

Douglas County School District Attendance Committee Meeting

Airport Training Center
1126 Airport Road Building G-1
Minden, NV 89423

Tuesday, May 7, 2024
4:00 PM

Agenda

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comment #1

Public comment will be taken during this agenda item regarding any item appearing on the agenda. A sign-up sheet is provided and individuals may address the committee by indicating their desire to speak and the topic about which they will speak. The committee reserves the right to limit the amount of time that will be allowed for each individual to speak. (The time allotted is nontransferable for each speaker.) The committee is precluded from acting on items raised during Public Comment that are not already on the agenda. No action may be taken on a matter discussed under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken. Public Comment #2 will provide an opportunity for public comment on any matter within the Committee's jurisdiction, control, or advisory authority. The Nevada Open Meeting Law prohibits the discussion of the character, conduct, or competency of any person without proper notice being given to that person.

3. Review and Approval of April 2, 2024, Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action) 3

4. Work Session (*Information, Discussion and for Possible Action*)

A. Welcome

B. Discussion of chronic absenteeism and brainstorm strategies to reduce the chronic absenteeism rate 6

5. Public Comment #2

Public comment will be taken during this agenda item on any matter within the Council's jurisdiction, control, or advisory authority. No action may be taken on a matter discussed under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken. A sign-up sheet is provided and individuals may address the committee by indicating their desire to speak and the topic about which they will speak. The committee reserves the right to limit the amount of time that will be allowed for each individual to speak. (The time allotted is nontransferable for each speaker.) The committee is precluded from acting on items raised during Public Comment that are not already on the agenda. No action may be taken on a matter discussed under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken. The Nevada Open Meeting Law prohibits the discussion of the character, conduct, or competency of any person without proper notice being given to that person.

6. Adjourn

7. Notice

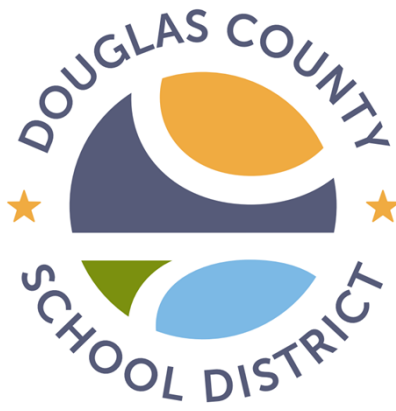
Notice to Individuals with Disabilities:

Members of the public who require special assistance or accommodations at a public meeting are asked to notify

the District Administration at 1638 Mono Avenue, Minden, Nevada, 89423, or by calling 782-5134, so that such notification is received at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting. If copies of the complete agenda (and supporting materials) are desired in advance, they may be obtained at the District Office prior to the meeting. Please contact Tandy Erickson at 775-782-5134 or terickso@dcsd.k12.nv.us. Communication with the Committee as a unit may be either in writing, by personal appearance at a committee meeting, or by verbal communication through the District Superintendent.

In conformance with the Open Meeting Law, it is hereby noted that the agenda for the Douglas County School District Public Meeting has been posted at the following locations:

- Douglas County School District Office, Minden, NV
- District website: www.dcsd.k12.nv.us
- State website: <https://notice.nv.gov/>



**Douglas County School District
Attendance Committee Meeting**

Airport Training Center

April 2, 2024

4:00 PM

DRAFT

Minutes

4/2/2024

Minutes

PRESENT:

Trustees:

Susan Jansen, Board Member

Linda Gilkerson, Board Member

Personnel:

Jeannie Dwyer, Superintendent

Shannon Brown, Director, Education Services

Jodi Burks, DHS Attendance Clerk

John Meyer, SRO

Sandra Granucci, DHS Social Worker

Judith Lombard, DHS, Vice Principal

Sonia Alvarado-Lyons, GES, Secretary 1

Veronica Griffith, JVES Vice President

Parent/Student Representatives:

Jessica Brady, CCMES Parent

Kody Hathaway, DHS, Student

Madelynn Kennedy, DHS, Student

Ivan Euceda Bernales, DHS, Student

Meeting minutes are created and provided to the public in accordance with NRS 241.035. They are not a word-for-word transcript of the meeting. Audio and video of some meetings are maintained on the district website for public review.

1. Call to Order

Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comment #1

Mr. Brown called for public comment. There was none.

