

**NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 17, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Campos, President, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by Kannen, an 8th-grade student from RCMS.

WELCOME:

Mrs. Campos welcomed everyone to the Board of Trustees meeting.

RECOGNITIONS:

No recognitions.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Leslie Campos, President; Robert White, Vice President; David Harris, Clerk; Larry Small, Member; Martin Daffer, Member; and Chelsy Fischer, Member.

Absent: Nathan Gent, Member.

Executive Cabinet/District Office staff in attendance: Joe Gent, Superintendent; Genoveva Lopez-Angelo, Assistant Superintendent; Michelle “Chelle” Wright, Human Resources Director; Ray Ritchie, Chief Operating Officer; Nate Cardinal, Director of Maintenance, Operations, Safety, and Security; Robert Williams, Director of Technology; and Iliana Garcia, Executive Assistant.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

A request was made for agenda item 10 to be tabled for November’s Board Meeting.

GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT:

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the August 20, 2026, minutes
- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the FY27 CSR report
- Informational - Second Reading NCSD Policy: 7031 - Assignment of Students To School and 3670 - Procurement Code Of Conduct

Mrs. Campos requested a correction to the August 20th draft minutes on the action item for agenda item 16, to reflect the correct motion. Mr. White made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the correction. Mr. Small seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor, 6-0.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:

Holly Riggs, Principal of Gabbs Schools, presented the school spotlight for the 2026–2027 school year, focusing on demographics, enrollment structural shifts, and future learning initiatives. Discussion ensued.

The Rosemary Clarke Middle School team Zachary Butt, Assistant Principal, Judy Bloom, Assistant Principal, and Tiffany James, Dean of Students presented their school spotlight, highlighting the Spring 2027 academic growth trajectory, focusing on increasing Nevada SBAC ELA and Math proficiency through standardized weekly PLCs, Marzano instructional coaching, and daily 39-minute "WIN" Time targeted interventions. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Wright presented a draft letter to State Superintendent Dr. Victor W. Wakefield requesting state support for out-of-field licenses in rural areas.

Mrs. Lopez-Angelo presented an update on class sizes and districtwide combination classrooms. It was noted that paraprofessionals are actively assigned to support these classrooms across the district. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Ritchie presented financial updates to the Board. Noting that under Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) rules, July bus deliveries require a December budget transfer from Debt Service to Capital Projects for audit accuracy. Mr. Ritchie reported a mandatory \$43,211.28 state payback due to Q3–Q4 enrollment declines; he also identified three new warrant vendors (Laboratory NV LLC, Blue Line AC and Plumbing, and Certified Labs).

For Fiscal Year 2025–2026, required transfers of over \$1.4M to Special Education and \$19k to At-Risk programs, alongside \$1.7M to the general fund, brought the projected ending fund balance to \$5.5M. The district opened the current fiscal year with an August fund balance of \$7.7M. In addressing NRS 391.172, Mr. Ritchie noted that no employee raises are planned for 2026–2027 pending upcoming legislative decisions. He also reviewed northern travel expenditures and clarified that SB 500 funds will be tracked independently rather than on consolidated cover sheets. Finally, enrollment figures will lock on October 1, with elementary enrollment drops prompting Board discussion regarding class sizes and state revenue impacts. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Wright also reported that six individuals remain on the NCCTA recall list, including social workers without options and four teachers who declined out-of-area or certification roles. There are 13 NCCTA rural vacancies, primarily in Round Mountain and Tonopah, along with five active PERS critical-needs positions. Three support staff members remain on recall—two campus monitors and one health aide—all of whom are currently serving as substitutes. Classified staffing has 45 open positions, comprising 18 union and 27 non-represented positions. She also shared personnel changes since the start of last school year, reporting 50 resignations or retirements and 11 new hires among licensed staff, with a priority on internal paraprofessional promotions. Unlicensed staff saw 37 resignations or retirements and 9 new hires, mostly within food service, while transportation bus aides are fully staffed with a large substitute pool.

Mr. Cardinal provided an update on ongoing maintenance projects, reporting that roof fine-tuning is expected to wrap up within two weeks, while five new cooler units have been installed, with minor operational adjustments currently being addressed at Beatty and Tonopah.

Preparations are also underway for the sports complex demolition, and the bid package for the Round Mountain HVAC replacement project remains on schedule for approval in December.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Gent reported on recent proceedings with the Nevada State Board of Health, where district representatives successfully opposed a proposed tuberculosis testing mandate that would have imposed additional administrative and financial burdens. Highlighted strong collaborative advocacy among rural superintendents, as well as impactful public testimony delivered from Clark and Nye counties.

