

**NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
January 16, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Wulfenstein called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Amargosa Elementary School student Julie Stone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**WELCOME:**

Mr. Wulfenstein welcomed everyone to the Board of Trustees meeting.

**RECOGNITIONS:**

Mrs. Weir Recognized and thanked Our Place, a local coffee shop, for donating drink vouchers for Pahrump Valley High School students experiencing homelessness. She also recognized and thanked the Clyde Newman Jr. VFW Post 100054 members and the Nevada Silver Tappers for their large donation of coats, clothing, blankets, and hygiene items for students before winter break.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Executive Cabinet/District Office staff in attendance: Joe Gent, Superintendent; Laura Weir, Assistant Superintendent; Genoveva Lopez-Angelo, Assistant Superintendent; Ray Ritchie, Chief Operating Officer; Brian Kunzi, Legal Council; Shanda Roderick, Director of Special Education; Nate Cardinal, Interim Director of Maintenance Operations Safety and Security; Robert Williams, Director of Technology; Justin Deverse, Assistant Director of Technology; Alma Wright and Iliana Garcia, Executive Assistants.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mr. Wulfenstein approved the agenda as presented.

**GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT**

No public comment was made.

**DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF THE NCSD WARRANTS**

Mr. Small commented that he may be on one of the warrants due to mileage reimbursement on travel for a conference he attended. Mr. Small made a motion to approve the warrants. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor 7-0.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION OF ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS FOR THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, AND CLERK; FIXING THE TERM OF BOARD OFFICERS; DESIGNATING SIGNATORIES FOR CHECKS/WARRANTS; AND APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES FOR OTHER POSITIONS, OFFICERS, OR COMMITTEES.**

Mr. Gent made a motion to nominate Bryan Wulfenstein to serve as President for the upcoming year. Mr. Small seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 7-0.

Mr. Small made a motion to nominate Nathan Gent to serve as the Vice President for the upcoming year. Mrs. Campos seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 7-0.

Mr. Gent made a motion to nominate Larry Small to serve as Clerk for the upcoming year. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 7-0.

Mr. Wulfenstein made a motion to set the duration of the term of officers to 12 months. Mrs. Fischer seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 7-0.

Mr. White made a motion to designate the President and Clerk as signatories on all business for the Nye County School District. Mr. Wulfenstein seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 7-0.

Committee Assignments: Policy, Mr. Harris was added as 2nd alternate; Attendance Truancy Advisory, Mr. Harris was added as a member; Annual Superintendent Evaluation, Mr. Harris was added as a member, and Mrs. Fischer was added as 1st alternate; Debt Management Commission, Mr. Wulfenstein was added as a member and Mr. Harris was added as a 1st alternate; Parks and Recreation, Mr. Harris was added as a member; No changes were made to Legislative Representative, Career & Technical Skills; Crisis Management; Health Insurance; Sick Leave Bank, NC Regional Economic Development Authority; Technology; and NASB Director.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the December 12, 2024, minutes
- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify - Second Reading NCSB Policy - 7363 Student Use of Cell Phones on School Property
- Approval of the Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) and National School Boards Association (NSBA)
- FY25 Class Size Reduction Report Q2
- 2025-26 Academic Calendar

Mr. Gent made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and amend the December 12, 2024, minutes by adding Mr. White to the Roll Call. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor 7-0.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mrs. Lopez-Angelo introduced Amargosa School's Principal Amanda Arceo, who shared highlights about Amargosa Schools via an AI-generated presentation.

Mrs. Weir and Mrs. Angelo-Lopez gave the updated Board Goals.

Mr. Cardinal gave an update on district-wide projects, including that Tonopah construction is progressing well; Beatty schools were both rekeyed; Amargosa Water working on a second Preliminary Engineering Report, possible plan B is to use reverse osmosis units underneath the sinks; Tonopah Sports Complex pre-construction costs came in under budget, received purchase order last Friday, and the GMP is expected in approximately four months, following the bidding process; NyE Communities Coalition roofing has begun, following will be Beatty and then Round Mountain; discussion ensued about Wilson Road; RCMS HVAC electrical work will start in February, the smaller units are expected in April, and the larger multi-units are expected in June.

Mr. Williams gave a presentation on the paramount importance of cybersecurity awareness. He detailed a recent phishing attack that successfully compromised employee accounts, underscoring the need for vigilance. In response to the incident, the district has implemented multi-factor authentication for all employees and initiated password resets. Mr. Williams also provided valuable security tips and reminders to reinforce best practices for online safety.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Gent spoke about how data caveats with small districts' size can exaggerate year-over-year changes in student achievement data and how state-level data provides a broader perspective. Dr. Gent also spoke about his Governor's State of the State visit he attended and the Governor's proposed Bill regarding local School Board control. Upcoming BDRs (Bill Draft Requests) and his scheduled school site presentations on Overcoming Inertia, he will return with a full update at the March Board meeting.

