

MINUTES

Lyon County School District Board of Trustees

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of Lyon County School District was held September 23, 2025, beginning at 5:45 pm Closed Session and 6:30 pm Open Meeting at Fernley High School, 1300 Hwy 95A South, Fernley, NV 89408.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Hendrix called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Clerk Dawn Carson.

3. WELCOME OF GUESTS

President Hendrix welcomed the guests.

Board of Trustees in attendance:

President Tom Hendrix

Clerk Dawn Carson

Trustee Elmer Bull

Trustee Darin Farr

Trustee Sherry Parsons

Trustee James Whisler

Student Representative - Student Body President Jackson Hohnholz

Bridget Peterson resigned her position as District 6 Trustee effective September 1, 2025.

Executive Cabinet in attendance:

Superintendent Tim Logan

Deputy Superintendent Stacey Griffin-Cooper

Executive Director of Operations Harman Bains

Executive Director of Human Resources BillieJo Hogan

Executive Director of Education Services Heather Moyle

Executive Director of Education Services Jim Gianotti

Executive Director of Special Services Rachel Stewart

Staff and Guests:

Skyler Tremaine, Margaret Heim, Don Lattin, Blake Smith, Ryan Cross, Chrissy Haas, Paul Sullivan, Cory Sanford, Tammie Moniz, Shawn McMackin, Blake Cooper, Farrah Alexander, Kent Jones, Shawn Romero, Virginia Richardson, Michelle Trousdale, Jennifer Bluhm, Tammy Valentine, Ashley Walker, Bryanna Timmsen, Holly Mangum, Desiree Winship, Brittany Reeder Gomez, Teresa Shackley, Hillary Dashiell, Savannah Williams, Greg Erny, Doug Ramsay, Jessica Billings, Lani Von Linsowe, Bridget Perez, Alfredo Martinez, Jackson Chapin,

Jennifer Carter, Leahi Hale, Allison Bridgewater, Sheila Kirby, Jeff Rinas, Cailynne Bixby, Katie Mercado, Melody Holland, Mark Kosak, Tina Miller, Krystle Turner, Nicole Barona, Kimberly Heater, Amanda Fogelberg, Lisa Wodke, Josh Paulman, Kathy Rudy, Morgan Manderbach, Marjorie Mauk, Victoria Diaz Chavez, Abby Fritz, Nicole Hanifan, Hannah Dutton, and Neal McIntyre II.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Whisler made a motion that the Board approve the agenda as presented.

Trustee Bull seconded.

With no further discussion, the motion carried 6-0.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Farr made a motion that the Board approve the minutes as written.

Trustee Whisler seconded.

With no further discussion, the motion carried 6-0.

6. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Trustee Whisler visited various schools, spoke with teachers and saw students active in the classrooms. He was impressed with the way some teachers have handled cell phones in the classrooms.

Trustee Parsons commented that the kids are excited about their sports. She spoke on the Adult Ed advertisements on the internet, saying they are excellent and persuasive for people to consider getting their diploma.

Trustee Farr visited classes during walk-throughs and found them informative and engaging for students. He was impressed with the PAES labs and projects and appreciated the school improvements made during the summer. He spoke on presenting a recognition coin to Secretary Beth Perry for her contributions to the sensory room at Fernley Elementary School (FES).

Trustee Bull visited schools on the first day of school and witnessed energy and enthusiasm from staff and students. He was present during some excitement when there were law enforcement incidents and was glad to see definitive action from the SROs and administrators to keep our schools safe. He visited schools during the walk-throughs and was impressed with the work the teachers are doing, especially with the attendance efforts to get the kids coming to school.

Clerk Carson asked for a moment of silence for the student who passed away before school began. She spoke on the Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) committee to establish new efforts to increase teacher recruitment and retention. She plans to visit schools soon.

President Hendrix attended an open house and pep rally prior to the start of school in Silver Springs, and attended the Fernley High School (FHS) homecoming football game. He also spoke on the September 10 assassination of political activist Charlie Kirk. He discouraged violence and asked for a moment of silence.

7. ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

The board members read notes of gratitude written by students across the district.

8. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Logan welcomed FHS Student Body President Jackson Hohnholz. He thanked FHS for hosting and Chartwells for dinner, thanked the staff for the hard work during the summer and making schools ready. He spoke with gratitude about Trustee Bridget Peterson who served on the board for over 11 years. She resigned effective September 1, 2025.

