NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2026

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Campos, President, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Pahrump Valley High School students led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for the Oregon school tragedy.

WELCOME:

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

RECOGNITIONS:

Mrs. Lopez-Angelo recognized five Pahrump Valley High School students for achieving a top score of 5 on their Advanced Placement exams.

ROLL CALL:

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

Executive Cabinet/District Office staff in attendance: Dr. 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; Mandy Leytham, Learning Coordinator; and Iliana Garcia, Executive Assistant.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

No changes.

GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT:

Tracy Calderon thanked the board for the Advanced Placement student recognitions and advocated expanding eligibility criteria beyond a score of 5 to include students who earn high passing marks in multiple rigorous courses.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the September 17, 2026, minutes
- Approve the Tuition Agreement between Nye County School District and Esmeralda County School District
- Approve the Tuition Agreement between Nye County School District and Eureka County School District
- Approve the Tuition Agreement between Nye County School District and White Pine County School District
- Approve the Tuition Agreement between Nye County School District and Clark County School District

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- Approve the Tuition Agreement between Nye County School District and Lander County School District

Mr. White made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Small seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor, 7-0.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:

Thad Wind, Principal of Round Mountain Schools, presented the school spotlight for the 2026–2027 school year, focusing on demographics, enrollment structural shifts, and future learning initiatives. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Ritchie presented the financial statement, projecting an audited beginning general fund balance of $5.5 million. He addressed trustee questions regarding expenses, noting that while fuel and propane costs have increased, utilities remain steady and no major unanticipated expenditures have occurred. Mr. Ritchie reported on Nevada's 120-day emergency regulation modifying the pupil-centered funding formula. The order temporarily bases monthly state payments on projected enrollment (5,475 students) rather than lower first-quarter actuals (5,376 students). Staff will submit second-quarter counts before winter break to maximize state revenue before the regulation expires. Mr. Ritchie stated that future fiscal adjustments depend on state legislative decisions, with preliminary funding estimates anticipated in mid-February.

Mrs. Wright presented an HR update, proposing a revised superintendent evaluation timeline to alleviate calendar conflicts with statutory state budget deadlines. Under this schedule, evaluation instruments will be distributed in June with final results reported to the Board in July, maintaining consistency with the 2025–2026 cycle. Board consideration of contract renewal will subsequently shift to July or August. Mrs. Wright also delivered a staffing and vacancy report. In certified staffing, six individuals remain pending on the recall list (four teachers and two social workers), and twelve teaching vacancies remain open. Elementary vacancies in the south have been filled, while recruitment efforts remain active in Tonopah and Round Mountain. Five critical-need teaching assignments are currently staffed by Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) retirees. In classified staffing, forty-one positions remain open, comprising seventeen support staff and twenty-four non-represented positions. Since the September report, personnel transactions include one licensed hire, zero licensed departures, one unlicensed hire, and four unlicensed resignations.

Mr. Cardinal presented district facility updates, beginning with student artwork from Mrs. Dabrowski's class designed to optimize fire drill evacuation flow per the Hazard Vulnerability Report. Across the district, several capital projects remain on track: the Pathways roof is complete, the Tonopah roof commenced on schedule despite early snowfall, and the walk-in cooler/freezer project is nearing closeout following a final punch-list walk. Meanwhile, the Tonopah Sports Complex team continues biweekly Owner-Architect-Contractor (OAC) meetings ahead of a tentative November 23 demolition date. Finally, following site walkthroughs at Beatty, the welding shop was redesigned to shift equipment purchasing and installation directly to the district (OPOI), with revised infrastructure bids slated for Board review in December. Discussion ensued.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

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Dr. Gent reviewed Board policy, noting that agendas are set by the Board President and Superintendent pursuant to Nevada Open Meeting Law. Trustees may place items on the agenda by submitting written requests and backup materials to Board Secretary Iliana Garcia; members of the public should contact their representative trustee to request agenda topics.

