

**NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
July 17, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Rosemary Clarke Middle School student Kayden Leseberg Lintz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**WELCOME:**

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

**RECOGNITIONS:**

None.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Bryan Wulfenstein, President; Larry Small, Clerk; Leslie Campos, Member; Robert White, Member; Chelsy Fischer, Member; Dave Harris, Member.

Absent: Nathan Gent, Vice President

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 Counsel; Chelle Wright, Human Resource Director; Nate Cardinal, Director of Maintenance Operations Safety and Security; Robert Williams, Director of Technology; Shanda Roderick, Director of Special Education; and Iliana Garcia, Executive Assistant.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

No changes.

**GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT**

Mr. Hodge raised a concern regarding four or five new subdivisions and potential additional developments in Pahrump. He inquired about plans to accommodate the influx of new students.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the June 12, 2025, minutes
- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the June 12, 2025, closed session minutes
- 2024-2025 Annual District-Wide Restraints Report
- Debt Management Policy, Capital Improvement Plan, and Indebtedness Report

Mrs. Campos made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Fischer seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 6-0.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mrs. Weir provided an update on Hope Squad and introduced Peer Helpers Plus, a K-12 school-wide curriculum. Peer Helpers Plus is more expansive and covers age-appropriate topics that align with Nevada standards. The district needs more time to research training, rollout, funding, and gather feedback from social workers, counselors, and Hope Squad advisors. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Cardinal updated the board on district projects. He shared a picture of Tonopah Elementary School's building and the progress of the plumbing and fiber lines, and noted that RCMS is nearly done with HVAC replacement, with only four units left to install. The Round Mountain roof is almost complete, and work will begin on Beatty Elementary next.

Other updates include the near completion of the PVHS fire tank, a new fire alarm system at Beatty Elementary, and finished air conditioning at Beatty High School. A meeting with coaches is scheduled for the Tonopah Sports Complex. In Amargosa, the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for arsenic water treatment is complete, and a loan application has been submitted. Finally, a drainage ditch on a corner lot behind Walmart was recently cleaned up.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Gent's report focused on how recent legislation is impacting grants, specifically mentioning funding for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten paraprofessionals, and the \$6.8 billion freeze on grants. These financial matters, along with a discussion about the overall budget and a \$2 per student increase, will be covered in more detail under agenda item 16. The Superintendent also noted that all administrative positions within the district are currently filled.

### **BOARD REPORTS:**

Mrs. Fischer thanked Mr. Cardinal for cleaning up the corner lot. She also addressed recent public concerns, confirming that financial allegations were unfounded after a thorough review of banking statements and credit card records. Furthermore, serious complaints about non-functioning fire alarms at two schools were unsubstantiated, with state officials verifying no issues at Hafen or Mount Charleston, she also asked for thoughts and prayers for a Hafen teacher undergoing medical treatment.

Mr. Small provided updates on several initiatives. He reported on a productive meeting with Dr. Gent, Ray, Laura, and Nate, where a plan was developed for the JG Johnson turf. He also attended a NASB Directors meeting, circulating the notes to all members. Additionally, Mr. Small conducted a ride-along with SRO Deputy Diaz, inspecting schools like Rosemary Clark, Manse, and Floyd for security and vandalism concerns. He then announced the dates for upcoming NASB meetings and training. Finally, Mr. Small shared that this year's back-to-school drive with PDOP will be their last, with future participation potentially involving a collaboration with the Nye Communities Coalition at the high school.

Mrs. Weir provided an update from Captain Means confirming that the Nye County Sheriff's Department will ensure the presence of two, potentially three, School Resource Officers (SROs).

### **APPROVAL OF THE PERS CRITICAL LABOR SHORTAGE REQUEST FOR THE FOLLOWING ROLE: K-12 SCHOOL COUNSELOR**

Mrs. Wright requested approval for K-12 school counselors as critical need positions. This request stems from recent retirements and resignations, which have created two immediate openings and anticipate further vacancies. Approval would acknowledge the ongoing demand for counselors, independent of the exact number of current openings.

Mrs. Fischer made a motion to approve. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 6-0.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY OVERVIEW**

Mrs. Weir provided a brief overview of the district's attendance policy, guided by Nevada law (NRS) and NDE guidelines, which define responsibilities for attendance requirements and chronic absenteeism. The district requires 90% annual attendance for PK-12 promotion/credit (max 18 absences for 5-day schools, 14 for 4-day schools). Excused absences with completed work, and IEP/504 accommodations, do not negatively impact retention. "Nudge letters" are sent quarterly to alert parents about potential chronic absenteeism; these notices are legal and do not incur penalties. The board acknowledged the need for improved attendance communication and training to prevent alarming parents, especially those with IEP/504 students. No students have lost academic credit due to absences in the last two years if they earned credit and passed the class. Discussion ensued.

## **PROPOSAL PLAN(S) FOR A TEACHER ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Mrs. Weir provided a proposal plan for a Teacher Advisory Council to create formal communication channels among teachers, district administration, and the school board. The council's core goals include providing solution-oriented feedback, fostering collaboration on initiatives, serving as a vital communication link, and empowering teachers. The proposed structure includes 16 members representing elementary, middle, high school, and specialized roles, each serving a one-year term with an option for a second. Members will be selected through an online application process with a scoring rubric to ensure diverse representation from various schools. Meetings will occur quarterly for 60 minutes, outside of contract hours, in a hybrid format for accessibility. Agendas will be co-created by the chairperson and a district liaison. The council's effectiveness will be evaluated annually through surveys, teacher satisfaction data, and an annual report to the school board. Mr. Wulfenstein proposed the council's formation to address communication concerns, suggesting school board members and district leadership participate in meetings, and that Iliana and Alma lead the initiative. Mrs. Campos suggested a trial period for the council to assess its effectiveness.