Dr. Gent also read a general statement outlining district investigation protocols. The report addressed statutory privacy requirements protecting student and employee records, ongoing coordination with the Sheriff's Office and District Attorney, and the strategic implementation of AI tools to facilitate rapid public messaging to counteract social media speculation. Discussion ensued.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Small reported that Pahrump will host its first Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) Joint Board meeting in April 2027, accompanied by a professional development training day. He noted that on August 31, he participated in a Zoom meeting with the State Superintendent regarding the Nevada District Performance Framework (NDPF) Report Card for the 2025–2026 school year. Additionally, on August 26, he attended the Health Committee meeting for the new school year.

Mr. White also reported attending the Zoom meeting hosted by the State Superintendent regarding the Nevada District Performance Framework (NDPF). Additionally, he attended an in-service training session on learning styles led by Dr. Cash at RCMS.

Mr. Harris reported that he attended a Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) training session in Lovelock, marking the completion of his milestone to visit every high school community across Nevada. During his travels, he visited Round Mountain Public Library, noting his positive impression of their ongoing Accelerated Reader program. Additionally, Mr. Harris also attended the professional development session on learning styles led by Dr. Cash at RCMS. Lastly, serving as President of the local Kiwanis Club and advisor to the Pahrump Valley High School Key Club, he is at PVHS every Monday. He reported that the Key Club is running the concession stands for volleyball games this season, introducing new menu items and successfully generating funds to support high school athletics.

Mrs. Fischer suggested that, given the recent change in board meeting locations and the schedule of upcoming school site visits, board members may plan to take photographs with students and staff during the visit for school spotlight presentations.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER PLAN:

Mr. Lamb presented the district's English Learner Plan to eliminate language barriers under NRS 388.407 and NAC 388.525–388.555, governed collaboratively by district leadership, Assistant Superintendent Genoveva Lopez-Angelo, site staff, and parents. Student identification follows a four-step process, utilizing a framework that combines integrated instruction, primary language

support, and paired teacher collaboration to target academic proficiency, English acquisition, and college/career readiness based on research distinguishing social (1–3 years) from academic (5–7 years) language acquisition. While parents may decline direct services, annual proficiency testing remains federally mandated until students meet exit criteria (ELPA 4.5+, or 4.0–4.4 with proficient state test scores), followed by four years of mandatory academic tracking. Progress for the district's ~400 EL students (8–9% of the population) is monitored via annual WIDA ACCESS tests and weekly PLC portfolio reviews, with students retaining full access to advanced coursework and Special Education, alongside administrative tracking for Long-Term ELs and EL students with disabilities; multidisciplinary team reviews address performance discrepancies between language proficiency and academic scores by evaluating non-linguistic factors such as attendance, after which board discussion ensued.

Mr. Small made a motion to approve the ELL Plan. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor, 6-0.

ERIKA'S LIGHTHOUSE UPDATE:

Mrs. Lopez-Angelo presented a four-stage implementation plan for the Erica's Lighthouse curriculum, detailing administrative designations, staff training on depression and suicide awareness, family communication, and targeted program launches for grades 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10 during regular school hours without student clubs. Scheduling requires pre- and post-assessments and pre-break schoolwide lessons while avoiding Fridays and end-of-day slots, with data collection tracking participation, family engagement, resource usage, and assessment results following an initial administrative review prior to September 29. Addressing a trustee inquiry, Ms. Garcia noted that sixth grade was excluded based on a prior administrative survey to prevent lesson repetition—with potential adjustments following data evaluation—and confirmed that staff training can occur during in-service days, morning PLC time, or Thursday professional development sessions. She reported strong staff interest, highlighted opportunities for student council involvement, and noted that while Erica's Lighthouse representatives have not visited in person, they maintain contact with district leaders and will assist with end-of-year data analysis. Discussion ensued.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION ON THE ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES FOR BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

President Campos introduced Item 13 regarding board committee appointments. Mr. Small volunteered to serve as the legislative representative, noting that the position aligns naturally with the Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) Director role. The Board expressed its appreciation to Mr. Small for stepping forward to lead legislative efforts in coordination. Regarding debt management, Mr. Harris volunteered to serve as the primary representative for the Debt Management Committee.

Mr. White made a motion to approve board committee assignments. Mr. Harris seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor, 6-0.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF THE NCSD WARRANTS:

Mr. Harris commented that the district is managing travel expenses more effectively. Mrs. Campos expressed appreciation for the detailed breakdown, noting that the itemized descriptions

were very helpful. Mr. Small inquired whether the breakdown could be provided on a monthly basis.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the August warrants. Mr. Small seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor, 6-0.

DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE BOARD MEETING TOPICS:

Mr. Small would like a report on NDPF and the Beatty science room.

Mr. Daffer would like a report on block schedules.

DISCUSSION TO APPROVE, DISAPPROVE, AMEND, OR MODIFY THE DATE OR ATTENDANCE AREA OF FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS:

If the budget permits next school year, Mr. Harris would like to resume holding meetings in the outlying communities. Discussion ensued.

GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT:

Two public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT:

8:14 p.m.

By _____

David Harris, Clerk