Dr. Gent also reported on districtwide AI initiatives led by Director of Technology Robert Williams. While administrative staff favors Google Gemini and NotebookLM, teachers gravitated toward Magic AI following a recent, highly attended voluntary training designed to save instructional preparation time.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. White reported that he and Mrs. Fischer traveled up north to Gabbs, Round Mountain, and Tonopah schools, emphasizing the value of in-person observations over routine board reports. At Gabbs School, he highlighted urgent safety and operational concerns, including limited local emergency services, infrequent nurse visits, communication gaps along bus routes, and a need for updated trauma kits, alongside pending resource requests for handwriting curricula and equipment. Conversely, he commended the school's historic legacy, community supply donations, supportive staff advocacy, and a disciplined, close-knit student body. At Round Mountain, key challenges included safety kit updates, access control at the rear lot, an unstaffed weight room, the discontinued automotive program, a lack of baseball facilities, and instructional strain caused by an oversized 29-student combined K–1 classroom. On balance, he praised the respectful demeanor of primary students, meaningful staff collaboration during PLC time, high teacher morale, and a supportive campus culture. At Tonopah, facilities were well maintained with strong school spirit ahead of homecoming, with only a minor note regarding external food storage freezers at the new elementary site.

Mrs. Fischer reported on her recent visits, including participation in physical education classes and discussions with high school students regarding student governance. She noted that the student body expressed a preference for informal roundtables with Board members rather than a traditional student council structure to promote open dialogue and science presentations. Additionally, Mrs. Fischer noted ongoing discussions with Mr. Cardinal regarding district emergency preparedness plans.

Mr. Harris reported on recent district and community engagements, including attending Floyd Elementary Field Day, where he recognized Double M Construction's contributions of materials and labor toward constructing the obstacle course. He assisted with Key Club concessions at Pahrump Valley High School and performed maintenance on concessions equipment. In addition, Mr. Harris visited Amargosa Schools, meeting with the school secretary and visiting with a science teacher transitioning to the middle school level. Lastly, he shared that he and Jill were honored with induction into the Pahrump Valley High School Trojan Hall of Fame.

Mr. Small highlighted upcoming district and community dates, including the Lake Las Vegas NASB Conference (December 3–5), the NASB joint meeting and professional development (April 23–24, 2027), and the observance of Nevada Day on October 30. He announced the local Pumpkin Days (October 22–25), noting an urgent call for volunteers to assist at the park on October 18 at 3:00 p.m. Additionally, Mr. Small recognized October as Agent Orange Awareness Month in honor of Vietnam veterans.

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APPROVE, DISAPPROVE, AMEND OR MODIFY THE DISTRICT DYSLEXIA PLAN:

Mrs. Leytham presented the Nye County School District Dyslexia Plan pursuant to Nevada statutory requirements for K–3 dyslexia screening and intervention. She noted that the district's former NWEA MAP screener is no longer viable and recommended adopting the i-Ready assessment suite (i-Ready InForm paired with one-on-one literacy tasks). Offered at no additional district cost, the suite satisfies all six state-mandated screening components—phonological and phonemic awareness, sound-symbol recognition, alphabet knowledge, decoding, rapid automatized naming, and encoding—across three risk tiers. Mrs. Leytham advised scheduling the administration for March to ensure adequate Tier-1 instruction before testing and to allow time for staff professional development on data-driven interventions. Discussion ensued.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the Dyslexia Plan as presented. Mrs. Fischer seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor, 7-0.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY (PLC) DATA AND SURVEY RESULTS:

Mrs. Lopez-Angelo presented a three-year PLC data analysis (2023–24 through 2025–26), noting significant achievement gains across sites: J.G. Johnson Elementary improved from a 1-star to a 2-star rating (increasing its index score from 28.5 to 40.5) with substantial ELA, math, and English Learner growth; Manse Elementary led the district with a 56.7% ELA student growth percentile; and Amargosa Valley Middle School attained the district's top index score at 67.2. Mrs. Lopez-Angelo outlined the district's core PLC practices—essential standards, formative tracking, Tier-2 interventions, and shared-accountability data teams. In response to anonymous, union-partnered staff survey feedback citing compliance burdens and time constraints, Mrs. Lopez-Angelo announced that the mandatory district-wide agenda template was eliminated starting in Quarter 2 to restore site autonomy and prioritize direct instructional planning over paperwork. Discussion ensued.