He gave a recognition coin to DHS teacher Amy Morrison, who coaches the mountain bike club and does so much for kids. He spoke of her as an exceptional teacher and role model, making a lasting impact on our students.

Fernley principals introduced their new staff members. Starting with FHS, Silverland Middle School (SMS), Fernley Intermediate School (FIS), Fernley Elementary School (FES), Cottonwood Elementary School (CES) and East Valley Elementary School (EVES). Staff were then dismissed.

Jackson Hohnholz spoke about FHS events. They have raised students' school spirit with welcome back week, assemblies, homecoming, and honoring cancer-awareness month. Homecoming is the busiest week of the year and they did events everyday, raising money for special causes. More events are coming up to keep school spirit going for students. Leadership will be hosting a middle school leadership event at FHS.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: At this time, the public is invited to address the Board on items over which the Board has jurisdiction or control. If you wish to speak, step up to the table, be seated, and state your name. Your comments are limited to no more than three minutes per agenda item with a maximum of ten minutes total. In consideration of others, avoid repetition or designate a spokesperson to speak on behalf of your group. Although this Board does not restrict comments based upon viewpoint, comments will be prohibited if they are willfully disruptive, slanderous, amount to personal attacks or interfere with the rights of other speakers. Comments made during this time will be monitored by the Board President. The Board will conduct public comments after each item on the agenda on which action may be taken, before the Board takes action. Comments submitted electronically will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

During this time Trustee Whisler presented a recognition coin to Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board, Margaret Heim.

Public comment was made by Silver Stage High School (SSHS) student Jasmine Gate. She agreed that cell phones can be a distraction, but feels the disciplinary measures are extreme in the revision. She proposed a solution to having charging stations in classrooms for instruction time to prevent phone usage.

SSHS student Philip Crandel stressed the need for parents to be able to contact their kids. Students should be able to use them in class, take pictures of class work, and access google classroom.

Two other students spoke on text examples from parents, coaches and teachers, showing the need for scheduling classes and pickup times, and for jobs. They questioned why the consequences are the same as fights. Students use phones for college classes, emails needed during the day, and for scheduling, but their main concern was why the punishment is so severe. Naveece La Marque, FHS Senior, agrees phone use is distracting, but the policy is too extreme. Phones being kept for days is not realistic as they are used to clock in and out of work. Silverland Middle School (SMS) Dean Shaun McMackin spoke on the work to implement the

current policy. It has been effective at SMS and the other schools need to give it time.

Administrators cannot take and keep their phones from them indefinitely. The current policy is working, phones go in a lock box. Parents sign the agreement, students take responsibility. It also works when there is an emergency.

Teacher Brittany Reeder-Gomez spoke on the efforts to improve the policy, but is concerned about the excessive disciplinary measures. Phones are not weapons, students could lose weeks of instruction time over this, suspension is not restorative practice.

Principal Ryan Cross echoed that this policy revision is not the right approach. Schools could use board support and help to enforce other issues. This revision has the potential to keep kids from coming to school. Some staff encourage cell phones in positive ways, teaching kids to use them responsibly.

Assistant Principal Michelle Trousdale challenged the board to look at the intention and to listen to the public in the room, and do what is best for kids.

Staff member Tammy Roseberry spoke on her email to the board that addressed this issue.

Because students with special needs would be allowed to keep their phones as exceptions, this would create unintended consequences of identifying students.

A mother spoke in support of students needing their phones during the day and encouraging their independence. If phones were taken they could be misplaced or stolen. A better solution may be a lock box or charging station but available to them if needed. Parents use tracking devices/apps on students' phones.

Lyon County SRO, Sgt. Kosak explained the legal implications of holding on to a person's property, from petty larceny to grand larceny. He believes SMS AP Shaun McMackin's policy is effective.

10. CONSENT AGENDA (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION): Per LCSD Board Policy BDD: Board Meeting Procedures, all matters listed under the consent agenda are considered routine and may be acted upon by the Board of School Trustees with one action and without discussion. During this meeting, any member of the Board may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda, discussed, and acted upon separately.

A. Trustee Questions & Answers: This information will be posted after 12:00 pm the day of the board meeting if questions are asked. See attached.

B. Request for Early Graduation/HSE (confidential)

C. Personnel Reports

D. 2025-2027 Lyon County Education Association Negotiated Agreement

E. IT Department Report

F. Memorandums of Understanding with Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows and Mason Valley

G. Travel

H. District Financial Report

July Vouchers #1002, 1003 and 1016, Totaling \$1,499,871.07

August Vouchers #1017, 1019, 1021, 1022, 1031, 1032, 1038, 1039 Totaling \$6,519,173.88

Trustee Farr made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Trustee Whisler seconded.

