

**NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Campos, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pahrump Valley High School (PVHS) Choir, under the direction of Dr. Gooch, performed a selection of musical pieces, including a rendition of the National Anthem.

WELCOME

Mrs. Campos welcomed everyone to the Board of Trustees meeting.

RECOGNITIONS

Mrs. Weir commended Dr. Gooch and the PVHS Choir for their performances, as well as Mrs. Dabrowski's art students for their numerous contest wins. Additionally, Ms. Mary Ardoin (PVHS) was recognized for attaining National Board Certification.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Leslie Campos, Vice President; David Harris, Clerk; Larry Small, Member; and Robert White, Member.

Chelsy Fischer, Member, joined the meeting via teleconference at 6:25 p.m.

Absent: Nathan Gent, Member.

Executive Cabinet/District Office staff in attendance: Joe Gent, Superintendent; Laura Weir, Assistant Superintendent; Assistant Superintendent; Genoveva Lopez Angelo; Michelle "Chelle" Wright, Human Resources Director; Brian Kunzi, Legal Counsel; Nate Cardinal, Director of Maintenance Operations, Safety, and Security; Robert Williams, Director of Technology; Justin Deverse, Assistant Director of Technology; and Iliana Garcia, Executive Assistants.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

No change.

GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Hodge emphasized the critical importance of student safety. He inquired about existing district protocols for shelter-in-place scenarios during national emergencies and requested clarification on the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) regarding the chain of command. Furthermore, Mr. Hodge advocated for enhanced security measures, noting the fundamental responsibility of the Board to protect the student body.

ACCEPTANCE OF AREA III TRUSTEE RESIGNATION AND DECLARATION OF VACANCY. FURTHER, THE BOARD WILL DIRECT DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION TO BEGIN THE RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR THE NYE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT III, PURSUANT TO NRS 386.270

The Board considered the resignation of Area III Trustee and President Bryan Wulfenstein. Mrs. Campos noted that the resignation letter was received on March 2nd and expressed the Board's appreciation for his service.

Mr. Small made a motion to accept the resignation, declared the vacancy, and directed the administration to begin the recruitment and appointment process for NCSD Area III. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 4-0.

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION REGARDING BOARD REORGANIZATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Small made a motion to nominate Mrs. Campos as President, Mr. White as Vice President, and Mr. Harris as Clerk. Mr. Harris seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the February 19, 2026, minutes
- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the February 19, 2026, Closed Session minutes
- Second Reading NCSD Policies and Regulations 6147, 6148, 5030, 5557, 5557R
- Approval of Perkins Reserve Grant, CTE State Competitive, and Early Childhood Literacy & Readiness Programs Grant.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Small seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 4-0.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Assistant Superintendent Genoveva Lopez-Angelo introduced Principal Desiree Veloz and the PVHS administrative team. Principal Veloz outlined the school's "People First: Learning for All" initiative and the goal to increase credit sufficiency to 90% via the PLC process. She highlighted data and progress, which included Engagement: 75% climate survey completion rate and direct student lunch-period outreach, Discipline: Significant reduction in events from 833 last year to 185 this semester, Academics: NWEA data shows positive growth trends, and Attendance: Chronic absenteeism increased by 6%; over 300 students currently have excessive tardies. Future Action: The school is collaborating with Dr. Weaver's office to refine attendance and truancy intervention systems. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Weir and Mrs. Lopez-Angelo presented the Q3 updates, highlighting progress in Instructional Alignment: Alignment to essential standards rose to 94.1% (a 5.2% quarterly increase). Assessment Planning: The district selected iReady for K-8 and is developing a long-range assessment plan through the 2028-2029 school year. Onboarding & Support: New hire surveys indicated 81.25% satisfaction. Areas for growth include specialized training in crisis management and technical systems. Operations & Engagement: Mrs. Weir noted that 100% of schools held family engagement events. While engagement is high, 33% of respondents expressed a desire for improved operational efficiency. Facilities & Security: Progress continues on site audits and custodial repairs, with the summer facilities improvement plan now underway.

