

**NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 12, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Incoming Pahrump Valley High School student Dillion Gromis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME:

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

RECOGNITIONS:

Mr. Ritchie recognized Kyera Glenn, Christa Ledbetter, and Joann Forney of the NCSd Food Service team for receiving the 2025 Innovative School Lunch Makeover Recognition Award from the USDA. This award was given for their work in improving the quality of nutrition in school meals. Nye County is the first and only district in Nevada to receive such an award.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Nathan Gent, Vice President; Larry Small, Clerk; Leslie Campos, Member; Robert White, Member.

Chelsy Fischer, Member, arrived at 5:34 pm; Dave Harris, Member, joined via Zoom at 5:44 pm.

Absent: Bryan Wulfenstein, 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; Justin Deverse, Assistant Director of Technology; Shanda Roderick, Director of Special Education Support Services; Karen Holley, Director of State and Federal Programs; Kenneth Weaver, Director of Assessment and Accountability; Erin Jerabek, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Kyera Glenn, Food Service Coordinator; Mike Hush, Director of Transportation; and Iliana Garcia, Executive Assistant.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

No changes.

GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the May 21, 2025, minutes
- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the May 21, 2025, closed session minutes
- Approval for Reclassification of Project Manager Position

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Lopez-Angelo presented the updated board goals, explaining that they were made SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound) with action plans and quarterly tracking. The original goals were not changed, but steps were added for measurability, starting in August and ending in May, with quarterly progress updates.

Mrs. Weir presented on the impact of performing arts (band, choir, drama) on student success, citing research showing correlations with academic achievement, cognitive development, social-emotional well-being, and life skills. Data from Pahrump Valley High School indicated that students involved in performing arts had higher GPAs, fewer behavior events, and lower absence rates. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Cardinal provided an update on district projects, highlighting a productive summer. Key accomplishments include the delivery and assembly of buildings at Tonopah Elementary School, the arrival and installation of multi-zone units at RCMS and the library units, and the completion of the roof at Round Mountain School, currently completing the gym roof, with work continuing at Beatty and then the Nye Communities Coalition. He also reported that the effluent water tanks and fire water storage tanks are complete and operational, awaiting removal of old tanks, and new units at Beatty High School have successfully started up.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Gent reported on AI and the district's vision. Citing a Microsoft survey, he underscored the growing need for AI skills among future graduates. Informed that Mrs. Lopez Angelo will engage with the NDE to update computer science requirements, shifting the focus to AI. Dr. Gent also reiterated the board's commitment to technology integration and fostering a safe, respectful learning environment, emphasizing academics over religious or political agendas. He also spoke about Flag Etiquette and Patriotism.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Campos commented on the Tonopah school's construction, highlighting the community's excitement and anticipation for the new building.

Mrs. Fischer thanked all administrators for their graduation events. She gave an update on Hafen Elementary's Buddy Bench project and spoke about applying for NASB's representative on the State Board of Education.

Mr. Small appreciated attending the graduations and enjoyed traveling around the district, seeing staff, students, family, and friends.

Mr. Gent expressed his appreciation to all the administrations, teachers, and students for their contributions in organizing the successful graduations.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF THE 2024-2025 AUGMENTED REVISED BUDGET

Mr. Ritchie presented the 2024-2025 augmented revised budget, explaining that augmentations resulted from increased revenue in various funds, including the general fund, SB231, special education, capital projects, federal grants, residential construction tax, and the bond fund, largely due to interest and Medicaid reimbursements. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Fischer made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Augmented Revised Budget. Mrs. Campos seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 6-0.

APPROVAL OF THE PERS CRITICAL LABOR SHORTAGE REQUEST FOR THE FOLLOWING ROLE: ACCOUNTANT

Mrs. Wright presented a request for a PERS critical labor shortage designation for the accountant position due to turnover and a lack of qualified candidates. This designation would allow a retired accountant to fill the role while retaining their retirement benefits without additional cost to the district until the position can be filled.

Mr. White made a motion to approve agenda item 11. Mr. Small seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 6-0.

UPDATE ON ANNUAL SPELLING BEE AND EXPLORATION OF ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Mrs. Jerabek presented information on replacing the annual spelling bee with a broader "Academic Bowls" competition, similar to a quiz bowl, emphasizing that spelling is only one small part of language arts standards. She argued that traditional spelling bees favor memorization of infrequent words and are oral tests of a written skill, while the academic goal would encompass various subjects, promote critical thinking, align with standards, and involve more students in practices. The plan is to implement this for the 2026-2027 school year, starting at the school level for younger grades, with the district developing consistent and fair questions across subjects. Discussion ensued.

PRESENTATION OF THE ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE

Dr. Weaver presented on chronic absenteeism in the Nye County School District, which has been over 25% for the past four years. He discussed strategies to incentivize attendance, including rewarding students with incentives, and they started fundraising efforts that raised \$6,745 from local businesses. Incentives such as pizza parties and small prizes were implemented, and a poster showcasing larger prizes like VR headsets and AirPods was displayed at schools to motivate students. The initiative resulted in nearly 39,000 entries from approximately 5,000 students who were not chronically absent, indicating a positive impact.