With no further discussion, the motion carried 6-0.

11. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS

Trustee Farr made a motion to accept the donations.
Trustee Whisler seconded.
With no further discussion, the motion carried 6-0.

12. **(For Possible Action)** Discussion and possible action to begin the process of policy development around AB501: Outside Education Programming. This discussion will be in conjunction with presentations from Scouting America, Girl Scouts, Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation, Nevada Division of Wildlife, Youth Outdoor Skills Camp, Walker River Bowman, Mason Valley Gun Club and 4H. This item is being presented by Board President Tom Hendrix.

Assembly Bill 501(AB501) regarding Outside Education Programming was introduced in conjunction with presentations from Scouting America, Girl Scouts, Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation, Nevada Division of Wildlife, Youth Outdoor Skills Camp, Walker River Bowman, Mason Valley Gun Club and 4H.

Garett Tamagni from the Lieutenant Governor's office who chairs the outdoor advisory committee, explained their efforts to create opportunities for students at the state level, to get kids outside and off phones and also provide school credit. Ideally organizations would sign off on the activities, giving credit for activities that teach people skills and knowledge outside school hours. The bill AB501 is broad and general regarding what would apply to the bill. One credit per high school and one per middle school is the idea and they would need reputable organizations confirming the education received. Lyon CSD would be the first district to implement the bill in the state.

Kendal Scott from the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation (NDOR) explained what her office is doing to get youth access to outdoor education activities integrated in schools to increase mental health benefits, boosting performance and engagement with learning. She spoke on other benefits.

Trustee Farr loved the intent of the bill, looking outside the box, and asked about education from a conservation stand point. Conservation activities and programming are integrated in the various opportunities. The bill is written in a broad language to allow those. Districts have the autonomy to write it into their policy.

Julie Bliss from the Nevada Department of Wildlife spoke on K-12 curriculum for educators already in place that includes skill based lessons that fit in with the language of the bill.

The trustees spoke in favor of the bill and see students finding great careers this way.

Staff members from the Nevada Area Council for Scouting, Doug Ramsay and Greg Erny endorse the idea and offer support to the state and school districts. They spoke on the multiple benefits of scouting and gave scouting challenge coins to the board.

Leah Miller from the Walker River Bowman spoke on the benefits of these kinds of clubs and experiences. They offer youth archery with 50 - 60 kids participating every week.

A Mason Valley Gun Club representative spoke on the leadership skills, learning to win and lose. He promoted the 4-H programs already built in and ready for kids.

Lyon County 4-H leader Teresa Shakely emphasized the partnership between the schools and 4-H. Their program falls under the bill's requirements for getting the credits and they provide a safe structured environment with trained certified instructors, with the ethics and real world skills. Savannah, a student at SSHA, spoke on her experience with shooting sports in 4-H and encouraged the implementation of the bill in this district. Another representative, Hillary Dashiell, spoke on the agricultural side and other benefits of student participation.

Superintendent Logan stressed that this is about credit outside regular school hours. The policy is in the works. There are still many variables to be considered.

Director Gianotti reminded the board that as these activities will be done outside the jurisdiction of the district, though scouts and others would presumably be enforcing background checks, the district would not police the outside organizations.

There was some discussion regarding the Work-Based Learning (WBL) program and how this could apply. WBL is limited to 60 hours per semester for one half credit. Making sure trainers are vetted would be part of our policy.

No action was taken. The policy for AB501 will come back to the board for consideration.

A Break was called at 8:40 pm

Public Comment for item 12 was made by Neal McIntyre II who was in favor of students getting credit for activities. He added that many times it is the parents who will sign off for their credit. He explained that NDOW has great record keeping and surveys for hunting that specify details for their tracking purposes, and he asked that these things be considered in the writing of the policy.

13. **(For Possible Action)** Discussion and possible action to begin the process of appointing an individual to fill the vacancy in the LCSD Board of Trustees District VI, per NRS 386.270 and LCSD Board Policies BBC and BBE. This item is being presented by Board President Tom Hendrix and Superintendent Tim Logan.

Per NRS 386.270 and LCSD policies BBC and BBE, Superintendent Logan asked for approval to start the process to fill the vacancy for District 6. The opportunity would be published for 2 weeks, letting the public know, and applicants would provide the required information to the district office. At the October meeting they will be interviewed with outlined questions consistent for each candidate. The appointed trustee would run for the office in the next election.

