

**NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 19, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rosemary Clarke Middle School (RCMS) student Kinley Cross-Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME

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

RECOGNITIONS

Mrs. Laura Weir and Mrs. Lopez-Angelo recognized Pahrump Valley High School (PVHS) students who excelled academically. Principal Desiree Veloz presented students who received a 5 on their AP exams with medals. Mrs. Veloz also presented medals to Sasha Strain and Wolfe Beckley, who were named semifinalists in the prestigious 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program and showed outstanding achievement. Mr. Wulfenstein thanked attendees for coming today to recognize the students.

ROLL CALL

Present: Bryan Wulfenstein, President; Nathan Gent, Vice President; Larry Small, Clerk; Chelsy Fischer, Member; Robert White, 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; Rob Williams, Director of Technology; Nate Cardinal, Project Manager; Alma Wright, Executive Assistant.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Wulfenstein adopted the agenda as written.

GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

- August 15, 2024, minutes
- Second reading NCS D Policy: 0420 - Organization of the Board of Trustees; 7477 - Participation In Athletics
- Informational - First reading NCS D Policy: 8483 Motor Vehicle Records Check; 8482 Use of Private Vehicles For School District Business
- Rate of Improvement for Kindergarten through Grade 3 Reading - The Departments of Assessment and Accountability and Curriculum and Instruction are recommending that the Board of Trustees approve that NCS D follows the below metric:
 1. K-3 literacy growth expectation indicates pupils will have met or exceeded their personalized learning growth goal in reading.
- 2024-2025 NCS D Local Literacy Plan
- Approval of FY25 Annual Class Size Reduction (CSR) Plan

Mr. Small made a motion to approve sections 8A, B, and C of the Consent Agenda and requested to have sections 8D, E, and F removed to address them as separate items. Mrs. Fischer seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 7-0.

Carolyn Steele provided information about the Rate of improvement for Kindergarten through Grade 3 Reading. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Gent made a motion to approve section 8D. Mr. Small seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 7-0.

Mrs. Steele provided information about the 2024-2025 NCS D Local Literacy Plan. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Gent made a motion to approve section 8E. Mrs. Silva seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 7-0.

Mr. Ritchie provided information on the FY25 Annual Class Size Reduction (CSR) Plan. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Gent made a motion to approve section 8F. Mr. Wulfenstein seconded, and the vote passed with a vote all in favor 7-0.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Lopez-Angelo introduced RCMS Principal April Sutton and her team Zachary Butt, Dean Judy Bloom, and Trancita Winkvist. Mrs. Sutton shared highlights about her Admin team, star rankings, culture, data and implementation, family engagement, progress, and the future of RCMS.

Mrs. Weir provided an update on Hope Squad. She stated that the first meeting was on August 28th, when the new squad members were introduced. She showed pictures of positive messages posted on restroom mirrors and added that students were using them around campus and were happy to do that.

Mr. Williams shared a report on the student suggestion box. He stated that most suggestions came from RCMS, 21 submissions, some of which were nonsensical; all have been forwarded to the school administration. He shared student suggestions on lunch, gym class, assemblies, and food.

Mrs. Lopez-Angelo and Mrs. Weir updated Board Goals 1-5 via Powerpoint.

Mrs. Silva asked who the Family Engagement groups would consist of. She also asked about the maps; are they of the school or the interior? Discussion ensued.

Mr. Wulfenstein asked about the cleaning and whether there were written standard operating procedures. Mr. Cardinal explained that he is working with Tahoe Supply, the chemical vendor, to create a standard. He will also offer virtual training to all custodians.

Mr. Ritchie provided an update on Free & Reduced Lunch; he spoke about how, before 2014, students qualified for free or reduced meals based on income. In 2014-15, NCS D qualified for the Community Eligibility Provision program (CEP) for Manse and JG. By 2017-2018, all schools qualified for CEP except for Round Mtn, but food service picked up the difference out of their funding from the Nevada Department of Agriculture. During Covid the food distribution changed to Summer Feeding; after Covid, the Governor introduced Universal Free Meals, which ended at the end of 2024. We are back on CEP, which we apply for every year.

