

**NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 21, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Gabbs High School student Elizabeth Ejang led the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed in memory of John McKenzie.

WELCOME:

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

RECOGNITIONS:

Mrs. Weir began by commending all staff for an outstanding start to the school year. She praised their willingness to go above and beyond their normal duties and their positive interactions with students.

J.G. Johnson Assistant Principal Samantha Moore shared details about the European Trip, a remarkable 12-day summer program that took 30 students from PVHS and THS, along with five chaperones, to Europe.

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

Mrs. Fischer requested the removal of item 15 from the agenda as she had no updates. Mr. Small requested that item 8D, concerning the approval of the 2025-2026 Nye County School District Test Security Manual, be pulled for discussion rather than consent due to board accountability and the need for dialogue. Mrs. Fischer also requested that item 8C be moved for discussion, and it was agreed to combine items 8C and 8D into a new item 8.5.

GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Hodge spoke to the board about Item 13 on the agenda. He expressed strong concerns about the current grading system, stating that it allows students to be promoted even if they receive all failing grades. He believes this practice undermines the value of hard work and leaves students unprepared for life after graduation. Mr. Hodge also requested that the board form a committee to monitor staff performance, as he believes some employees are not fulfilling their duties.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the July 17, 2025, minutes
- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the July 17, 2025, closed session minutes
- 2024-2025 Nevada Educator Performance Framework (NEPF) Report

- Approval of the 2025-2026 NCSD Test Security Manual
- 4th Quarter Quarterly Report

Mr. Gent made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items A, B, & E. Mrs. Fischer seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 7-0.

8.5 APPROVAL OF THE 2025-2026 NCSD TEST SECURITY MANUAL & 2024-2025 NEVADA EDUCATOR PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (NEPF) REPORT

Mrs. Wright and Dr. Gent spoke about how the Department of Education is currently re-evaluating the state's teacher evaluation system. Many educators find the current framework flawed and ineffective, as it doesn't genuinely lead to improvements in instructional practices. The district dedicates minimal time to the evaluation process, acknowledging that research shows these systems do not significantly enhance employee performance. Instead, the focus is on practices that truly improve student achievement. The report was ultimately approved, as its main purpose is to document ratings to meet legal requirements.

Mr. Small had some questions about the 2025-2026 NCSD Test Security Manual. He confirmed with Mrs. Weir that the manual is a state requirement, ensuring that the district follows all test security measures, including staff training and supervision, every year. Mr. Gent explained that similar manuals are used in school districts across the state. Mr. Small suggested adding the manual as a separate agenda item for next year's renewal.

Ms. Small made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items in 8.5. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 7-0.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ritchie confirmed that the district's federal funding is being held up at the state level. While the state has received all the funds—including various Title grants—it has not yet allocated them to the district via the "E-Page" system. The district will submit its grant requests and is ready to move forward once the state's allocation is complete.

Mrs. Lopez-Angelo provided an update on the successful "Back to School Event" hosted by the NyE Communities Coalition and other local companies and volunteers on July 26. The event significantly surpassed its goal of distributing 550 backpacks by providing 1,000 filled with school supplies. An additional 250 backpacks were distributed to students in Beatty, Gabbs, Round Mountain, and Tonopah, while the Daughters of the American Revolution provided backpacks for students in Amargosa. The coalition has already scheduled the next event for July 25, 2026, and will be partnering with Valley Electric, Desert Valley Community, and PDOP.

Mr. Cardinal updated the board on district projects. He noted that the cooling system at RCMS should be fully operational soon, pending the replacement of its compressor and electrical components. The roof at Round Mountain is now complete. However, the roof project at Beatty Elementary required a \$27,534 change order due to unexpected rust and rot in the deck and main entryway. Mr. Cardinal also reported that construction on the elementary school in Tonopah is progressing as planned, with electricity scheduled to be connected next week. He confirmed that the school's opening has been moved from spring to fall to allow for sufficient time for teacher preparation and to minimize any disruption to student learning. This decision has received support from both staff and parents.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Gent reported on a successful start to the school year. He noted that leadership has visited every school, with a particular focus on the northern region due to a high level of ongoing activity. Dr. Gent specifically recognized Mrs. Campos for her busy month of meetings with both district and community members. He also acknowledged the community's positive response to the recent passing of a teacher in Round Mountain, commending the strong support from staff, students, and the community.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. White reported on a recent community outreach effort where breakfast was served to the faculty at J.G. Johnson. He also announced a Title I meeting scheduled for September.

Mr. Small informed the Board of a "Back to school Bash" for parents, scheduled for August 28th at J.G. Johnson.