There was discussion regarding the interview questions that the board would use and what the requirements would be for the applicants. It was determined that each of the trustees will submit 3 questions each to be made into a list to use for the interviews. The board would like to see a letter of intent and a resume, both no more than 2 pages each, for each applicant.

Legal Counsel Don Lattin advised that the location of the meeting would need to be held in the area of the vacancy, in this case Sutro Elementary School, District 6.

For the interviews, the board would like to have one applicant interviewed at a time, with the others outside the room, called on alphabetically.

Candidates would have up to 3 minutes to answer each question.

Trustee Farr made a motion that the board change the location of the next board meeting (October 28, 2025) to Sutro Elementary School in Dayton District 6, to interview prospective candidates for District 6 Trustee, and proceed with the filling of the candidate and review process.

Trustee Whisler seconded.

With no further discussion, the motion carried 6-0.

14. **(For Possible Action)** Discussion and possible action regarding the School Improvement Bond Resolution. This item is being presented by Executive Director of Operations Harman Bains.

Director Bains requested approval to continue with the 2025 School Improvement Bond Resolution process. The Lyon County Debt Management Committee approved the proposal on September 15, 2025. The board had approved two separate issuances, for \$15 million each. Trustee Bull made a motion that the Board approve the resolution designated as the "2025 School Improvement Bond Resolution"; declaring the necessity of incurring a bonded indebtedness on behalf of the Lyon County School District for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving and equipping school facilities; authorizing the issuance of the Lyon County School District, Nevada, general obligation (limited tax) school improvement bonds, series 2025, in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$15,000,000; providing the terms, conditions and form of the bonds; providing other details in connection therewith; ratifying action previously taken relating thereto; and providing the effective date hereof.

Trustee Farr seconded.

With no further discussion, the motion carried 6-0.

15. **(For Possible Action)** Discussion and possible action regarding LCSD 2025-26 Restorative Discipline Plan. This item is being presented by Deputy Superintendent Stacey Griffin-Cooper.

Deputy Superintendent Griffin-Cooper spoke on the 2025-26 Restorative Discipline Plan that was developed with stakeholder input from across the district. It consists of written rules of behavior and includes provisions for conflict resolution, interventions, and provides alternative placements for students when necessary. LCSD has been recognized on a state level on the development and usage of our plan. Changes are highlighted in red. One change is the term "In school suspension" or "ISS" is being used instead of APEP, to be consistent with the state terminology.

Trustee Farr commented that there is a lot to know and there are legislative sessions that change requirements every year.

Deputy Superintendent Griffin-Cooper commented that the conversations to discuss the details and define behaviors are robust and they work to keep things consistent across the district.

President Hendrix made a motion that the Board of Trustees approve the the proposed revisions to the LCSD Restorative Discipline Plans for the 2025-2026 school year.

Trustee Parsons seconded.

With no further discussion, the motion carried 6-0.

16. **(For Possible Action)** Discussion and possible action regarding LCSD Policy EDBB: Use of Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices by Students and Employees as a first reading. This item is being presented by Board President Tom Hendrix and Board Member James Whisler.

President Hendrix opened the discussion, acknowledging the comments made earlier by the public. He spoke on the research he had done regarding the studies that have determined negative effects of allowing cell phone usage in classrooms, including distraction and lack of engagement with peers. He read that as children grow they miss important fundamental milestones in their development due to these distractions. He stressed the duty the Board has to support the students' well-being and mental health. He recognized the public comments but still believes they need to be out of the students' hands during the school day, with exceptions allowed in NRS or certain circumstances. The public had expressed concerns regarding the severity of the discipline portion. He removed the expulsion part for this reading. Now he is willing to present it without the long-term suspension.

Trustee Whisler listened to the students and other comments but mentioned that class is not the time to check the messages or use a phone, recalling the past when students went to the office to call parents when necessary. He commented on other places where schools got rid of electronic devices and went back to textbooks and scores went up. He questioned the need for parents to have immediate access to their student and brought up the problems during an emergency when the system for emergency services is overwhelmed by cell usage. Regarding the consequences in the policy revision, he liked the Silverland Middle School (SMS) plan and contract for students. He proposed having the principals present their own plans.

SMS Dean McMackin pointed out the SMS plan is the current district policy for all the schools. The current contract does not include the high schools.

Trustee Farr pointed out that this is the current policy, approved by the board, and the schools need to give it time to work.

