's group. I've asked her if she can get us some visualization models that we can start looking at and maybe that will help us figure out like how do we balance comprehensive nature versus having something that's useful. Hopefully, once we have some examples, I will convene our group or bring them to your group to think about how we illustrate or present the data to different groups.

- Working Group #5, Accountability Outcome and Trends, Dr. Nancy Brune

- Working Group #6, Improve Accessibility within Public Schools, Jim McIntosh

Jim McIntosh stated he is pulling together the information. I have talked to some interested parties and others that have led in this area regarding school choice. I think really what this equates to, the equitability of these programs and access to them, there's a cost to that. I have not pulled the group together yet because I want to provide you something meaningful that we can take a look at. I believe I will have a draft of something. I don't foresee this being very long, at least where it stands right now. I think we talked about this being somewhat of a one page answer to this going forward as something we attached to the report. I have been put in touch with some people that I would like to speak with first before I complete what I've got, and I think really what it comes down to me for you is what is the impact of the People Centered funding plan if we were to consider these programs? A student should have access to a lot of programs within a school district or a school within the school district. And like it says, not limited to open zoning. So not having to go to the school at UR zone at based off your residences. I would like to talk to some final two groups and I would like to pull the group together to take a look. You can help me edit what I put together.

- Working Group #7 Small Capital Funding, Guy Hobbs

Chair Hobbs stated he had a chance to briefly talk to Mark. I'm going to go ahead and draft that one up. Obviously we can list all of the ways that it could potentially be done, both practical and impractical and bring it back with respect to making any kind of singular recommendation as to the best method, but a lot of it builds on what we did a year and a half ago. I'll be circulating that to the folks that are a part of that working group, getting their comments. I'm hoping that we can wrap it up within the next couple of months.

- Working Group #8, Teacher Pipeline, Dusty Casey
- Working Group #9, Teacher and Support Staff Compensation, Dusty Casey

Kyle Rodriguez stated our group met with Jeffrey Brisky and team. In the coming meetings, we would like to have them present to the commission and share their findings as well as go over the surveys they're going to provide for teachers currently in education.

Punam Mathur stated the 8 and 9 working groups are now co-collapsed since December 1. At our last meeting, the leadership of the NDE brought the staff members who are supporting the other commission that exists, which is on teacher recruitment and retention. There is a commission that exists in the state whose sole mission is to do the thing that we were assigned one little sliver and another legislature. We met with the staff that support the commission. The next step, we're going to meet with or ask that commission to come present to us because they're doing everything we've been asked to do. They've got recommendations. So we thought maybe that would be the information that we could either support the recommendations, reinforce their recommendations rather than invest stuff from scratch. Because we're already doing everything. Dusty wanted to see all of their materials, but we could probably stand next to it. And I think he was going to reach out to Jason as well, to just see whether he has some HR stuff that others or may not have.

Jason Goudie stated he did receive updated national Matrix where they compared our salaries based on minimum starting salary and maximum. Then they cost adjusted it against the other nine largest school districts in the nation. They also did a comparison of Nevada. Certainly when you cost adjust and you just look at salaries, we're very high. There's only three out of the 10 that are higher than we are. A lot of them are considerably lower. Our max is significantly higher than anybody else. I got that from Dusty and I'll forward it on so at least the group can start looking at this and use this as data as well. I did talk to applied analysis to make sure that I wasn't doing anything I wasn't supposed to do with the report, because I know how that works. Dusty should have a presentation in April, that was the target date with having this wrapped up by May.

## **10. CURRENT REPORTING REQUIERMENTS IN ASSEMBLY BILL 400 AND SENATE BILL 98.**

*(Information and Discussion)*

The Commission will receive a presentation related to what metrics in AB 400 and SB 98 are currently collected in other reports. The Commission will have the opportunity to identify accountability metric specific topics and questions that the Commission would like to see included in future presentations.

- Dr. Kelsey Krausen, Director, WestEd

Kelsey Krausen gave a presentation. (See “#10 #11 Supporting the Implementation of AB400\_SB98” for details) A discussion was held and questions were answered.

#### **11. SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSEMBLY BILL 400 AND SENATE BILL 98.**

*(Information and Discussion)*

The Commission will receive a presentation related to what is done with the metrics in AB 400 and SB 98 that are currently collected in other reports. The Commission will have the opportunity to identify accountability metric specific topics and questions that the Commission would like to see included in future presentations.

- Dr. Sean Tanner, Senior Research Associate, WestEd

Sean Tanner talked about ways to think about setting the stage for modifying and assessing the efficacy of the new system and how progress is measured at the school level under state and federal requirements. A discussion was held and questions were answered.

#### **12. NCEI PRESENTATION FROM SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS** *(Information and Discussion)*

The Commission will receive a presentation related to the Nevada Cost of Education Index (NCEI) from subject matter experts. The Commission will have the opportunity to identify NCEI specific topics and questions that the Commission would like to see included in future presentations.

- Justin Silverstein, Co-CEO, Augenblick, Palaich and Associates.

Justin Silverstein gave a presentation. (See “#12 APA Regional Cost Adjustments.pdf” for details.) A discussion took place and questions were answered. Chair Hobbs stated they would prepare to have this go forward in two meetings, one to make the decision to go or not go and then the second one to say this is how we’re going to go. He stated he would prepare to have this on the next agenda.

#### **13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair Hobbs stated agenda item 12 will be coming back to us, hopefully with a little bit of direction. The Gantt chart that Megan had up of milestones and due dates, he thinks they need to have that on every meeting and track progress with every one of those items. Kyle mentioned that Dusty may want to have something on the April agenda. I think that was the report on one of the elements of the teacher pipeline and or compensation. Otherwise, we repeat some of the items that we typically have on the flexible agenda. We may have one other community partner who hasn't been able to make it the last couple of times, but it's important for us to hear from all of them. And then to the extent that any of the working groups have anything that is ready to come to the commission, even if it's not fully formed, fully vetted, please let me or Megan know and we can also agendize that.

#### **14. PUBLIC COMMENT #2**

There was no public comment.

#### **15. ADJOURNMENT**

(Video ends)