APPROVAL OF THE DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Dr. Weaver presented the District Improvement Plan for the 24-25 school year, emphasizing its alignment with the NCSD mission and vision to build collective capacities for high levels of learning for students and staff. The plan identifies student achievement in ELA and math, chronic absenteeism, incorrect data usage, and communication with high school parents as problem areas. Also, highlighting that the plan aims to address these issues and improve student outcomes. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Small made a motion to approve the District Improvement Plan. Mrs. Campos seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor 6-0.

NCSD SATURDAY SCHOOL

Dr. Weaver presented information on the NCSD Saturday School, which focuses on social-emotional learning and life skills rather than just academic remediation. The program aims to empower students for success and was implemented with discretionary implementation at Pahrump Valley High School, for students at Rosemary Clarke Middle School, and PVHS, totalling 116 students enrolled and 95 students that participated. Dr. Weaver introduced staff members involved in the Saturday school to share its impact. The program addressed truancy, reduced suspensions, and increased punctuality, accountability, and consistency. There was also interest from parents in having their children attend. The hope is to expand the program in the future.

APPROVAL OF THE NCSD RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PLAN

Dr. Weaver presented the NCSD Restorative Justice Plan via PowerPoint, emphasizing its goal to address harm through healing, restoration, and accountability, driven by NRS 392.4644. The plan involves bringing together those harmed and those who caused harm to repair relationships and address needs. Key changes include standardized suspension lengths for alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, narcotic substances, and arson. The plan also adds considerations for fighting instigation, gang-related activity, and incorporates Saturday school as a restorative step. Discussion ensued.

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

UNIFIED SPORTS PROGRAM

Mrs. Roderick provided an update on the Unified Sports program, highlighting the program's activities, including various inclusive events and team sports. She emphasized that administrative approval and dedicated staff are key to its success, crediting participating schools, administrators, and teachers for their achievements. Looking ahead, year-end successes have generated interest for next year.

Approval of the use of grant funds (ARPA - \$204,000.00; RLIS - \$150,000.00) for purchase of 1200 Chromebooks to replace those that have expired to ensure schools continue to have an operational fleet of devices for learning activities within the online curriculum materials

Mrs. Holley requested approval to use a pre-existing Nevada state contract to purchase 1,200 replacement Chromebooks using ARPA and RLIS grant funds totaling \$174,000. CDW provided a quote of \$315 per unit, and another company quoted \$324.13.

Mr. White made a motion to approve agenda item number 18. Mrs. Fischer seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor 6-0.

Award bids for the purchase of Intercom and Paging system equipment from CDW and IP Phone Warehouse as the lowest responsive and responsible bidders as outlined below for a total of \$231,925.06 to be funded through the Bipartisan Safety Community Act grant

Mr. Williams presented a request to award bids for intercom and paging system equipment from CDW and IP phone warehouse, totaling \$231,395.06, to be funded by the bipartisan safety community act grant. Robert Williams explained the development of an in-house intercom and emergency announcement system and the bidding process, which led to selecting the lowest responsible bidders for different equipment sections. The goal is to replace intercom systems in all schools over the next five to eight years, offering the advantage of in-house maintenance.

Mrs. Fischer made a motion to approve agenda item 19. Mr. Small, seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 6-0.

PRESENTATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION SCORE AND RATING 2024-2025

Mrs. Wright presented the superintendent evaluation score and ratings for 2024-2025. The evaluation, based on the six Board Member submissions, with one abstaining, resulted in a unanimous rating of satisfactory for Dr. Gent, with an overall average of 80% (67 out of 84 possible points). Mrs. Wright noted that the final document requires signatures and will be added to the superintendent's file.

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

Closed Session started at 8:01 pm

Closed Session ended at 8:51 pm

Regular Session Resumed at 8:52 pm

DISCUSSION AND UPDATES ON RELEVANT LEGISLATIVE MEASURES AFFECTING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mrs. Fischer provided an update on recent legislative measures affecting the school district. She highlighted that Governor Lombardo vetoed several bills (AB416, AB205, AB445) that could have negatively impacted the district's control over curriculum, library materials, and parental rights. Mrs. Fischer also noted that SB460, regarding voting rights for appointed school board members in Clark County, requires further review, but currently only affects CCSD. She confirmed the permanent funding for raises through SB231.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF THE NCSD WARRANTS:

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

DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE BOARD MEETING TOPICS:

Mr. Kunzi asked about educational classes or workshops for Board members to be in compliance. Mr. Gent asked to check with Mr. Wulfenstein first about his availability.

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

No changes were made. Mr. Gent will not be available for the July meeting.

GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT:

Raymond Powell, a former teacher, addressed the board during the public input session. He recounted his experience leading to a forced resignation based on accusations of inappropriately touching a student, which he denied, and a prior conflict regarding a student's grade. Due to time constraints, he was unable to complete his statement but indicated he would return for the following meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

9:06 pm

By _____

Larry Small, Clerk