

**NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
August 15, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Gabbs School student, Scotty Riggins, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**WELCOME**

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

**RECOGNITIONS**

Mrs. Weir recognized the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the Pahrump Springs Chapter, for all their donations and support of the Amargosa School. She also recognized Katie Trombley from Landmine Fitness for donating 50 brand-new shoes to students and thanked all the supporters for their generosity.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Bryan Wulfenstein, President.

Present: Executive Cabinet/District Office staff in attendance: Joe Gent, Superintendent; Laura Weir, Assistant Superintendent; Genoveva Lopez-Angelo, Assistant Superintendent; Brian Kunzi, DA; Ray Ritchie, Chief Operating Officer; Chelle Wright, Director of HR; Rob Williams, Director of Technology; Dr. Kenneth Weaver, Director of Assessment & Accountability; Nate Cardinal, Project Manager; Iliana Garcia, Executive Assistant.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mr. Gent adopted the agenda as is.

**GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- July 18, 2024 minutes
- 2023-2024 Nevada Educator Performance Framework (NEPF) Report
- NCSD Test Administration and Security Manual 2024-2025
- 4th Quarter Quarterly Report
- First Reading NCSD Policy: 0420 - Organization of the Board of Trustees; 7477 - Participation In Athletics

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

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mrs. Lopez-Angelo introduced Charles Keller, the principal of Gabbs. Mr. Keller presented his school spotlight via PowerPoint. He spoke about the Gabbs staff, highlights for Gabbs from 23-24, coming up for 24-25, and the goals for 24-25.

Dr. Kenny Weaver presented information on Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism. He explained how his department is working on incentives to encourage students to attend school. He also spoke about the upcoming changes for the 24-25 school year; unfortunately, the Juvenile Probation Office has eliminated the truancy officers, which means this will fall upon the schools, district, and School Resource Officers (SROs). Meetings are being held with the schools to formulate a process and update changes to attendance regulations. He explained the difference between chronically absent and chronically truant. He spoke about encouraging attendance to students at a young age, K-2, so they can continue to have good attendance throughout the rest of their education.

Mike Hush spoke about the bus replacement program, the process for getting the buses certified, the Equipment Replacement Program (ERP), the GPS system, the student tracking/parent app, stop safety, and road hazards.

Nate Cardinal gave an update on summer school projects: Gabbs, the single-point fence is installed, and the school rekey is complete; Round Mountain schools single-point installation has started, the school rekey is complete; concrete was poured at the new bus loop, and held first gym floor recoat training; Tonopah High School had all new air conditioners installed; Tonopah Elementary School is on schedule; Beatty Elementary School had slurry seal done to all the asphalt, and the concession stand was painted; Beatty High School slurry sealed all the asphalt, and the football field was painted; Amargosa School had shade structures installed; Rosemary Clarke Middle School (RCMS) had another successful foundation lift and roof project is still in progress; JG Johnson Elementary School had all the rooftop air conditioners replaced and phase four of the front landscaping is complete; Mt Charleston Elementary School had the teacher's lounge and library painted, Hafen Elementary School cleaned up debris and the landscape; Pahrump Valley High School (PVHS) has all new HVAC controllers to the cooling tower and the practice field is about 70% complete; Pathways School has been rekeyed and the gym has been painted; district wide has custodial work orders at all school sites; security window film installed 60%; gym floors are complete and carpets were cleaned. Mr. Cardinal thanked the M&O and custodial staff for their support.

Mrs. Weir and Lopez-Angelo shared a spreadsheet of the board goals via PowerPoint. They presented the goals and how they will be tracked, and they plan to present the progress at the Board Meetings.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Gent stated that the leadership team had visited every school site this year. He has seen a lot of excitement and has received positive feedback. He informed everyone that Rob's weekly update now includes an M&O section, and he has also seen notable changes at schools like JG Johnson's front office area and Pathways flooring. Dr. Gent spoke about the upcoming legislation that includes 147 educational Bill Draft Reviews (BDRs). He specifically briefed about a certain BDR that would appoint the Board of Trustees instead of electing them, and he recommended speaking to the lobbyist on this BDR. He also gave an update about holding the first Superintendents' Student Advisory Board meeting along with Mr. Small on September 9th. A student suggestion box has also been created, and the students are starting to use it. Dr. Gent also spoke about the two topics that keep being brought up: the four-day school week in Pahrump. They have met with the teachers and support staff unions. The support staff union is not interested at this time, but the teachers union is interested. Mr. Wulfenstein asked them to assemble the information and surveys before bringing it to the Board as an item. The other item is cell phones in schools, and the research indicates that removing cell phones from schools automatically increases social and emotional learning and increases test scores. The school Board needs to be prepared and stand behind the decision. Dr. Gent suggested waiting and learning from Clark County and Carson City School District's successes and mistakes.

### **BOARD REPORTS**

Mrs. Campos was very excited to see the changes in the Participation in Athletics Policy, which will benefit rural communities.

