

**NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
December 12, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Wulfenstein called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Floyd Elementary School student Emma Tallent led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**WELCOME**

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

**RECOGNITIONS**

Floyd Elementary Student Council provided an update on the council's activities, including a successful food drive for the VFW Post 100054, collecting over 1,700 canned foods.

Mrs. Weir recognized the Pahrump Elks Lodge and Big Five Sporting Goods for their ongoing partnership to provide new shoes to students experiencing homelessness. This year, they will distribute over 200 pairs of shoes. John and Pat from the Pahrump Elks Lodge received a certificate of appreciation. She recognized Larry Small for his outstanding service as a school board member. Mr. Small was awarded the NASB (Nevada Association of School Boards) Veteran School Board Member of the Year. His dedication to education, community involvement, and leadership were highlighted. Mrs. Weir also recognized Chelsea Silva for her service as a board member. A plaque was presented to Mrs. Silva, acknowledging her contributions, particularly her efforts in redefining the school board goals to prioritize a safe learning environment, community engagement, and academic achievement.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Bryan Wulfenstein, President; Nathan Gent, Vice President; Larry Small, Clerk; Chelsy Fischer, Member; Leslie Campos, Member; Chelsea Silva, 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; Michelle Wright, Director of Human Resources; Shanda Roderick, Director of Special Education; Joe Schmidt, Director of Maintenance Safety and Operations; Nate Cardinal, Project Manager; and Iliana Garcia, Executive Assistant.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mr. Wulfenstein moved item #16 to follow Public Comment and renumbered it as item #8, per Mr. Small's request.

**GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT**

One public comment submitted via email was read out loud.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION ON POLICY RESTRICTING CELL PHONE USE IN THE CLASSROOM SETTING FROM BELL TO BELL IN ALL NYE COUNTY SCHOOLS STARTING JANUARY 6, 2025.**

Mr. Wulfenstein presented the proposed policy, highlighting the survey and feedback gathered from the community. He expressed support for the policy, emphasizing its potential to improve professionalism, student learning, and responsible technology use. Mr. Wulfenstein acknowledged the challenges of enforcement but stressed the importance of creating a culture of responsible technology use. Discussion ensued among the Board members regarding the following:

- Clarification of the proposed policy: Board members sought clarification on the differences between the existing policy and the proposed policy, particularly regarding the definition of "non-operational" and the scope of the restriction (bell to bell).
- Accommodations for students with disabilities: Concerns were raised about ensuring accommodations for students with disabilities who require cell phones for health or other reasons. Dr. Gent confirmed that federal law mandates accommodations for such students and that the district is legally obligated to provide them.
- Communication with parents: Board members discussed the need to effectively communicate the policy and its implications to parents, including information about accommodations for students with disabilities.
- Enforcement: Concerns were raised about the enforceability of the policy and the potential for inconsistencies across schools. Dr. Gent emphasized the importance of strong and consistent enforcement at the district level.
- Consequences for violations: Discussion focused on the need for clear consequences for policy violations and the possibility of revisiting and revising the policy after implementation.
- Cell phone blockers: Concerns were raised about the legality of requiring students to power off their phones, with some members comparing it to the use of cell phone blockers. Legal counsel clarified that requiring phones to be powered off is not equivalent to using a cell phone blocker and does not violate federal law.
- Impact on student behavior and learning: Board members discussed the potential positive impacts of the policy, citing research suggesting reduced anxiety, cyberbullying, and disciplinary issues, as well as improved student engagement and learning.

Mr. Wulfenstein made a motion to approve Policy 7363. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 4-3.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE 2024-2025 BUDGET AMENDMENT, PER NRS 3.54.598005(9).**

Mr. Ritchie presented the budget and spoke about the General Fund: For the first time, the general fund balance was lower than projected, requiring a transfer of \$34 million from secure rule schools to maintain the desired \$15 million fund balance. He also spoke about beginning fund balances being updated across all funds, including pupil-centered at-risk funding, food service, and capital projects. Mr. Ritchie briefed about State and federal grants, now approved, were incorporated into the amended budget. Also about Special Education, due to unfilled positions in special education (e.g., speech and psych), funds were moved from salaries and benefits to contracted services to reflect actual spending. A brief discussion followed regarding pupil-centered funding, noting that Nevada's per-pupil funding is lower than the national average. Mr. Ritchie clarified that the amended budget primarily reflects adjustments for fund balances and grant allocations.

