

**NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 15, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Wulfenstein, President, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mia DeMasi and Nicolas Baker, students from JG Johnson Elementary, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME

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

RECOGNITIONS

Mrs. Weir led the recognition of several groups and individuals including Mrs. Anderson, Bikers Against Child Abuse, Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church, and Mrs. Villanueva, the culinary arts teacher at Pahrump Valley High School. Mrs. Weir also recognized Mrs. DeMasi, principal of JG Johnson Elementary School, and their staff for achieving Level Two in the Marzano High Reliability Schools framework, focusing on effective teaching, which made them the only school in Nevada to have received this accomplishment.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Bryan Wulfenstein, President; Nathan Gent, Vice President; Larry Small, Clerk; David Harris, Member; Chelsy Fischer, Member; Leslie Campos, Member; and Robert White, Member.

Executive Cabinet/District Office staff in attendance: Joe Gent, Superintendent; Laura Weir, Assistant Superintendent; Ray Ritchie, Chief Operating Officer; Michelle "Chelle" Wright, Human Resources Director; Brian Kunzi, Legal Counsel; Nate Cardinal, Director of Maintenance Operations, Safety, and Security; Robert Williams, Director of Technology; and Iliana Garcia, Executive Assistant.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Wulfenstein removed agenda items: 16, 17A, and 18.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION OF ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS FOR THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, AND CLERK; FIXING THE TERM OF BOARD OFFICERS; DESIGNATING SIGNATORIES FOR CHECKS/WARRANTS; AND APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES FOR OTHER POSITIONS, OFFICERS, AND COMMITTEES

The Board conducted its reorganization and held elections for the positions of President, Vice President, and Clerk. Mr. Small nominated Mr. Wulfenstein for President; Mr. Wulfenstein accepted the nomination. The Board approved the appointment. Mr. Wulfenstein nominated Leslie Campos for Vice President; Mrs. Campos accepted the nomination. The Board approved the appointment. Mr. Gent nominated David Harris to serve as Clerk. Mr. Harris accepted the nomination. The Board approved the appointment. The organizational chart was updated. The Clerk and Board President remain the authorized signatories for all checks and warrants.

GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT

No Public Comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the December 11, 2025, minutes
- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the December 11, 2025, Closed Session minutes
- Approve of the Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) and the National School Boards Association (NSBA) training and conferences for the year.

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Weir introduced Principal Sylvia DeMasi and Substitute Assistant Principal Kerri Lynch, who presented the "School Spotlight," highlighting JG Johnson Elementary's recent advancement to a two-star rating. This achievement aligns with the district's mission for continuous student growth and is underpinned by the school's implementation of the High Reliability Schools (HRS) framework. Having successfully reached Level Two (Effective Teaching), the school has established a collaborative instructional model that clearly defines classroom expectations. This model is supported by peer instructional rounds and administrative walkthroughs, with a current emphasis on formative assessments. With a current score of 32.5 index points, the school is now targeting a three-star rating for the upcoming year as it transitions to HRS Level Three: Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum.

Mrs. Weir gave an update on Quarter Two Board Goals, highlighting key performance indicators across five goals: Noting 73.7% standards alignment in instruction, 37% team engagement in assessments, and high satisfaction rates among new hires (85.6%) and administrators (71.4%). Ongoing projects include refining Mastery Connect benchmarks for a 2026–2027 pilot, improving engagement data tools, and consolidating surveys to expedite facility improvements recommended by Mr. Cardinal.

Mr. Ritchie had no updates on Federal Grants and suggested pausing updates, given the recent stability of federal funding.

