

**NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 11, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Regina Robles, a fifth-grade student in Amargosa, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME:

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

RECOGNITIONS:

Mrs. Weir recognized Mr. White for being selected as this year's New School Board Member of the Year by the Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB). Additionally, she presented a certificate of appreciation to the Nye County School District for its generous contribution to the 2025 Remote Area Medical (RAM) initiative.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Bryan Wulfenstein, President; Larry Small, Clerk; David Harris, Member; Chelsy Fischer, Member; and Robert White, Member.

Absent: Nathan Gent, Vice President; Leslie Campos, 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; Chelle Wright, Human Resource Director; Brian Kunzi, Legal Council; Nate Cardinal, Director of Maintenance Operations Safety and Security; Robert Williams, Director of Technology; Justin Deverse, Assistant Supervisor of Technology; Alma Wright, Executive Secretary; and Iliana Garcia, Executive Assistant.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

No changes.

GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT

In Amargosa: Hope Squad advisors Jamie Grimes and Teresa Sullivan delivered a unified opposition to Agenda Item 19, which proposes reclassifying the advisor position from Column 7 to Column 1—effectively a 50% pay reduction. Submitted Online: Joy Millard wrote about Item 15 (Field Renaming): Proposed renaming the Round Mountain football field to “Knights Memorial Field” and establishing a memorial wall to honor community pillars, including Jon and Janine Jacobs. Also commenting on item 19 (Stipend Reclassification): Opposed the reduction of the Hope Squad Advisor stipend from Step 7 to Step 1. Challenged the "business hours" rationale by highlighting the 24/7 nature of crisis intervention and the high-stakes, life-saving demands of the role.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the December 11, 2025, minutes
- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the December 11, Closed Session minutes
- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the Resolution for the creation of the Medicaid Fund
- 2024-2025 Alternative Calendar Report
- Early Notification Retirement/Resignation Incentive Annual Report and Letter
- Employee Referral Program Annual Report and Flyer
- NV PERS Critical Labor Shortage Hires for Designated Positions

Mr. Small made a motion to approve item 8. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 5-0.

APPROVAL OF THE 2025-2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Mr. Ritchie presented the 2025-2026 Budget Amendment pursuant to state law, and the Board reviewed the 2025-2026 budget amendment. The actual beginning balance was recorded at \$8.3M (vs. the budgeted \$7.9M). Revenue Adjustments: Included a \$110,000 student count "true-up" and additional funding for special education, at-risk programs, and federal grants. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Small made a motion to approve item 9. Mr. Wulfenstein seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 5-0.

PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF INDEPENDENT AUDIT FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

Mr. McArthur presented the Independent Audit Report, which provided that the implementation of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 101 significantly increased the estimated liability for compensated absences (accrued sick and vacation time). While the General Fund has experienced an average annual decline, administration and auditors confirmed the District maintains sufficient liquidity to meet all financial obligations for the upcoming 12 months.

Mr. Wulfenstein made a motion to approve the Independent Audit. Mr. Small seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 5-0.

PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF SCHOOL ACTIVITY FUNDS AUDITS FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025.

Mr. McArthur reported that the student activity funds are fairly stated on a cash basis, with the combined ending balance across all schools totaling \$1,122,089. The audit involved testing transactions to ensure compliance with district policies. For any identified inconsistencies—such as failure to deposit funds within the required window, a management letter is provided. These findings serve as a training mechanism to reinforce the student activity manual and ensure the continued safeguarding of district funds.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the School Activity Funds Audit. Mr. Small seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 5-0.

The Board recessed for a break at 6:40 PM due to technical issues and reconvened at 6:50 PM.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Lopez Angelo gave an update on Board Goal 1: By the end of the 2025–2026 school year, 80% of staff will consistently use identified essential standards to plan and deliver instruction, as measured by lesson plans, classroom observations, teacher self-assessments, and common formative assessment data collected and analyzed in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).

Mrs. Lopez-Angelo introduced Amargosa Schools Principal Amanda Arceo for the Amargosa School spotlight. Mrs. Arceo highlighted Amargosa Valley Elementary and Middle Schools. Principal Arceo focused on the schools' strategic efforts to enhance campus culture through "Student Connectedness" initiatives: Amargosa Valley Elementary (AVES): Strategic Goal: Achieve 100% student participation in at least one structured cross-grade collaborative activity per quarter. Culture Objective: Foster positive peer-mentoring behaviors to increase the overall sense of belonging by 10%. Data Profile: Current baseline data shows a 94% sense of belonging in grades K-2 and 77.6% in grades 3-5. Amargosa Valley Middle School (AVMS): Strategic Goal: Facilitate 100% student participation in two quarterly activities designed for cross-grade integration and "clique-bridging." Culture Objective: Target a 15% increase in student belonging and a 10% reduction in reported social isolation. Data Profile: Baseline assessments indicate that 60% of students in grades 6-8 currently report a positive sense of belonging.