3. Review of January 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Linda Gilkerson made a motion to approve the minutes from January 17, 2024 and it was seconded by Judith Lombard

4. Work Session

A. Welcome, Introductions

Mr. Brown led the introductions of committee members.

B. Douglas High School Attendance Presentation

Presentation was given by Ivan Euceda Bernales

Ivan went over the 3 types of absenteeism: Approved, Occasional and Chronic and the causes of any absences: bad grades, bullying and caring for family members, difficulties with housing and food, mental or emotional health, illness, parents giving excuses and extracurricular activities. Mr. Brown asked if the summaries are general reasons and not specific to DHS and Ivan said they are not specific to DHS.

Some solutions that the students gave are:

- Athletes show for every class on game day
- Follow through on rules by administration
- Make attendance reward
- Revoking driver's license
- Preparing an informational seminar for parents/staff to educate them

Judith Lombard said that some of this is already being implemented at DHS

Ivan is also working on a survey for students so he can collect more data. Some of the questions are:

- What makes you absent from school?
- What actually makes you absent from school?
- What makes you stay at school?
- What do you dislike about this school?

Ivan said he has asked about 15 students. He will work on asking more students to get more data. Ivan feels that students will be more honest with a student giving a survey instead of an administrator. It was suggested by committee members that a box with a voluntary survey be available at school sites. It was also suggested having a raffle to make it more appealing for students to want to participate in the survey.

C. Discussion of District Absence Number and Categories

Mr. Brown shared district data and attendance codes for each school site. The committee spoke again about revoking license as a consequence. It was asked why the lake schools have such a high number of absenteeism. The committee discussed that it might be due to the 4-day schedule. Madelyn Kennedy suggested it was due to sports. Sonia Alvarado-Lyons suggested to give all students in sports 5th period PE so they won't miss class. Discussion about absent codes and inconsistencies between school seems to be an issue. There was discussion about Spanish speaking parents being afraid to call in. It was suggested that schools hire more Spanish speaking helpers and maybe ask Spanish speaking student to assist.

D. Discussion of Current Attendance Incentives at School Sites

Veronica Griffith gave a presentation about the attendance incentive at JVES. They keep track of student's attendance monthly and each grade has a chance to win for that month. Winners are announced using graphs and percentages to educate students. Students are rewarded with popcorn because it smells good and gets the kids attention. They also have a 15-minute fun time. When a class has perfect attendance, they put a shoe poster outside of the classroom and this helps bring awareness along with a shout out in the school newsletter. She hopes to display it better for the parents and students to see. Brag tags are awarded for academics and attendance. JVES talks to students about being their own advocate and getting to school when they can. Veronica showed data that confirmed attendance has improved.

Per Jeannie Dwyer CCMES has also implemented some of these same techniques and it has really improved attendance.

Committee discussed incentives for High School Students and suggested that be a question on the survey. One example of an award for DHS and GWHS was a parking space.

E. Root Cause Presentation

Shannon presented a video on Root Causes and the 5 whys. It explains what a great tool it is when looking for solutions. Jansen wants to Focus on chronic absenteeism and focus on the root of the problem. It was discussed that the 5 Whys be used to help with Ivan's survey and duplicate that out to other schools. The committee also

discussed having 2 surveys. One specific to elementary and the other to secondary schools. Judith suggested that part of the reason is because they don't value school when they can do the work from home.

5. Public Comment #2

Marty Swisher suggested meeting with families that have chronic absenteeism to address the issues that they might have. He also thought the survey should go out to both elementary and secondary. Mr. Swisher said that in past practice at DHS, if a student did not attend school the day of the game then they did not participate in that game. Mr. Swisher asked if parents have access to their child's attendance in Infinite Campus and suggested that it might be helpful for parents to see what their child attendance percentage is.

6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:39

The next meeting will be on May 7th 4:00

Approved:

Shannon Brown
Executive Director, Education Services

Submitted by:

Tandy Erickson
Secretary, Education Services



Attendance Committee Strategy Design

May 7, 2024

What We Saw (Research)

<https://www.vox.com/2024/1/9/23904542/chronic-absenteeism-school-attendance>

<https://www.attendanceworks.org/>

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2024/01/15/has-school-become-optional>

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/03/29/us/chronic-absences.html>

<https://www.edutopia.org/search?query=Chronic%20absenteeism>

What stood out? What was interesting? What does the research say about chronic absenteeism?

Discuss with your group and record your thoughts on the Design Template poster.