#### **BOARD REPORTS:**

Mr. White commended JG Johnson and Hafen Elementary for the holiday programs he attended in December.

Mr. Small spoke about his attendance at the January 14th workshop on Parent Empowerment, and he also attended the Superintendents' Student Advisory Meeting that day. He has forwarded the minutes to the Board, as it was a real eye-opener on the topics the students discussed. Also, on January 10th, he attended the NASB Director Zoom meeting.

Mrs. Fischer reiterated the role of school boards as representatives of their communities, elected to make decisions in the best interests of local students and schools. She will continue to inform the Board of upcoming changes.

Mr. Wulfenstein stated that his kids have not complained about the recent cell phone policy.

Mr. Harris briefed about attending a Board training on January 11th and will attend the upcoming training in March.

#### **DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION REGARDING THE LEASE OF FACILITIES AT PATHWAYS TO NYE COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT:**

Mr. Kunzi spoke about the year to year lease agreement with Juvenile Probation. They will occupy the northern section of the Pathways building starting February 1st and will have their own parking and signage. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Wulfenstein made a motion to approve the lease agreement between JPO and NCSD. Mrs. Fischer seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor 7-0.

#### **AWARD OR REJECT BIDS FOR THE EFFLUENT WATER STORAGE TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT PAHRUMP VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL FROM THE FOLLOWING: CROSS CONSTRUCTION FOR \$200,000:**

Mr. Cardinal gave a brief update about the high school's existing 36,000-gallon plastic water tanks that have failed due to cracking from daily use. A proposal was presented to replace them with a single 50,000-gallon galvanized steel tank with a rubber liner and a 20-year warranty. The \$200,000 project is funded by the residential construction cost budget. The goal is to complete the project before summer to reduce reliance on costly freshwater irrigation. Cross Construction, the sole bidder, is recommended and a meeting is scheduled to finalize details upon project approval. The tanks would be ordered from Texas. Mr. Wulfenstein asked Mr. Cardinal to include a firm completion deadline.

Mr. Gent made a motion to approve the proposal from Cross Construction as written. Mr. Small seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 7-0.

#### **AWARD OR REJECT BIDS FOR THE FIRE WATER STORAGE TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT PAHRUMP TRANSPORTATION FROM THE FOLLOWING: CROSS-CONSTRUCTION FOR \$178,000:**

Mr. Cardinal gave a brief update about the fire water storage tank at the transportation facility which is rusting and needs replacement. A 36,000-gallon galvanized steel tank with a rubber liner (similar to the previous project) will be installed on a new concrete slab. Temporary fire water storage will be provided

during construction, in compliance with fire regulation. The new tank would also be ordered from Texas, and work will begin immediately upon approval.

Mr. Gent made a motion to approve the proposal on item 14. Mrs. Fischer seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 7-0.

**CLOSED SESSION - Pursuant to NRS 388.471-388.515; NRS 388.267 and NRS 241.030 for the purpose of discussion of personnel matters regarding the possible non-permissible physical restraint of a student and a proposed corrective action plan as required by NRS 388.508:**

The closed Session started at 7:31 pm.

The closed Session ended at 7:57 pm.

The regular Session resumed at 7:59 pm.

**Approve, disapprove, amend or modify the proposed corrective action plan regarding the possible non-permissible physical restraint violation:**

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Gent made a motion to approve the corrective action plan. Mr. Small seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 7-0.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE BOARD MEETING TOPICS:**

Mr. Small asked about Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Mrs. Weir let him know; that it's still in process.

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

Discussion ensued about the May Board meeting date. Will be brought up at a future meeting.

**GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT:**

Jill Harris, a fifth-grade teacher from Floyd Elementary, raised concerns about Standards-Based Grading and report cards and mentioned the misalignment of essential standards with the SBAC assessment. Key SBAC concepts (e.g., main idea, supporting details) are missing from the essential standards while some essential standards (e.g., multiplying/dividing fractions) lack corresponding foundational skills (e.g., adding/subtracting fractions). Some tested standards aren't even in the curriculum. Other issues include missing language/grammar standards (5th grade) and a mismatch between science/social studies standards (engineering) and SBAC content (data analysis). Teachers who were not involved in selecting the essential standards stressed the need for alignment with the SBAC to effectively prepare students and improve scores. They noted that some skills, like spelling and grammar, are not being taught due to their absence from the essential standards. They requested a review and revision of the essential standards.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

8:17 pm

By \_\_\_\_\_

Larry Small, Clerk