Mr. Cardinal provided project updates, including Tonopah Elementary: Project reached substantial completion; staff walkthrough set for March. Sports Complex (Phase I): Bidding opens Feb 17 (GMP due tentatively March 31). Mr. Gent asked about the estimated time frame for the Tonopah sports complex. Mr. Cardinal plans construction to begin in November to avoid disrupting the football season. Track maintenance: Restriping will be completed prior to regionals; full resurfacing is now part of the five-year capital plan. The Campus Monitor Handbook is currently in the draft phase.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Gent emphasized the necessity of maintaining high standards for facility cleanliness and inventory, particularly during regional competitions and major school events. Additionally, he addressed recent media coverage regarding the proposed Charter School, Pahrump Valley Academy. Dr. Gent clarified that while the District maintains a supportive stance toward all student-centered initiatives, its primary focus remains on efforts that directly benefit the educational growth and success of students across Nye County. Discussion ensued.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. White reported attending the holiday concerts at Floyd and Hafen Elementary Schools, commending the faculty for their exceptional work and noting the impressive community turnout. Additionally, he attended the Pahrump Valley High School choir concert, commending Dr. Gooch and the students for a magnificent performance.

Mr. Small issued several key reminders regarding upcoming community events and compliance deadlines: The Amargosa Science Fair is set for February 24th, with Amargosa Reading Week following on March 2nd. Board members were reminded that Financial Disclosure Statements are due by midnight tonight, January 15th. Mr. Small also provided updates on professional development, surveys, and state-level policy discussions on star ratings.

Mr. Harris reported visiting the Adult Education department and met with Mr. Clift and Mrs. Riggs. It was noted that the program's success rate is approximately 15% higher than comparable programs in neighboring regions, such as Clark County and Washoe. They have implemented a new requirement for students to complete in-person, proctored written exams to earn credit for online coursework. He suggested that the high school adopt a similar model, specifically for students with low attendance who are currently passing their courses, to ensure mastery of the material. He also spoke about more freezer space for the concession area at PVHS.

Mrs. Fischer shared an update on the Teacher Advisory Committee, noting the progress made through staff collaboration. She also extended her gratitude to the Hafen staff for their holiday performance and discussed the exciting plans for the school's new garden.

Mrs. Campos commended the Tonopah Elementary staff for a successful Christmas concert and shared a brief update on her productive time at the recent NASB conference.

Mr. Gent is excited for 2026, the concluding year of his four-year term. He highlighted the consistent growth seen throughout his tenure and noted his high expectations for continued progress in the coming year.

Mr. Wulfenstein commended the staff for their continued efforts and time. He noted his enthusiasm for the future, citing the strong foundation and continued progress.

AWARD BID FOR PURCHASE OF A COMPACT TRACK LOADER

Mr. Musselman presented a recommendation to purchase a Kubota SVL75 compact track loader via the Nevada State equipment contract for \$67,000. He highlighted that recent rental costs have exceeded \$35,000, making this purchase a high-value investment that will eliminate recurring rental expenses and provide a permanent solution for district needs.

Mr. Gent made a motion to approve agenda item 11. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote in favor 6-0. It was noted for the record that Mrs. Fischer had disconnected and was not present for the vote.

APPROVAL OF PERS CRITICAL LABOR SHORTAGE DESIGNATION OF K-12 SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR POSITIONS K-12 SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR ROLES INCLUDE PRINCIPAL, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, AND DEAN

Mrs. Wright requested that the board approve a designation for critical labor shortage in K-12 administrator roles, including Principals, Assistant Principals, and Dean of Students. This request stems from a decline in applicants and increasing role needs in rural communities, with two current vacancies and a third anticipated next year. Mr. Harris and Mrs. Fischer voiced concerns regarding a district-wide designation, particularly within Pahrump. Dr. Gent expressed the urgent need to prioritize the Tonopah vacancy. Dr. Gent committed that extending this designation south of Amargosa would require a subsequent Board review and approval.

Mr. Gent made a motion to approve agenda item 12. Mrs. Campos seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 7-0.