Mr. Cardinal reported that construction at Tonopah Elementary continues, with gutter installation and drainage preparation currently in progress. Feedback from the recent walk-through was overwhelmingly positive. The Sports Complex project goes to bid next month, with Board approval targeted for June or July. HVAC Hafen Elementary Units are on order; installation is

planned for Spring Break (pending delivery) to prepare for summer. HVA: Hazard Vulnerability Assessments are complete for northern schools; southern schools are scheduled for May. Amargosa Water Treatment, Day Engineering has submitted a new PER on March 4; to the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, which is currently being reviewed. Discussion ensued.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Gent provided an update regarding District safety protocols and stakeholder engagement. He reaffirmed that school emergency plans are maintained with strict confidentiality pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), with distribution restricted to law enforcement and authorized contractors. Additionally, Dr. Gent highlighted the District’s commitment to active listening and relationship building, noting that the Extended Cabinet was established to ensure staff perspectives inform leadership decisions. He confirmed that all staff suggestions undergo thorough evaluation. Finally, in collaboration with the Nye County Sheriff’s Office, the District is addressing traffic concerns through planned landscaping modifications and coordination with local HOAs to optimize student drop-off and pickup procedures. Discussion ensued.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mr. Small reported on a collaborative review meeting of the restorative justice and discipline plans. Following productive stakeholder feedback, Dr. Weaver will present the formalized 2026–2027 plan at a future meeting. He also reminded trustees of the upcoming Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) training on Saturday, March 21st. And gave a reminder regarding the upcoming May graduation ceremonies and related logistical deadlines.

Mrs. Fischer expressed appreciation to Dr. Gent for his leadership of the Teacher Advisory Committee (TAC), specifically noting the successful transition toward prioritizing teacher perspectives in new initiatives. Additionally, she announced that Amargosa Valley Schools will host their first Art Sidewalk event on Thursday, April 2, 2026.

Mr. White reported on his recent activities and upcoming engagements. He participated as a judge for the Amargosa Science Fair, served as a guest reader at J.G. Johnson Elementary for Reading Week, and attended the walk-through at Tonopah Elementary. He also attended a roundtable discussion with Congressman Horsford at Great Basin College and participated in a meeting regarding the District’s Restorative Justice initiatives. He will attend the Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) conference over the weekend and is scheduled to meet with the Nevada State Superintendent on Monday, March 23rd.

Mr. Harris reported site visits to Floyd Elementary, Round Mountain Schools, Beatty Schools, and PVHS to consult with staff and administration. He participated in Reading Week, attended the Tonopah Elementary walk-through, and delivered a commendation to PVHS. While also attending the inaugural PVHS boys’ volleyball game, the staff-student volleyball event, and Key Club. He participated in the Teacher Advisory Committee (TAC), a Restorative Justice meeting by phone, and the School-to-Work workshop. Lastly, he met with the Eureka County Superintendent regarding educational trends and collaborated with District leadership on organizational priorities.

Mrs. Campos reported on her participation in Reading Week, during which she served as a guest reader at J.G. Johnson and Tonopah Elementary schools.

Q1-Q2 CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM & TRUANCY UPDATE

Dr. Weaver presented a formal report on District attendance data and intervention strategies, highlighting that chronic absenteeism is defined under NRS 392.130 as a student missing 10% or more of the school year. Truancy is defined as an unexcused absence of one or more days, while "habitual truancy" occurs after three such events. Data Trends: A three-year analysis of Nevada school districts indicates a positive statewide trend toward lower absenteeism. The District's chronic absenteeism rate decreased from 37.8% in 2021–22 to 27.2% in 2024–25, which is currently below the approximate district average of 28.8%. Truancy Reduction: Total District truancy events saw a significant decline from 12,938 in 2023–24 to 5,843 as of March 2026. Higher truancy rates at the secondary level, specifically at Rosemary Clark Middle School and District high schools, are attributed to strict period-by-period attendance tracking. Habitual truancy triggers formal District hearings involving administrators, parents, and students to discuss instructional impacts and consequences. The District conducted 243 hearings in 2024–25 and has held 123 in the current 2025–26 academic year as of March 4. If truancy continues post-hearing, schools file a Truancy Crime Report, which leads to citations and referrals to Juvenile Probation. Leadership emphasized early intervention to prevent legal escalation, noting that consistent attendance is a critical indicator for 3rd-grade reading proficiency and timely graduation. Discussion ensued.

PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL TO IMPLEMENT A UNIVERSAL MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

Laura Weir shared that the board was directed several years ago to implement the Hope Squad program at middle and high schools, which has been successful. Leadership identified a need for a more comprehensive approach to mental health. Mrs. Weir presented and recommended Erica's Lighthouse, a four-pillar program funded by private donors that focuses on "culture change" and depression literacy for all students. Transitioning to Erica's Lighthouse would eliminate the current \$14,900 annual platform fee and additional advisor training costs associated with Hope Squad, as the proposed program is provided at no cost. The proposal shifts the focus from crisis intervention by a peer-nominated group to universal mental health education for the entire student body. Mrs. Weir clarified that the initiative would be presented to school administrators prior to the end of the current school year to prepare for a potential rollout in the 2026–2027 academic year. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Campos expressed the need for all trustees to have a voice and tabled this item for the April Board Meeting.