There was discussion about how administrators and teachers are implementing the policy, the importance of administrative discretion in handling cases individually, and the possibility of revisiting the policy later if changes are needed.

Trustee Whisler admitted he was initially unaware the policy applied district-wide and now supports giving the current policy time to work, noting that teachers are handling issues appropriately and that phones are taken when necessary.

Dean McMackin explained that his research guided the development of the current policy.

Their school has worked to reduce social media use, parents have become supportive and they see improvement in student interaction. Teachers are supported by administrators, expectations are set, and they are consistent in the consequences for students.

As the students gradually grow into higher grades, they will become accustomed to the policy. There are challenges with high school students due to open campus, students with jobs, and students attending WNC classes where their phones are necessary. The possibility of a K-12 grade consistent plan to keep phones/devices out of sight might be ideal, but the logistics of implementing may be unreasonable.

Principal Ryan Cross stated that high school teachers currently use discretion, allowing phones for educational purposes. Some enforce strict "no phone" rules, while others promote appropriate, mindful use. He shared that in practice, students generally use phones appropriately during breaks and lunch, often for legitimate reasons like timekeeping and reporting hours. He noted most students cooperate and that completely banning phones is not conducive to learning.

Student Rep Jackson Hohlhonz commented that stricter measures are unreasonable and unnecessary since teachers already have the authority to restrict phones. He urged the Board to consider the perspectives presented by students, parents, and teachers as the current policy is working to keep phone use down during class times rather than remove them completely. He disagreed with the statement that students lose learning when they look at their phone.

Discussion continued by other board members who spoke earlier with principals and teachers who are not dissatisfied with the current policy. Social concerns also stem from social media use at home, controlled by parents. Schools should be a source of educating kids on appropriate use and behavior while they are in school.

President Hendrix mentioned his willingness to modify the consequences in this revision.

President Hendrix made a motion to table the proposed policy.

Trustee Farr seconded.

Public comment was made by SRO and parent, Dep. Holland. She supports a balanced, age-appropriate approach, favoring the SMS model. She noted that SafeVoice alerts occur outside of school hours, with students using phones, and emphasized the need to teach responsible use

rather than remove phones entirely.

Lyon County Association of Administrators (LCAA) Representative, Principal Duane Mattice, added that while phones can be distractions, the proposed disciplinary policy would be difficult to implement. He recommended alternative approaches such as reflective discussions with the students, parent-student conferences, progressive loss of device privileges, and digital citizenship education to promote responsible use. This letter attached to the minutes.

President Hendrix amended the motion to table the proposed policy until October 28, 2025.

Trustee Whisler seconded the amended motion.

The motion carried 6-0.

17. **(For Possible Action)** Discussion and possible action regarding the LCSD 2025-26 School Performance Plans/School Improvement Plans. This item is being presented by Deputy Superintendent Stacey Griffin-Cooper.

The 2025-26 School Improvement Plans were presented by Deputy Superintendent Griffin-Cooper. All school plans were adjusted to align with the District Performance Plan as requested by the board. The uniqueness of the individual schools' action steps are incorporated. There was debate centered around whether schools should set their own goals or adhere to district-wide targets, with Trustee Whisler and others arguing for school-specific goals while President Hendrix and others favored consistent district-wide targets. Schools that changed their goals to match may now have objectives that were not part of their initial committee's prioritized plan and may be unattainable. Discussion continued about the district goal to have 58% growth in Math and Reading versus the schools' individual growth goals.

President Hendrix made a motion that the Board approve the revisions to the LCSD School Improvement Plans for the 2025-2026 school year.

It was seconded by Trustee Parsons.

With no further discussion, the motion carried 5-1. Trustee Whisler voted nay.

18. **(For Possible Action)** Discussion and possible action regarding updates from the Fernley area school principals. This item is being presented by Fernley School Principals.

Reports were presented by Fernley Area Principals from CES, Virginia Richardson, EVES, Kent Jones, FES Assistant Principal Jennifer Bluhm, FIS Blake Cooper, SMS Assistant Principal Tammie Moniz, and FHS Ryan Cross.

19. **(For Possible Action)** Discussion and possible action regarding a report on LCSD staffing for the 2025-26 school year. This item is being presented by Executive Director of Human Resources BillieJo Hogan.

The staffing update included positions for long-term substitutes, interns, and participants in the Grow Your Own program for licensure, and the results from the exit survey were included.

Trustee Farr made a motion to approve the staffing update for the 2025-26 school year.