Our Needs (Empathy)

In your group discuss the specific needs within the DCSD community with regard to improving chronic absenteeism.

- **What are our numbers?**
- **Does anything stand out at different grade levels?**
- **Where do you see our needs right now?**



Problem Statement (Define the Problem)

_____ need _____ because _____.

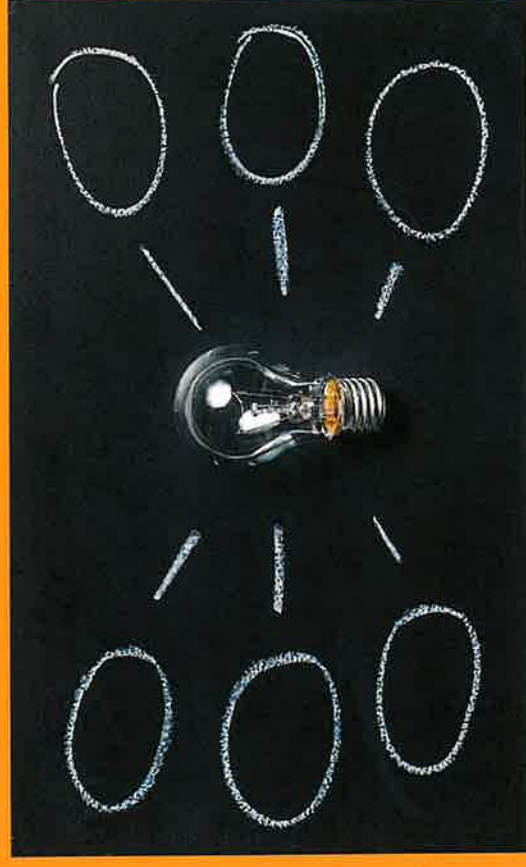
9

Example: DCSD needs to decrease the number of students who are chronically absent because students who are not attending school on a regular basis may have negative impacts on their academic performance.



Brainstorm Ideas (Ideate)

This is where your group gets to really get creative! There is no thing as a “bad brainstorm” so share your ideas and get a list of multiple ideas going on your poster. No idea is too crazy!!!



Prototype

Select one idea from your brainstorm list and think about how to build it out.

- **What might it look like in action?**
- **Think about how this idea starts and how it ends.**

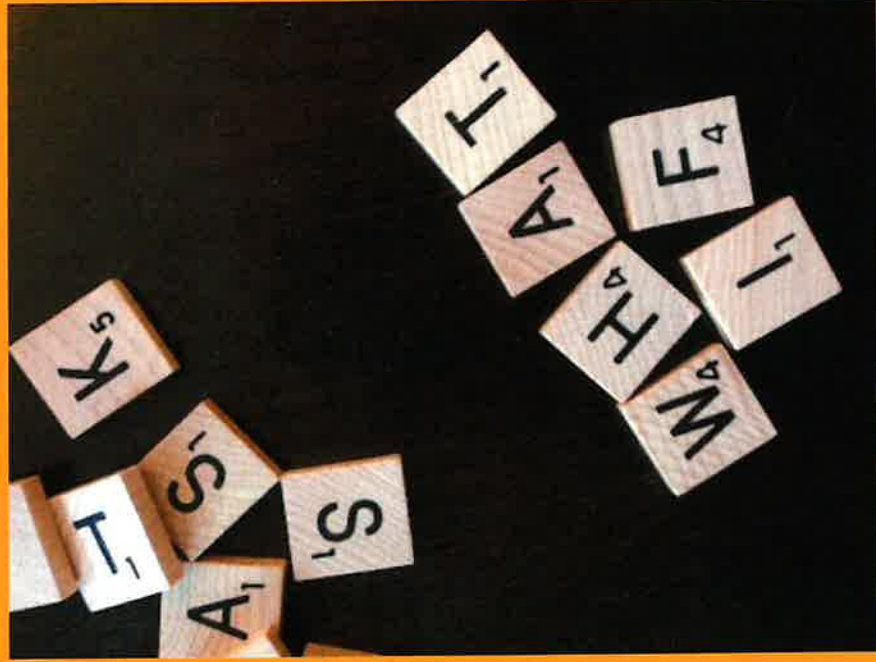


Resources

- What human resources and physical resources would help?
- Who is not in the room that should be?



Outcomes (Short and Long Term)



Think of an “if___ then___” statement