Mr. Cardinal briefed on project updates throughout the district; he spoke about the practice field at PVHS, the RCMS roofing inspection being complete, JG Johnson HVAC is completed; Tonopah HVAC is currently being inspected; Tonopah ES construction is moving forward, underground utilities are in, first concrete pouring is scheduled for 9/20, and the temporary parking lot is on order; Beatty schools are the last schools to be rekeyed; Round Mtn fence is up, and the contractor is delivering rock; Tonopah sports complex KNIT is working on a schematic design and hoping to present it at the November board meeting; He also shared that the RFP's are now on the website, thanks to Rob Williams. Discussion ensued.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Gent spoke about the first Superintendents' Student Advisory Board; he talked about working alongside Clark County School District (CCSD); they are amazing neighbors. He has been asked to serve on an accreditation committee for them, and he has accepted and plans to be out for four days in March; He also spoke about all of the schools transitioning to digital report cards; Dr. Gent expressed being pleased with the Assistant Superintendents and the Curriculum and Instruction department for keeping the focus on improving instructional practice; and finally he spoke about the possibilities of being penalized by the state for not meeting the Class Size Reduction, NCSD is doing what they can to abide by the laws.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Small reported on participating in the (SSAB); he attended a NASB meeting in addition to district tours, and he attended a class at Nye County Coalition on Disabilities in Rural Communities.

Mr. White spoke about the district tours being a real eye-opener and having confidence in the departments.

Mrs. Silva gave a short report on the Global Day of Service for Franklin Covey, during which she volunteered at Three Square with Ben Day.

Mr. Gent shared that he was impressed with the start of the school year, the staff, and the success of the school year so far.

Mrs. Fischer spoke about rescheduling the Finance Committee meetings. She has also communicated with Assemblyman Hafen on BDRs to get legislative support. She asked Dr. Gent if all the schools had student councils. Dr. Gent and Mrs. Weir will follow up. She was also pleased with the changes this school year. Some things need to be addressed, such as cyberbullying. Mr. Wulfenstein said we're heading in the right direction with family engagement. Mrs. Fischer is very excited to see test scores next year.

Mrs. Campos stated she appreciated meeting with Core Construction and thanked Mr. Cardinal for his assistance in the process; she is happy to see things moving forward.

Proposal and Water Tank Mural Image at 7371 Manse Rd, Pahrump, NV 89061

Mr. Wulfenstein discussed a proposed mural on a visible water tank. He is very thankful for the community's support in funding this project and will provide a list of donors. He thanked Mr. Hafen for being generous in donating some infrastructure and funds. Mr. Small asked to have the letter "J" changed because it looks like an "I." Discussion ensued.

Remote Rural Board Meetings; Meaningful Participation from Board Members

Mr. Wulfenstein made a motion to have this item tabled until the November meeting. Mr. Gent seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 7-0.

Ideas/Suggestions from Trustee Fischer for NCSD and the Status of NCSD

Dr. Gent thanked Mrs. Fischer for her questions and ideas; they had a productive discussion regarding school-parent/guardian relations. Dr. Gent highlighted the school's diverse demographics and commitment to providing quality education. He emphasized the importance of research, volunteerism, and strong parent-teacher connections. Dr. Gent also acknowledged parents' desire for increased school involvement and teacher access, noting that Mrs. Holley is actively seeking funding to cover parent fingerprinting costs. Additionally, Dr. Gent expressed interest in exploring the PALS reading program and clarified the process for master teacher compensation, ensuring proper paperwork completion for timely payments.

Approve, Disapprove, Amend or Modify the contract for RCMS HVAC Replacement Phase Two

Mr. Cardinal and Chris Laux from CORE Construction, who attended by phone, sought permission from the Board to continue with RCMS's second phase of replacing HVAC and mini-split units.

Mr. Wulfenstein asked if this had already been budgeted for. Mr. Ritchie responded yes, and he had no concerns. Mrs. Fischer questioned pay rates per hour, and Mr. Wulfenstein and Mr. Ritchie both explained that they were certified prevailing wages.

Mr. Wulfenstein made a motion to approve item 13. Mrs. Silva seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 7-0.

Approve, Disapprove, Amend or Modify the District-wide Security Window Film

Mr. Cardinal requested approval to install security window film on all sites, including the NDO, SDO, Coalition, M&O, Northern and Southern Transportation, and the B building. The film has the same warranty and is still grant-funded for the amount of \$106,786.49.