Trustee Parsons seconded.

With no further discussion, the motion carried 6-0.

20. **(For Possible Action)** Discussion and possible action regarding revisions to LCSD Policy GAC: Confidential Information as a first reading. This item is being presented by Executive Director of Human Resources BillieJo Hogan.

Trustee Farr made a motion to approve the next three items, policies:

GAC: Confidential Information

GBB: Fair Employment Practices

GBBC: Employee Bullying

as first readings.

President Hendrix seconded.

With no further discussion, the motion carried 6-0.

21. **(For Possible Action)** Discussion and possible action regarding revisions to LCSD Policy GBB: Fair Employment Practices as a first reading. This item is being presented by Executive Director of Human Resources BillieJo Hogan.

Approved above.

22. **(For Possible Action)** Discussion and possible action regarding revisions to LCSD Policy GBBC: Employee Bullying as a first reading. This item is being presented by Executive Director of Human Resources BillieJo Hogan.

Approved above.

23. **(For Possible Action)** Discussion and possible action on agenda items for future board meetings and/or information item requests, including a summary by the superintendent. This item is being presented by Board President Hendrix and Superintendent Tim Logan.

The next meeting of the board will be on October 28, 2025 at Sutro, noting the changed location.

Board appointment the District 6 board vacancy

Policies for second reading

EDBB for first reading

Trustee Whisler would like a presentation on the Go Guardian program.

Trustee Whisler requested a presentation regarding the Employee Relations Manager position.

24. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** At this time, the public is invited to address the Board on items over which the Board has jurisdiction or control. If you wish to speak, step up to the table, be seated, and state your name. Your comments are limited to no more than three minutes per agenda item with a maximum of ten minutes total. In consideration of others, avoid repetition or designate a spokesperson to speak on behalf of your group. Although this Board does not restrict comments based upon viewpoint, comments will be prohibited if they are willfully disruptive, slanderous, amount to personal attacks or interfere with the rights of other speakers. Comments made during this time will be monitored by the Board President. The Board will conduct public comments after each item on the agenda on which action may be taken, before the Board takes action.

Comments submitted electronically will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

Neal McIntyre II thanked the board for their work. The audio is getting better.

25. **ADJOURN:**

Adjourned at 11:34pm.

The notice for this meeting was posted on September 17, 2025, at Lyon County School District Administrative Office, Lyon County School District websites (<http://lyoncsd.org>) and the Nevada Public Notice Website (<http://notice.nv.gov>) in accordance with NRS 241.020 (3) (b).

Lyon County School District Statement of Nondiscrimination and Accessibility

The Lyon County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability or age in any of its policies, procedures, or practices, in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (pertaining to race, color, and national origin), Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and any other pertinent statute or requirement. This non-discrimination policy covers admission, access, treatment, and employment in the district's programs and activities, including occupational education. For information regarding opportunity policies, or the filing of grievances, contact your school principal.

The Lyon County School District is pleased to provide accommodations for the handicapped or disabled. Members of the public who are disabled and require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting are requested to notify the administrative assistant to the superintendent and board of trustees, in writing at 25 E. Goldfield Avenue, Yerington, Nevada 89447; e-mail at mheim@lyoncsd.org; or by calling (775) 463-6800 ext. 10034, at least one week prior to the meeting.

Dear Members of the Board,

My name is Duane Mattice and I am speaking on behalf of the LCAA. I am speaking on agenda item 16. We want to thank you for your continued support and partnership as we work together to create the best possible learning environment for our students. We recognize and agree that cell phones are a major distraction in schools, and we appreciate the board's commitment to addressing this issue.

At the same time, we would like to share several concerns about the proposed progressive discipline policy related to cell phone use. Specifically:

- **Use of Suspension as an Initial Step:** We are concerned that school suspension is listed as a first step in the discipline process. We believe suspension should not be used at the onset, as it removes students from valuable instructional time and is not the most effective means of addressing the issue.
- **Staffing and Capacity:** Logistically, our schools do not have the resources (staffing, space, etc.) needed to manage the potential increase in students assigned to in-school suspension. This creates significant operational challenges and could reduce our ability to provide support in other critical areas.
- **Inconsistency with Other Offenses:** The severity of this policy is stricter than the consequences currently outlined for more serious offenses, such as bullying and physical altercations. We believe this imbalance could send an unintended message to students about the relative seriousness of these behaviors. This includes the use of long term suspensions.
- **Confiscation of Personal Property:** The proposed policy to hold a student's phone for up to five days raises substantial concerns. Cell phones are student and parent property, not school property, and retaining them for an extended period introduces questions of liability for loss, damage, or misuse.

