NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 18, 2025

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Wulfenstein called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Rosemary Clarke Middle School student Avery Sampson led the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the National Anthem.

WELCOME:

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

RECOGNITIONS:

Mrs. Weir recognized four Pahrump Valley High School students for their outstanding achievement of earning the highest scores on their AP exams.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Bryan Wulfenstein, President; Nathan Gent, Vice President; Larry Small, Clerk; Leslie Campos, Member; Robert White, Member; Chelsy Fischer, Member; Dave Harris, 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; 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; and Iliana Garcia, Executive Assistant.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

No changes were made.

GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Hodge raised concerns about racial prejudice in the local education system, noting that some Black students either commute to Las Vegas schools or are homeschooled. He also questioned the number of Black teachers and the preparedness of students for high school, highlighting a perceived lack of feedback from previous discussions.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the August 21, 2025, minutes
- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the August 21, 2025, closed session minutes
- 2025-2026 NCSD Local Literacy Plan
- Approval of the Reclassification of Accountant Position
- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the Health Insurance changes
- First Reading of NCSD Policies:

  6143 - Staff Conduct
  6231 - Annual Leave
  6311 - Work Day
  6575 - Arrest Convictions of Certified Employees
- Tuition Agreement between Nye and Esmeralda County School District
- Tuition Agreement between Nye and Eureka County School District

- Tuition Agreement between Nye and Lander County School District
- Tuition Agreement between Nye and White Pine County School District
- Tuition Agreement between Nye and Clark County School District
- Tuition Agreement between Nye and Mineral County School District

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Rosemary Clarke Middle School Principal, Mrs. April Sutton, along with Dr. Tina Winquist, Mr. Zachary Butt, and Mrs. Judy Bloom, presented their school spotlight. They highlighted the school's two-star ranking and their initiatives to improve. These efforts include a goal to reduce chronic absenteeism from 25.9% to 20.9% by the 2025-2026 school year, and a focus on enhancing academic performance and school culture. The presentation also detailed key changes, such as a redesigned PBIS program and a new bell schedule that moved lunch to the afternoon to maximize instructional time and minimize food waste.

Mrs. Wright spoke about the Nevada state security breach, which has caused a three-week backlog in fingerprinting for new hires, renewals, and licensure applicants. While this has been the biggest impact on HR, the department has continued to work through other hiring steps. Fingerprinting appointments are now being processed, and results are coming back quickly.

Mr. Ritchie addressed the district's protocol for lowering flags. He explained that the directive typically originates from the governor's office and is relayed through the Department of Education. However, a recent statewide cyberattack has caused inconsistent communication, resulting in some schools being delayed in lowering their flags following a request from the President. Acknowledging the issue, Ritchie assured that the district will take steps to ensure all schools are notified promptly in the future.

Mr. Cardinal updated the board on district projects. He spoke about the Tonopah Elementary School being ahead of schedule! Mrs. Campos praised the new school, highlighting its large classrooms, great lighting, and a sink in every room. The opening has been delayed until the next school year to prevent disruption to students and to allow staff to focus on the current year. RCMS's portable air conditioning has been removed, and the project is 95% complete. The new roof at Beatty Elementary School is finished, with only some flashing left. The next roofing project will be the Nye Communities Coalition. PVHS's state permit for the effluent water tank was approved, and staff will be trained to transition from city water.

Mr. Gent inquired about the timeline for the opening of the new Tonopah Elementary School. Mr. Cardinal explained that the opening has been delayed until the next school year. This change, which was decided at a recent community meeting, was made to avoid interrupting instructional time and to allow staff to focus on the current year. Mr. Wulfenstein inquired about the timeline for the Tonopah Sports Complex. Mr. Cardinal clarified that it is scheduled to begin after the 2026 football season, with the goal of playing the first game before the 2027 season. Dr. Gent noted that a meeting was held with coaches and community members, and their feedback has now been integrated into the plans with KNIT.

Mr. Wulfenstein also asked about repainting or resurfacing the track at PVHS. Mr. Cardinal explained that this is part of the district's five-year plan and offered to review the plan with anyone interested.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Gent updated the Board on the impact of a recent state-level data breach. He also addressed recent events in Tonopah, noting that the leadership team has held several meetings with the community to gather feedback and identify areas for improvement. During his two-week visit to Tonopah, Dr. Gent attended various community events and was particularly impressed by the high level of community involvement in sports, which he found unique within the district. Dr. Gent also clarified the district's facility usage policy.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Small provided an update on his recent activities. He attended a Health Committee Meeting where a review of certain benefits was discussed. He also attended a football fundraiser for RCMS, a Director's Meeting with NASB, an RCMS football game in Tonopah, and a Boardbook Zoom meeting.

Mr. White updated the board on a Title I Committee meeting. He also mentioned that he enjoyed attending the Pancakes with the Principal event at Hafen Elementary.

Mr. Harris provided an update on several activities. He spoke about Key Club and their recent fundraisers, attended a Professional Development Training in Las Vegas where he connected with board members from other counties, and spoke with a non-profit organization interested in bringing youth boxing to Pahrump.

Mrs. Fischer began by expressing her gratitude to Mrs. Weir and Dr. Gent for their recent travels to the North. She then shared updates on several key areas, including Governor Lombardo's recent visit, the Pancakes with the Principal event at Hafen Elementary, and the return of the Red Rover program to several schools. She concluded by emphasizing the importance of school safety and security, particularly in the district's more remote areas.

Mrs. Campos acknowledged the recent incidents in Tonopah and expressed her appreciation to the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and the leadership team for their response. She was pleased to see that concerns were heard and addressed.

Mr. Wulfenstein thanked the administrative staff and Mrs. Campos for their response to the recent events in Tonopah.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF CHROMEBOOKS FOR FY 2025-26 THROUGH THE STATE CONTRACT, SOURCEWELL # 121923 CDW FOR A PRICE OF $377.00 PER UNIT. DIRECTOR OF STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

Mrs. Holley requested the Board's approval to purchase Chromebooks for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, selecting the CDW quote of $377 per device. This choice saved the district $109 per Chromebook compared to the alternative bid.

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

NCSD TEST SECURITY MANUAL OVERVIEW

Dr. Weaver gave an overview of the district's test security manual, underscoring that test security is a shared responsibility. He explained that the manual's purpose is to guarantee fair testing, accurate results, and consistent testing environments across all schools and classrooms.

NCSD NEVADA SCHOOL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (NSPF) OVERVIEW

Dr. Weaver discussed the Nevada School Performance Framework, which assigns star rankings to schools. They noted that a recent data breach had impacted the integrity of these rankings. The rankings themselves are determined by various assessments, including the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC), the Nevada Science Assessment, the Nevada Alternate Assessment, and the WIDA assessment for English learners. Discussion ensued.

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

Closed Session started at 7:04 pm

Closed Session ended at 8:10 pm

Regular Session Resumed at 8:12 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 an informational on the current dress code policy for staff and students. He also wants to have a flag 24//7 with lighting at the PVHS football field.

Mr. Harris requested an informational on the possibility of renaming the Round Mountain football field in Round Mountain.

Mrs. Fischer inquired about an update from the Teacher Advisory Committee. She also confirmed with Mr. White that they would present their curriculum concerns at the November Board meeting and noted an upcoming meeting on K-3.

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

No changes were made.

GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT:

No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

8:20 pm

By________________________________

Larry Small, Clerk