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

**Award bids for the purchase of Intercom and Paging system equipment from CDW and Lilliput Electronics as the lowest responsive and responsible bidders for a total of \$178,428.23 to be funded through the Bipartisan Safety Community Act grant, and allow for the NCSD Technology Department to acquire the additional non-bid items for the intercom project with the remaining \$95,000 of this grant through direct contact with vendors and manufacturers under NRS 332.148**

Mr. Williams presented a request to award bids for intercom and paging systems, noting that the purchase is funded by the Bipartisan Safety Community Act grant. He explained that the Request for Proposal (RFP) structure was adjusted to allow vendors to bid on individual components, resulting in proposals from both CDW and Lilliput for different items. The total requested approval for these purchases is \$178,428.23, leaving approximately \$95,000 remaining in the grant. Also requesting approval to be able to solicit quotes under NRS 332.148.

Mr. Wulfenstein made a motion to approve agenda item 13. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 6-0.

**Revisit for approval the June award to CDW for intercom equipment as a result of price changes, and approve the cost increase created by tariffs for Fanvil intercom. The new total of \$91,709.24 is 17% (\$15,917.43) more than the previously quoted amount. Funding for this purchase comes from the Bipartisan Safety Community Act grant.**

Mr. Williams requested re-approval for a previously awarded bid due to an unexpected tariff expense. Despite this, the proposal remains the lowest bidder.

Mr. Small made a motion to approve agenda item 14. Mrs. Fischer seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 6-0.

#### **DISCUSSION AND UPDATES ON RELEVANT LEGISLATIVE MEASURES AFFECTING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Mrs. Fischer noted she's awaiting further information from upcoming Interim Finance Committee meetings. She's not concerned about the education bill, as the pilot program requirements largely align with our current practices. She also highlighted a section of the bill mandating additional, no-cost training for teachers from NSHE, in clinical psychology. She also anticipates having more details on Pre-K funding soon.

**Discussion and updates on the current financial status of the Nye County School District, specifically addressing the anticipated implications of the United States Department of Education's recent announcement regarding the non-release of funding for six key Federal Formula Grant Programs for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025.**

Mr. Ritchie and Mrs. Holley provided a brief overview of the per-pupil funding, noting an increase of just \$1 to \$11,424. Meanwhile, funding for English learners rose by \$365, and at-risk funding increased by \$23. Budget adjustments based on these changes won't be finalized until the legally mandated December revised budget approval, which will now use the ending fund balance instead of student count. The district faces significant funding losses as several state funds from the last legislative session were not renewed. This includes the loss of 17 kindergarten paraprofessionals due to the non-reinstatement of funding for early childhood literacy. Additionally, the Nevada Ready PreK program's failure to extend its seat cost has created a \$9,810.51 per student shortfall, as state funding (\$8,410) falls short of the actual classroom cost. Concerns also linger over a Supreme Court ruling returning education to the state, which could potentially cause lost federal funding. Some staff rifting has already occurred, primarily impacting kindergarten paraprofessionals whose roles were initially temporary. Despite these cuts, the district is proactively preparing for potential scenarios and making strategic, fair decisions regarding staff. Karen Holley and Ray Ritchie, are actively monitoring the situation and collaborating to navigate these financial challenges, drawing on their experience from the 2008-2012 financial crisis.

#### **CLOSED SESSION- MEETING WITH MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING COLLECTIVE DISCUSSIONS PURSUANT TO NRS 288.220**

**Closed Session started at 7:15 pm**

**Closed Session ended at 7:37 pm**

**Regular Session Resumed at 7:37 pm**

## **APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE THE DISTRICT-WIDE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (EOP) WITH ANY MODIFICATIONS**

Mr. Small made a motion to approve the District-wide Emergency Operations Plan. Mrs. Fischer seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 6-0.

### **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 6-0.

### **DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE BOARD MEETING TOPICS:**

Grading Policy: Addressing Missing Assignments Mr. Harris requested that the grading policy be a topic for a future board meeting, with a specific focus on how (missing) assignments are scored, especially at the elementary level.

Curriculum Review: Personal Finance and Economics. Mr. Harris questioned the curriculum for both personal finance and economics.

Mr. Small also requested ongoing updates on Finance and Grants.

Board Training and Meeting Logistics Board training on ethics, meeting laws, and responsibilities is set for August 9th. Discussions also covered the location of future board meetings, particularly the next one in Gabbs. The board acknowledged previous technology issues at the Northern District Office and expressed a preference for the library due to its superior technology.

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

No changes were made.

### **GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT:**

Eric Kunzi offered public input by email on the proposed Teacher Advisory Committee. He raised several key concerns: Representation: Kunzi suggested that limiting representatives per level was problematic and advocated for one appointed member from *every* school. He also stressed that teachers, not the district, should choose their representatives. Compensation & Time Commitment: He proposed that the committee meet monthly and that members receive a stipend, emphasizing the significant time commitment involved beyond just meetings.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

8:00 pm

By \_\_\_\_\_

Larry Small, Clerk