In light of these concerns, we encourage the board to consider alternatives that align more closely with restorative practices. Rather than relying on exclusionary discipline, restorative approaches can redirect behavior, preserve relationships, and teach responsibility. Some possible alternatives include:

- **Reflective Conversations or Restorative Circles:** Students reflect on their phone use and its impact on learning, either one-on-one with a staff member or in a facilitated group.

- **Parent-Student Conferences:** Parents are promptly engaged in the conversation to reinforce expectations and encourage consistent messaging at home and school.
- **Restorative Tasks:** Students may complete a reflection sheet, assist with a school responsibility, or participate in a learning activity that connects their choices to classroom expectations.
- **Progressive Loss of Privileges:** Instead of confiscating devices for multiple days, consider short-term collection (end of school day), limiting use during non-instructional times, or requiring students to check in their phones during the day if misuse persists.
- **Skill-Building Supports:** Offering digital citizenship lessons or guided discussions on healthy technology use can provide students with tools to make better choices.

We believe these strategies not only address the distraction of cell phones but also preserve instructional time, reduce strain on school resources, and foster student growth and accountability.

We respectfully ask the board to reconsider elements of this policy to ensure that it is practical, equitable, and aligned with the seriousness of other disciplinary measures. We strongly support efforts to limit cell phone distractions, but we also want to ensure that the discipline framework is fair, sustainable, and manageable for schools.

Thank you again for your dedication to our students and for considering these concerns as you move forward with policy decisions. We remain committed to working collaboratively toward solutions that best serve our students and school community.

Public Comment

Cary Dyer

Subject of Comment

Cell Phone Policy

Your Public Comment

I am writing today, to ask you to re-consider the cell phone policy that has been proposed and is in front of the Board on Tuesday September 23, 2025. My biggest problem is the issue of expulsion on the 5th time!!! Kids that are caught with drugs on school campus aren't even expelled. Even vape pens, cigarettes, etc don't get kids expelled. Kids are purchasing urine to pass drug tests for sports, yet you're considering expelling a student for a cell phone? This is absolutely ridiculous.

Personally, I feel students need cell phones in their possession at all times. To many things can happen in schools and the world now days to where the students should have access to contacting their parents if need be at any time. My daughter has something written in her 504 plan due to her medical diagnosis and medications. However, If she didn't, I would still be sending this email.

Please, please, please, re-consider this proposal, maybe work with teachers, student government in each school and parents to come up with a reasonable proposal.

First Name

Lea

Last Name

Sencion

Subject

Teacher Comments

Public Comment:

Thank you for your time, my name is Lea Sencion, I have 3 children all in the Yerington area. I currently have one that WAS enrolled in [REDACTED] science class and I'm disgusted by the comments that she made on a Facebook post about Charlie Kirk being killed.

Yes they've been removed, and an apology was made, but that still doesn't change what was said.

I've been in touch with Elmer Bull, and expressed my frustration and disgust, that this teacher is in our school, and making a reputation that I know is NOT Yerington Intermediate School.

I have went to the Intermediate school and met with Mr. Gillespie and Mrs. Pope. They're both absolutely amazing, and removed my son out of that class, as requested. I hope that something other than a slap on the hand will happen, and more are aware of this situation.

I also reached out to Mr Workman, expressing my concern and frustration as well.

I think it's unfair that I've had to remove my child from the classroom, rather than her being removed form the school.

It was just before 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, that Becky Van Der Walt received a text message from her son that no parent wants to receive.



"I think there's a school shooting," Van Der Walt's son, Henry, a junior at [Apalachee High School](#) in Winder, Georgia, wrote, according to text messages shared with ABC News. "We heard gunshots and the police shouting ... We're all in hard lockdown."

Around eight minutes later, Henry sent another text to his mom with three simple words, "I love you."

"School shooting rn .. i'm scared," Ethan, the high school student, wrote to his mom. "pls i'm not joking."

When Clark responded that she was leaving work, Ethan, too, responded with just three words: " I love you."

Sonya Turner was home for less than an hour Wednesday after dropping off her 15-year-old daughter at Apalachee High School when she too got a worrisome text.

"There's a real lockdown," Turner's daughter Abby, a sophomore, wrote to her mom from biology class. "idk how to explain it ... i heard shots but i don't anymore."