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

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the November 12, 2024, minutes
- Accept - Early Notification Retirement/Resignation Incentive Annual Report
- Accept - Employee Referral Program Annual Report
- Accept - NV PERS Critical Needs Hires for Designated Positions
- Accept - NV PERS Critical Needs Request Substitute Administrators (Substitute Principals, Substitute Assistant Principals, and Substitute Deans)
- Accept - FY 25 Q1 Class Size Reduction

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

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mrs. Lopez-Angelo introduced Floyd School's Principal and Vice Principal, Greg Bailey, and Laura Kares, who shared highlights about Floyd. Mrs. Weir and Mrs. Angelo-Lopez gave the updated Board Goals. Mrs. DeMasi's school highlight will be rescheduled.

Mrs. Lopez-Angelo, Mrs. Jerabek, and Mrs. Steele explained how the district is moving towards standards-based grading. This means that instead of just letter grades, families get detailed reports on whether students meet grade-level standards. They provided a timeline of implementation and explained the goal is to help students master key skills, not just get good grades. Teacher feedback is being implemented to make the system better. This shift helps ensure students truly learn and provides families with a more accurate picture of their child's progress.

Mrs. Weir and Mrs. Lopez-Angelo briefed on the current Board Goal updates: Discussions and support have continued with rubrics for MC usage, essential standards, and data-driven conversations; Work in progress with communication among secondary principals on standardized grade books; NCSd partnered with NVDOE for Nevada School Staff Working Conditions Survey; Food Service has updated Meal Viewer to include ingredient information and has also implemented department-wide uniforms; Custodial training videos have been sent out and are due by 1/15/25, instructions for training have been translated to Spanish.

Mrs. Wright spoke about the NCSd Volunteer Program procedure. She has updated all the paperwork and provided the process to all administrators. In addition to working with Karen Holley to seek grant funding to help cover the fingerprint fees for volunteers in the upcoming 25-26 school year.

Mr. Cardinal's gave an update on district-wide projects, including the Tonopah Elementary School being on schedule; custodial updates, window film phase two 95% complete; RCMS HVAC phase two has had a second OAC meeting and a walkthrough scheduled for December 17, with GSL the electrical; received a quote in order to do all of the asphalt sealing across the district without Tonopah schools is approximately \$612,000; in the summer of 2023 the JG Johnson, PVHS, Hafen, and Pathways parking lot were sealed in the amount of \$95,889.00; in 2024 BHS, BES, and Floyds playground were sealed in the amount of \$71,728.00; will be working towards the locations and keeping them on rotation.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Gent spoke about his last two monthly Superintendent meetings; he informed the Board about a 3.25% PERS (Public Employees' Retirement System) increase; a bill at the senate that all superintendents endorse Social Security Fairness Act; standardized Kinder and Read By Third Grade assessment by the state; meeting with the Governor and the successful meeting that was held with the Board and Dan McArthur.

### **BOARD REPORTS:**

Mr. White gave an update on his recent meeting with the Committee of Practitioners. He spoke about Gabbs Elementary and Pathways School qualifying for additional funding.

Mr. Small gave an update on the annual NASB conference; reminded everyone to mark their calendars for the upcoming workshop on January 11, 2025; on March 5, 2025, there will be a Legislation meeting; and he wanted everyone to review the Board/Superintendent protocol that was provided.

Mrs. Silva thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on the Board and wished all the greatest amount of luck.

Mrs. Fisher thanked Positive Pahrump, PDOP, participating schools, individuals and businesses that participated in the Angel Tree Program; she informed everyone of Hafen's upcoming winter concert; and thanked Mrs. Silva for her service.

Mrs. Campos attended a football game at the Allegiant Stadium and congratulated the THS football team for a job well done and Duffy Otteson for winning Coach of the Year from NIAA (Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association.)