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

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF THE NCSD WARRANTS

NCSD Warrants: No. 1491 for \$2,380.00; No. 1504 for \$5,158.95; No. 1501 for \$1,211.95; No. 1500 for \$2,763.32; No. 1490 for \$6,653.04; No. 1479 for \$49,143.82; No. 1065 for \$1,401,200.34; No. 1479 for \$4,699.48; No. 1057 for \$153,251.78; No. 1058 for \$137,878.00; No. 1050 for \$125,302.86; No. 1051 for \$183,773.32; No. 1044 for \$118,994.40; No. 1034 for \$243,538.39; No. 1505 for \$962.76; No. 1503 for \$211.47; No. 1502 for \$1971.96; No. 1493 for \$1,386.00; No. 1489 for \$25,952.00; No. 1488 for \$205,607.16; No. 1487 for \$684.17; No. 1486 for \$1,551.24; No. 1484 for \$55,158.60; No. 1483 for \$266.57; No. 1477 for \$5,643.32; No. 1476 for \$3,308.01; No. 1472 for \$14,293.90; No. 1061 for \$571,803.79; No. 1060 for \$282,998.37; No. 1053 for \$219,392.81; No. 1052 for \$81,924.44; No. 1049 for \$325,157.16; No. 1048 for \$77,631.92; No. 1047 for \$109,790.16; No. 1042 for \$235,039.30; No. 1041 for \$43,955.89; No. 1032 for \$166,631.02; No. 1031 for \$36,707.06; No. 1025 for \$453,764.19; No. 1024 for \$8,316.67; No. 1054 for \$142,204.73; No. 1490 for \$6,653.04; No. 1491 for \$2,380.00; No. 1043 for \$2,539,163.20; No. 1033 for \$853,135.62.

Mr. White made a motion to approve item 15. Mr. Gent seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 7-0.

DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE BOARD MEETING TOPICS

Mrs. Silva asked if Mr. Hush could provide an update on Stopfinder. Mr. Ritchie explained that we are still in the testing stages, and as soon as they finalize the program, he will have Mr. Hush present; Mrs. Fischer asked about the student numbers at the middle and high schools with new developments. Mr. Wulfenstein asked not to make an item right now and said he could discuss it later; he asked Mr. Ritchie to contact Mr. Waggoner; Mr. Small would like to have the group from Disabilities in Rural Community come and present to the Board;

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

Mr. Wulfenstein mentioned the next board meeting would be in Round Mountain on Oct. 17th; Mr. Gent asked about the Gold Mine Tour, and Mrs. Weir responded that it had been set up. Mr. Wulfenstein asked to be added to the list.

GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT

Serena Otteson, a parent from Tonopah, spoke about concerns regarding potential changes to the Tonopah Preschool program. She spoke about raising young children in a rural community and their unique challenges. She stated how the preschool program has provided crucial support while providing quality early education. Mrs. Otteson stated she understood the program operates on grants prioritizing low-income families; however, she is troubled by the potential exclusion of children from higher-income

families. She said every child deserves access to early education regardless of financial status and how denying them access will hinder their development and long-term academic success. Mrs. Otteson raised questions about the grants currently keeping the preschool program running. Why is it only low-income-based? What specific changes are being made to the program's eligibility criteria? Are the grants not continuing, or are they simply not being re-applied? She requested to be updated about the evolving preschool program and the opportunity for community input and feedback regarding these changes.

Melissa Godfrey, a parent from Tonopah, expressed concern about the poor quality of school food, particularly school breakfasts, which contain high sugar and low protein content. She cited specific examples exceeding the American Heart Association's recommended daily sugar intake for children and questioned the impact of excessive sugar consumption on student health, behavior, and academic performance. She advocated for improved nutritional standards in school meals, emphasizing the importance of providing nutritious options, particularly for students who rely on school meals as their primary source of nutrition.

Ms. Godfrey expressed disappointment about the potential discontinuation of the grant supporting pre-K for higher-income families. She inquired about the rationale for denying pre-K access to children based on family income, particularly when the program is housed within a public school funded by taxpayer dollars. Ms. Godfrey highlighted pre-K education's benefits, citing her child's positive experience. She urged the district to explore alternative funding options to ensure the pre-K program remains accessible to all children, suggesting a fee structure for higher-income families as a possible solution. Ms. Godfrey appreciated the Board members and staff who traveled for the Board meeting. She inquired about the scheduling of the Open House for Tonopah, noting that it had not yet been held despite a calendar announcement indicating it would occur within the first three weeks of school.

ADJOURNMENT

8:07 pm

By _____
Larry Small, Clerk