Mr. Ritchie had no updates on Federal Grants. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Cardinal provided project updates, including that the Tonopah Elementary School is approaching substantial completion. While turf installation is paused until April, fire inspections and final sign-offs are expected by February, with a staff walkthrough planned for March. Additionally, bids for roofing projects at Pathways and Tonopah Elementary are scheduled for opening on December 19th. Regarding the Amargosa Water Treatment system, the State denied the original Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) design, necessitating further review. No updates were reported for the campus monitor project. Following the report, Mr. Wulfenstein requested a final expenditure and labor analysis upon completion of the Tonopah Elementary project.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Gent noted that while enrollment has remained stable for seven years, the District is implementing tighter expenditure controls to ensure long-term fiscal conservatism in a shifting financial landscape. The "Inspiring Leaders" program continues to prioritize the cultivation of internal talent, focusing on recruiting and promoting administrative staff from within the District. Under the direction of the AI Guidance Committee, the District remains a leader in staff AI integration, which has already resulted in significantly enhanced communication strategies. At the Great Basin College (GBC) Advisory Council meeting, Dr. Gent addressed the reduction in state grants and funding. He reaffirmed the District's stance against tax increases while advocating for the restoration of previous funding levels. Lastly, in response to staff surveys, the Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) Department is moving away from traditional models to explore more engaging, "out-of-the-box" professional growth solutions.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. White reported on the Title I Committee of Practitioners meeting on November 20. He noted that the committee has elected a new chairperson and engaged in a detailed discussion regarding the EdFlex Program. He also spoke about attending the Hafen Elementary Student of the Month.

Lastly, he highlighted the publication of a book by former teacher Kevin Roberts and expressed his desire to see it added to District library collections.

Mr. Harris reported on a recent Attendance Committee meeting. He expressed a desire to integrate the court system more effectively into the truancy process and requested a formal meeting with Judge Robert Lane. Mr. Harris highlighted the successful participation of various groups in the Bell Ringing holiday event. He shared that the Kiwanis Club will be presenting a donation check to the Pahrump Valley High School Drama Club and the Civil Air Patrol.

Mr. Small attended the Superintendent's Student Advisory Board. He commended the students for their initiative in developing a Success & Sanity Guide, a peer-generated resource designed to support academic success across the student body. He also reported on the Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) conference.

Mrs. Fischer commended staff dedication and advocated for focusing on positive district achievements. She gave Hafen Elementary Updates: Highlighted the upcoming holiday concert, the arrival of the "Buddy Bench," the new garden project, and the success of the art program. Also requested a review of intervention strategies for high school students failing courses, seeking alternatives to Saturday School. Lastly, she noted the failure of the "Hollywood Bill" (SB496).

Mr. Wulfenstein reported that he was nominated to serve on the Commission on Autism for the State of Nevada. He is currently awaiting a response from the Governor's Office regarding his potential appointment.

ACADEMIC BOWL UPDATE

Mrs. Jerabek introduced the K-5 Academic Bowl, a standards-aligned initiative designed to involve students in collaborative problem-solving through a spirited competitive framework. She detailed the program's three-phase structure, which guides students from initial classroom participation to a final district-wide championship. Discussion ensued.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON PSYCHOLOGICAL CONCERNS RELATED TO SPECIFIC CURRICULUM LESSONS IN SOCIAL STUDIES AND/OR CIVICS

Mrs. Fischer presented formal concerns regarding specific lessons within the current curriculum.

RENAMING THE ROUND MOUNTAIN FOOTBALL FIELD TO JON AND JANINE JACOBS

Mr. Harris expressed support for a public comment suggestion to honor various pillars of the Round Mountain community. He requested that the Round Mountain football field renaming item be tabled until the next meeting to allow for a revised proposal with a broader scope of recognition for multiple community figures.

AWARD OR REJECT BIDS FOR THE FIRE ALARM INFRASTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT JG JOHNSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MODULAR CLASSROOMS FROM THE FOLLOWING: KILL A WATT LLC/ABS FIRE \$71,186.10 (COMBINED BID) OR ACE FIRE SYSTEMS \$99,174.00

Mr. White made a motion to award the bid to Kill a Watt LLC/ABS Fire for \$71,186.10. Mr. Small seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 5-0.

AWARD OR REJECT BIDS FOR THE SOFTBALL BLEACHER REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT PAHRUMP VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL FROM THE FOLLOWING: GREAT WESTERN RECREATION \$70,393.65 OR FACILISERV \$96,051.00

Mr. Harris made a motion to award the bid to Great Western Recreation of \$70,393.65. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 5-0.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:44 PM, Mr. Wulfenstein moved to recess into closed session pursuant to NRS 288.220. Meeting with Management Representatives Regarding Collective Bargaining Discussions. The Board reconvened in open session at 9:07 PM.

RATIFICATION OF THE NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NYE COUNTY CLASSROOM TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (NCCTA) AND THE NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (NCSD)

Mrs. Fischer made a motion to approve agenda item 19. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 5-0.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF THE NCSD WARRANTS:

Mr. Small made a motion to approve the warrants. Mr. Harris seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor 5-0.

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 issued a reminder to the Board regarding annual financial disclosure requirements. Mr. Kunzi further emphasized the necessity of filing mandated reports with the Secretary of State.

DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE BOARD MEETING TOPICS:

Mr. Small will follow up on the Truancy Officer status.

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

None.

GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT:

Alison Matulich wrote by email: For the Board to prioritize support systems for struggling teachers and students to prevent burnout and behavioral issues. She highlighted praise to Rebecca Tate, an early childhood educator in Amargosa, for her credentials and dedication.

ADJOURNMENT:

9:23 pm

By _____

Larry Small, Clerk