Mr. Wulfenstein thanked Dr. Gent for attending the girl's basketball game in Sparks, NV; he thanked everyone for their participation with school events and thanked Mrs. Silva for her service.

**PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF INDEPENDENT AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024:**

Dan McArthur presented the independent audit for the year ending June 30, 2024. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Gent made a motion to approve the independent audit. Mr. Small seconded, and the motion passed with a majority vote in favor, Mrs. Campos abstained due to not having access to the supporting material.

**PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF SCHOOL ACTIVITY FUNDS AUDITS FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024:**

Daniel McArthur, presented school activity funds audits for the year ending June 30, 2024. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Gent made a motion to approve the school activity funds audit. Mrs. Silva seconded, and the motion passed with a majority vote in favor, Mrs. Campos abstained due to not having access to the supporting material.

**AWARD OR REJECT A BID FOR THE HVAC REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT BEATTY HIGH SCHOOL FROM THE FOLLOWING: A. MESA ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC. \$334,986 BASE BID OR APPROVED SUBSTITUTION OF WATER FURNACE WSHP'S BID OF \$296,141; B. JONAIRE \$366,945; C. CROSS CONSTRUCTION \$436,000; AND D. U.S. MECHANICAL \$444,000:**

Mr. Cardinal recommended the bid from Mesa Energy Systems with approved substitution of water furnace WSHP's in the amount of \$296,141. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Wulfenstein made a motion to approve Mesa Energy System with substitution of water furnace WSHP's. Mrs. Campos seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor.

**AWARD OR REJECT BIDS FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT AT NYE COMMUNITIES COALITION, BEATTY ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL; BEATTY ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE GYM, ROUND MOUNTAIN MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL:**

Mr. Cardinal recommended Amaya Roofing's Bid in the amount of \$1,455,597.00, owner furnace material in the amount of \$471,360.15, and a fund contingency of \$20 sqft for dry rot. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Silva made motion to award the bid to Amaya for the listed locations in the amount of \$1,455,597.00 in addition to the owner furnace material in the amount of \$471.360.15 and the fund contingency of \$20 per sqft for dry rot. Mr. Gent seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor.

**Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify negotiating with CORE for a change order for the CMAR contract to change the scope of services to include the construction of the Sports Complex at Tonopah High School. Project Manager Nate Cardinal will present this item.**

Mr. Cardinal asked for approval to negotiate with CORE for a change of order for the CMAR contract to change the scope of services to include the construction of the Sports Complex at Tonopah

High School. Making these changes will allow moving to two phases instead of four, cutting back time and money, Mr. Cardinal will be returning for updates and approvals.

Mrs. Campos made a motion to approve the negotiating with CORE for the CMAR contract. Mrs. Fischer seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor.

**DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF THE NCSD WARRANTS:**

NCSD Warrants: No. 1113 for \$34,997.45; No. 1135 for \$140,476.70; No. 1123 for \$201,453.04; No. 1122 for \$157,209.05; No. 1112 for \$5,219.24; No. 1106 for \$385,368.06; No. 1105 for \$90,093.07; No. 1132 for \$19,579.75; No. 1134 for \$302,291.62; No. 1127 for \$10,136.37; No. 1126 for \$42,106.95; No. 1121 for \$1,024,811.99; No. 1120 for \$33,018.11; No. 1119 for \$402,204.20; No. 1111 for \$324,356.72; No. 1110 for \$18,560.98; No. 1104 for \$204,510.15; No. 1103 for \$138,899.98; No. 1102 for \$15,456.64; No. 1101 for \$7,510.51.

Mr. Gent made a motion to approve the warrants. Mrs. Silva seconded and the motion passed with a vote all in favor.

**Board members' annual requirement to file the Contributions and Expenses (CE) Report and Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS) with the Secretary of State from January 1 to January 15.**

Mr. Wulfenstein reminded all Board members of the annual requirement.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE BOARD MEETING TOPICS**

Mr. Small would like to look into building a district warehouse in the future.

Mrs. Fischer asked about looking into building new schools.

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

No changes were made.

**GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT**

No public comment was made.

**ADJOURNMENT**

8:58 pm

By \_\_\_\_\_

Larry Small, Clerk