+ 'I had so much fear': Students recount shooting at Georgia's Apalachee High School

While Abby and her fellow classmates were texting their parents Wednesday morning, not knowing what would happen, a 14-year-old student had allegedly [opened fire](#) at Apalachee High, killing four people and injuring nine.

The 14-year-old student accused of opening fire at the school has been charged with four counts of felony murder, with additional charges

3:30

LTE



Dad >



Wed, Sep 10 at 1:26 PM

You should bring me food when you come to pick up Tori

Your practice is canceled

Wait what for the hs?

Yes your coaches dad got rushed to the hospital

Oh no

1:48

LTE



2 People

Fri, Sep 5 at 12:04 PM

Tori



Can I stay for the volleyball game for concessions

Dad



Yes

Tori



Okay thank you



Sami said she can stay so you don't have to worry about it if you want

Dad



Ok



What time is it over



Just a heads up this last minute asking won't happen again

Tori



I know im sorry I didn't know im trying to get a schedule ill have one Monday

Dad



K

1:47

LTE



2 People >

Tue, Sep 9 at 12:24 PM

Tori



Sami has practice today at the elementary school do you want me to go with her or are you picking me up?

Tue, Sep 9 at 2:03 PM

Dad



Yes

Tori



Wdym yes?

Dad



Stay there

Tori



Figured

Dad



What time is practice over

Tori



4:30

Dad



K

Thursday 12:59 PM

Dad



Tori are you staying or do you want me to come get you? I think **Sami** has practice tonight

Tori



Staying

Dear Mr. Hendrix and Mr. Whisler,

I am writing to you out of concern for the board's upcoming decision on the district's cell phone policy. For transparency, although I do work for Lyon County School District as an MTSS Coordinator who specializes in behavior and mental health, I am NOT writing to you in a work capacity, but rather as a *concerned constituent, parent, and community member*.

I do not disagree that student phone use can be a major classroom distraction and I would agree that putting phones away is a good idea. The Institute of Education Sciences (n.d.) discuss the current research and found “the mere presence of cellphones reduces available cognitive capacity” and “students whose smartphones were physically removed during class had higher levels of course comprehension, lower levels of anxiety, and higher levels of mindfulness.” They also note there are “specific benefits ... regarding cell phone usage by students experiencing trauma. Cell phones... when used appropriately... can enhance student engagement, improve motivation, support collaborative activities, and increase communication between the student and teacher.” Also, Boston Children's Digital Wellness Lab (2024) note that the research demonstrates “students... use phones much like adults do- they review their schedules, plan their days, and coordinate with friends, family, and co-workers.” They point out the majority of notifications appear to be from parental control apps. Many parents report their students have cell phones specifically for use in school emergency situations.

Stokel-Walker (2024) after a review of international studies found no significant correlation between a cell phone ban and academic performance. Similarly Weis and Bonell (2025) found “no evidence that school phone policies were associated with improved mental wellbeing, anxiety, depression, problematic social media use, sleep health... physical activity or educational attainment.” They hypothesized that students compensated for lack of screen time outside of the school environment and this led to negative impacts on mental health.

While I agree with limiting the use of student cell phone use during class, I believe this is best accomplished with teaching students rather than harsh punishments. If we want to teach students that class time is valuable and there is a need for them to focus, then it seems counterproductive to remove students long term from their learning environments. What are they learning? How will this lack of instruction limit their opportunities in the larger community?

Michael Rich, an associate professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, who has been studying the issue with the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) since 2011. As a result of his work with the ATA, he stands somewhere between the pro and anti sides of the argument. “The way we approached it, ultimately, is not about blocking smartphones and their use but about looking at the educational task at hand,” Rich says. He envisages using phone-locking devices for most of the school day and taking phones out only at select times—at which point children will be educated about how to use them in a way that will reinforce a positive relationship with their

devices. “We don't just toss kids into wood shop with all the power tools and say ‘Have at it,’” Rich says. “We teach them how to use them responsibly and carefully—and use them in productive ways.” It’s a pragmatic approach, he reckons. “Smartphones are, at least at the moment, for the foreseeable future, a reality of all of our existence,” he says. “Why not overtly teach them how to use these?” (Stokel-Walker, 2024).

I respectfully request that the Board convene a Guiding Coalition of stakeholders (administrators, teachers, students, families, and community members) to delve into all the nuances involved in cell phone policy, including unintended consequences, before engaging with consequences which may cause more harm than value.

Tammy Roseberry

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