NEVADA DISTRICT PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (NDPF) OVERVIEW:

Mrs. Lopez-Angelo addressed the board regarding the Nevada Educator Performance Framework (NEPF), noting that it integrates Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) into educator evaluations and clinical modules. The discussion emphasized leveraging collaborative professional accountability over score-driven metrics to foster sustained instructional growth.

Mrs. Lopez-Angelo also presented the baseline results for the 2025–2026 Nevada District Performance Framework (NDPF) pursuant to Senate Bill 460. The district achieved an updated preliminary Level 2 ("Meets Expectations") rating for both school outcomes and district supports following a formal review by the Nevada Department of Education. Noted strengths included a Level 3 rating in curriculum quality, full implementation of state-approved evidence-based reading and math materials across all classrooms, and an increase in overall staffing coverage to 75.46 percent. Areas designated for improvement included college and career readiness, Title I staffing equity, and financial stability, which received a Level 1 rating due to a three-year decline in reserve balances despite maintaining the statutory four percent ending fund balance.

In addition, Mrs. Lopez-Angelo outlined strategic initiatives aimed at achieving an overall Level 3 rating, focusing on targeted instructional models and morning PLCs aligned with Domain 3A to eliminate underperforming school designations and advance campuses into higher performance tiers. Commendable student growth was highlighted across several elementary schools alongside district high school graduation rates exceeding 95 percent. Discussion ensued.

REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL TO GRANT ACTIVITY/OUTDOOR RECREATION CREDIT TOWARD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING STUDENT-ATHLETES ON THE ROUND MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH TRAP TEAM, PURSUANT TO NEVADA ASSEMBLY BILL 501 (NRS 389.052):

Mr. Harris presented a request to grant high school physical education and outdoor recreation graduation credit to participating student-athletes on the Round Mountain High School Youth Trap Team, pursuant to Nevada Assembly Bill 501 and NRS 389.052.

Mr. Harris reviewed program requirements, noting that participation entails supervised firearm safety instruction, physical stamina conditioning, structured fall and spring seasons requiring a minimum of 24 instructional hours, and mandatory attendance tracking. Additionally, Mr. Harris outlined team scoring procedures based on the top five competitors and recognized a Round Mountain student-athlete for achieving a perfect competition score of 25/25.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the activity/outdoor recreation credit for the Round Mountain High School Youth Trap Team pursuant to AB 501/NRS 389.052 as presented. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor, 7-0.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF THE NCSD WARRANTS:

Mr. Gent made a motion to approve the NCSD warrants. Mr. Small seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor, 7-0.

DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE BOARD MEETING TOPICS:

Mrs. Fischer requested that the following items be placed on a future agenda for discussion:

Exploring a policy or schedule for district-level administrators to serve as substitute teachers once per quarter or semester, fostering direct engagement with current classroom and instructional trends; evaluating options to provide emergency medical response in rural communities; and reviewing the current public comment process.

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

Mrs. Campos offered food for thought, noting that holding recent meetings solely in Pahrump has limited access for rural students, effectively preventing them from leading the Pledge of Allegiance and being recognized.

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Mr. White encouraged quarterly site visits for all board members and asked for feedback on defining formal versus informal visits, suggesting it be added to a future agenda. He also shared plans to visit Amargosa and Beatty, offering to drive two other members.

Mrs. Fischer suggested that school sites submit photos showcasing positive, engaging campus events separately from academic highlights, to be featured in upcoming school spotlights where permissible. Following discussion, she also inquired about utilizing space at the northern sites for board meetings. In response, Mr. Williams noted that previous attempts to open the Tonopah facility resulted in no public attendance.

GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT:

Patrick Leytham addressed the Board, noting his background in special education and applied behavior analysis (ABA). He commended school leadership for supporting positive behavioral interventions and clinical collaboration, and volunteered to assist students with intensive behavioral needs.

ADJOURNMENT:

8:34 p.m.

By_____

David Harris, Clerk

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