J.G. JOHNSON ES, MANSE ES, BEATTY HS, TONOPAH HS, & NYE COMMUNITIES COALITION 2026 NCSD COOLER/FREEZER REPLACEMENT a. DISCUSS THE BID RESPONSES RECEIVED FOR THE SUMMER 2026 NCSD COOLER/FREEZER REPLACEMENT PROJECT, b. AWARD THE CONSTRUCTION BID FROM AMERICAN SOUTHWEST ELECTRIC AS THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE BIDDER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,154,884 OR c. REJECT BIDS AND PROVIDE DIRECTIONS TO STAFF ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT

Mr. Cardinal presented a funding request for the replacement of original cooler and freezer units at J.G. Johnson Elementary, Manse Elementary, Beatty High School, Tonopah High School, and the Nye Communities Coalition. The existing units have reached the end of their operational life, characterized by failed doors and significant ice and moisture accumulation. It was determined that replacing the entire units is more fiscally responsible than attempting costly repairs on

failing equipment. Construction would be scheduled to be completed during the summer to minimize operational disruptions. While three bids were received, American Southwest Electric in the amount of \$1,154,884.00 was the lowest responsive bidder.

Mr. White made the motion to award the bid to American Southwest Electric in the amount of \$1,154,884.00. Mr. Harris seconded, and a motion passed with a vote all in favor 5-0.

AWARD BID FOR PURCHASE OF 155 ASUS CHROMEBOOK PLUS CX34 DEVICES TO Y&S TECHNOLOGIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1109,740.00 AS THE LOWEST, RESPONSIBLE QUOTE

Mr. Williams proposed for possible action to award a bid for the purchase of 155 ASUS Chromebook Plus CX34 devices to Y&S Technologies in the amount of \$109,740.00 as the lowest responsible quote.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the bid Y&S Technologies in the amount of \$109,740.00. Mrs. Fischer seconded, and the motion passed with a vote. all in favor 5-0.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:04 PM, Mrs. Campos 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 8:21 PM.

RATIFICATION OF THE NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NYE COUNTY SUPPORT STAFF ORGANIZATION (NCSO) AND THE NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (NCSD)

Mrs. Wright asked for approval of the ratification of the Negotiated Agreement between the Nye County Support Staff Organization (NCSO) and the Nye County School District, effective for the 2025–2027 contract term.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the ratified negotiated agreement for the Nye County Support Staff and NCSD. Mr. Small seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor 5-0.

REQUEST APPROVAL FOR 2025-2026 & 2026-2027 NON-REPRESENTED SALARY SCHEDULES

Mrs. Wright asked for the Board’s approval of the nonrepresented salary schedules for 2025–2026 and 2026–2027.

Mr. Small made a motion to approve the non-represented salary schedules for 2025–2026 and 2026–2027. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor 5-0.

DISCUSSION OF NEVADA ASSEMBLY BILL 501 AND HOW IT APPLIES TO THE NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mr. Harris presented an overview of Nevada Assembly Bill 501, which addresses elective credits for outdoor activities: The bill proposes allowing students to earn elective credits toward graduation through participation in designated outdoor activities. Board discussion noted that the framework appears similar to existing policies that waive Physical Education requirements or

grant credit for interscholastic sports. The item was brought forward by a teacher in Round Mountain, specifically regarding the bill's potential impact on the high school trap shooting team and how it might facilitate credit acquisition for those student-athletes. Discussion ensued.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF THE NCSD WARRANTS:

Mr. Small made a motion to approve the warrants. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor 5-0.

DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE BOARD MEETING TOPICS:

Mr. Small requested the following items be considered for future discussion or action: A review and potential reorganization of current Board committee assignments; An informational report regarding the specific training protocols and requirements for campus monitors; and the development of a formal plan of action to propose the establishment of a District Truancy Officer position.

Mr. White would like to see a topic on cursive writing.

Mrs. Fischer is working on a spelling topic for K-3rd grade.

Mrs. Campos would like to have more student engagement at future Board meetings.

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

None.

GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

8:52 PM

By _____

David Harris, Clerk