Mr. Gent commended the staff's dedication to starting the school year, noting that students feel loved and appreciated.

Mrs. Campos provided a detailed summary of her recent activities. She held meetings with Dr. Gent, Mrs. Jeffrey, and Mr. Cardinal to discuss the sports complex. She also attended a breakfast with Senator Titus and Lieutenant Governor Stravos Anthony to discuss funding and issues for rural schools. Additionally, Mrs. Campos participated in a community meeting in Tonopah to address concerns about the new school's opening date and pre-k funding. She concluded by expressing her gratitude to Dr. Gent, Mrs. Lopez-Angelo, Mrs. Weir, Karen Holley, and Ray Richie for their assistance.

Mrs. Fischer began by thanking the Nye Communities Coalition for their help with the back-to-school fair. She and Mr. White reviewed the curriculum and are considering removing three items. She met with legislators to discuss the need for more space to handle student population growth. Mrs. Fischer, Dr. Gent, and Mrs. Roderick investigated special education funding. They believe the current state funding model, based on a 1996 census, is underfunding the program. She also highlighted the crisis this creates for local families who have to travel to Las Vegas for autism assessments because of long waitlists. She praised the staff for their work on this issue.

Mr. Harris thanked Mr. Kunzi for the training he provided. He also reported on his outreach efforts, including attending open houses to recruit members for the Key Club, and had Kiwanis provide breakfast for administrators. He then highlighted some school visits in the North.

Mr. Wulfenstein thanked Mr. Kunzi for his training and reminded everyone that the sports season had started. He encouraged the community to come out and support the school teams.

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS (NASB) HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Harris, a representative of the Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB), thanked the districts for their partnership, highlighting that NASB proudly represents all 17 school districts in the state. He restated the association's core mission of providing professional development, mentoring, and advocacy, and he specifically offered specialized support to Nye County or individual board members. Mr. Harris recognized Iliana Garcia, Mr. Small, and Dr. Gent for their

professionalism, communication, and leadership. He concluded by commending the Nye County School District Board and Superintendent for their collaborative efforts and positive impact on students.

Award bids for white fleet vehicle purchases to continue the Transportation Dept vehicle replacement plan. Included would be 2ea - 4x4 cab/chassis, 1-ton dual rear wheel, diesel service trucks; and 4ea 7 passenger mini vans.

Mr. Musselman requested approval for the purchase of two cab chassis trucks for the maintenance departments in the North and South, as well as four vans for the Pahrump motor pool. To ensure the vehicles are sold while they still have a good trade-in or resale value, Sean plans to implement a program similar to a rental program. Moving forward, he specified that all future truck purchases should have four-wheel drive to ensure reliability on treacherous roads and in remote areas like Gabbs and Yomba. Discussion ensued.

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

Resolution designated as the “2025 School Improvement Bond Resolution”; declaring the necessity of incurring a bonded indebtedness on behalf of the Nye County School District for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving and equipping school facilities; authorizing the issuance of the Nye County School District, Nevada, General Obligation (Limited Tax) School Improvement Bonds (PSF Guaranteed), Series 2025 in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$10,000,000; providing the terms and conditions of the bonds; and providing the effective date.

Mr. Marty Johnson spoke about capital funding for the school district and proposed a bond resolution for \$10 million in bonds, which was authorized by the Debt Management Commission 18-24 months ago. A portion of this authorization has already been sold, so now the rest will be sold. The State Permanent School Fund has guaranteed a Triple A rating on the bonds, which is expected to save the school district between \$150,000 and \$200,000 in interest. The plan is to sell the bond on September 4th and close at the end of the month, which would go to fund the Tonopah Athletic Complex.

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

GRADING POLICY OVERVIEW

Mrs. Lopez-Angelo presented an overview of the grading regulation, noting its alignment with the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). She explained that the district follows a uniform grading scale and applies weighted grades to advanced courses. The district computes GPA in adherence to state standards, including specific rounding rules. To align with the NAC's outlined weights for grades, the district updated its regulation in February 2025. Discussion ensued.

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

Closed Session started at 6:54 pm

Closed Session ended at 7:05 pm

Regular Session Resumed at 7:06 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 review of the Test Security Manual, as well as an update on the School Resource Officers (SROs).

Mrs. Fischer inquired about the status of the Teacher Advisory Committee (TAC). She is also planning to meet with Dr. Gent to discuss kindergarten through third-grade retention and the possibility of adding more kindergarten classes.

Mrs. Campos requested an overview of the current policies and regulations on mental health crises.

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:

7:13 pm

By _____

Larry Small, Clerk