AWARD BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF 200 LENOVO THINKCENTRE M70Q GEN 6 TINY DESKTOP COMPUTERS TO T&S TECHNOLOGIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$173,00.00 AS THE LOWEST, RESPONSIBLE BIDDER

Mr. Williams requested approval to award the bid for 200 Lenovo ThinkCentre M72 Gen 6 desktop computers to YNS Technologies for \$173,800. This purchase is part of the summer technology refresh for Hafen, Floyd, Mount Charleston, and all Tonopah schools. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Campos made a motion to approve agenda item 13, with an amendment to correctly identify the lowest responsible bidder as YNS Technologies (error, not T&S Technologies) in the amount of \$173,800. Mr. Wulfenstein seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 7-0.

A; DISCUSS THE BID RESPONSES RECEIVED FOR THE SUMMER 2026 ROOFING REPLACEMENT PROJECT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND PURCHASE OF ROOFING MATERIAL FOR THE PATHWAYS BUILDING, MAINTENANCE OFFICE, MAINTENANCE STORAGE (AREA 51), AND TONOPAH ELEMENTARY OFFICE PRESENTED BY NATE CARDINAL B; AWARD THE CONSTRUCTION BID FROM 702 ROOFING LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$964,363.92 AS THE LOWEST AND RESPONSIVE BIDDER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$964,363.92 C; APPROVE THE OMNIA COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT WITH GARLAND ROOFING SYSTEMS FOR ROOFING MATERIALS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$653,390.48 OR; D; REJECT BIDS AND PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT

Mr. Cardinal presented the Summer 2026 roofing replacement project, covering the Pathways building, maintenance office, storage areas, and the Tonopah Elementary office. A key priority is the Tonopah Elementary office, which houses critical district infrastructure. All installations, sourced through Garland, include 20-year warranties, with the Pathways building receiving an extended 30-year warranty. To ensure longevity, the maintenance team's new quarterly inspection program has already proven successful, reducing district-wide issues to only three reported leaks.

Mr. Wulfenstein made a motion to approve as written and award the installation contract to 702 Roofing LLC (\$964,363.92) and the materials contract to Garland Roofing Systems (\$653,390.48). Mr. Small seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 7-0.

RENAMING THE ROUND MOUNTAIN FOOTBALL FIELD TO KNIGHTS MEMORIAL FIELD

Board Clerk, Mr. Harris, introduced a proposal to rename the Round Mountain football field to Knights Memorial Field. The renaming serves as a tribute to community members who made significant contributions to the school, including veteran teachers, standout athletes, and dedicated supporters. Mr. Harris is currently compiling a list of potential honorees and noted that the school principal supports the initiative. Furthermore, the change will incur no cost to the district, as friends and former roommates of Jon Jacobs have committed to funding the project. The item is expected to appear on next month's agenda for formal consideration.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:13 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 7:33 PM.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF THE NCSD WARRANTS:

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

DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE BOARD MEETING TOPICS:

Mr. Small requested a March agenda item to review Q1/Q2 absenteeism data, including a comparative district analysis and an evaluation of the need for a truancy officer. He also proposed coordinating school site visits for board members (in groups of three) with northern area meetings to increase engagement and board visibility.

Mrs. Fischer asked about the status updates on district students attending school in other counties or those within correctional facilities. Administration clarified that students enrolled in other counties under a waiver are no longer under the District's jurisdiction. Furthermore, it was noted that the district currently maintains no students in correctional facilities.

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

None.

GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT:

Deputy Andi Bishop highlighted the significant administrative and law enforcement resources required for school-based emergencies and investigations. She noted that high truancy rates place an additional burden on these resources, diverting critical attention away from urgent matters such as child abuse cases and active investigations.

Alison Matulich wrote by email: She praised the district's leadership, specifically highlighting the firsthand experience of Superintendent Dr. Gent and the Board as former educators and parents. She expressed confidence in their ability to navigate complex challenges and encouraged them to continue making wise, compassionate decisions.

ADJOURNMENT:

7:52 PM

By _____

David Harris, Clerk