Mrs. Fisher spoke about a meeting she had with Dr. Gent and Mrs. Wright about a possible Parent Volunteer Coordinator and will provide an update to the Board. She also attended Hafen Elementary's Open House. It was a complete turnaround from the last four years, with happy faces and excitement. She thanked all the staff for their hard work.

Mrs. Silva attended RCMS's Open House. She commended all the staff, the leadership at the school, and all the teachers, and it was exciting and well done.

Mr. White spoke about a meeting he had with the Superintendents, Mr. Wulfenstein and Mrs. Fischer, about a possible presentation from First Choice Pregnancy. They came to the consensus that if First Choice wants to present, they will need to fill out the flyer approval and facilities use forms.

Mr. Small attended both RCMS and PVHS's Open Houses and thanked all the staff for a job well done.

Mr. Gent was very impressed with the beginning of the school year and thanked everyone for all their hard work.

### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS PRESENTATION**

Mr. Small spoke about being associated with Special Olympics for the past 5-7 years, as well as being coach and assistant coach for the athletes in town. It is an honor for him to serve the special kids in the schools and community. He presented Dominique Christian, Director of Schools Initiatives, with Special Olympics. She presented what Special Olympics does: Unified Champion Schools, Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership, Whole School Engagement, Impact, and Call to Action.

### **DISTRICT PERFORMANCE PLAN 2024-2025**

Dr. Weaver presented the District Performance Plan 24-25 via PowerPoint. He spoke about the background, successes, project goals, problem statements, annual performance Objectives, improvement strategies, formative measures, positions responsible, annual performance objectives, analysis, results, and Conclusions. Mrs. Silva thanked Dr. Weaver for his presentation.

### **To attain Board approval via resolution to apply for a principal forgiveness loan for the construction of a water treatment plant at the Amargosa Campus**

Mr. Cardinal and three other individuals who attended via Zoom spoke about a resolution needed to apply for a loan for the Amargosa well arsenic issue. There are a couple of options: First, they will apply for the principal forgiveness loan, and if that doesn't work, there is a loan with a 50% market reduction they can apply for. Mrs. Silva asked what the principal forgiveness loan entailed. Maryanne Denton with Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), a small utility consultant that works with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Office of Financial, they administer drinking water state revolving funds. Maryanne explained that the Principal Forgiveness Loan is essentially a grant with no payments or interest. There are only so many principal forgiveness loans available every year. In case the principal forgiveness loan is not available, the application goes to the Board of Financing Water Projects. Because the school is considered disadvantaged, they would be eligible for a 40-year long-term loan qualified at 50% of the market reduction, they recognize the necessity for this project. Maryanne has met with Nate, Rae, and Reshet about this loan and the process. Right now, the arsenic treatment plant is being investigated, and once a preliminary engineering report is provided, they can apply for one of the quarterly meetings. Maryanne stated that signing this governing board resolution does not say a loan has to be taken, and it just allows the application to be submitted. If

approved, it will come back to the Board for approval. Mr. Gent asked if there were any drawbacks, and Maryanne responded that, in her experience, she had seen no drawbacks.

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

**Recommendation for the Board to reject the intercom replacement bids, thereby canceling project number PWP NY-2024-461**

Mr. Cardinal requested that the Board reject all bids because the labor side came in high. He would like to pursue other options.

Mr. White made a motion to reject all bids for item number 14. Mr Small seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 6-0.

**To form a Finance Committee consisting of three Board members to review NCS D financial records**

Mrs. Fischer requested that a Board committee be formed to review financial documents. Mr. Gent mentioned that he did not think a mandatory number of members was needed. If there are less than three, they can still form a committee. Mrs. Silva showed interest in joining the committee.

Mrs. Fischer made a motion to approve the formation of a finance committee consisting of two board members, Mrs. Fischer and Mrs. Silva. Mr. Gent seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor 6-0.

**DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF THE NCS D WARRANTS**

Mr. White asked about voucher number 1461's negative balance. Mr. Ritchie believed it was a refund from a conference. He will look into it for confirmation and get back to Mr. White.

Mr. Small made a motion to approve the NCS D warrants. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 5-1. Mrs. Fischer voted Nay.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE BOARD MEETING TOPICS**

Dr. Gent would like to discuss meaningful participation in the BOT meeting at all locations.

Mr. Gent would like staff to research the possibility of having the district participate in the Special Olympics. He would also like to see a discussion about cell phones in the schools, possibly in November.

Mrs. Fischer would like to discuss the responses she received during her meeting with Dr. Gent and Mrs. Wright.

Mrs. Silva asked about highlighting the student suggestions during future Administrative Reports.

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

Mr. Small reminded everyone about the Tonopah Elementary project tour before the BOT meeting.

Mr. Gent asked if, for the October 17th meeting in Round Mountain, a tour could be coordinated with the Round Mountain Gold Mine. Mrs. Weir will coordinate.

Dr. Gent also mentioned seeing the new mural at the Round Mountain HS gym, which was donated by the Gold Mine, before the tour so they could express their gratitude.

**GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT**

Two public comments were made.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vice President Gent adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

By \_\_\_\_\_

Larry Small, Clerk

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