



**NEVADA LEGISLATURE**  
**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**  
*(Nevada Revised Statutes 218E.605)*

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

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The first meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education for the 2017–2018 Interim was held on Thursday, January 18, 2018, at 12 p.m. in Room 4401, Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 3138, Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

The agenda, minutes, meeting materials, and video or audio recording of the meeting are available on the Committee's [meeting page](#). In addition, copies of the audio or video record are available through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (e-mail: [publications@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:publications@lcb.state.nv.us); telephone: 775/684-6835) and may also be available at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Granicus/>.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:**

Senator Moises (Mo) Denis, Chair  
Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson, Vice Chair  
Senator Donald (Don) G. Gustavson  
Senator Patricia (Pat) Spearman  
Senator Joyce Woodhouse  
Assemblywoman Brittney Miller

**COMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:**

Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson

**COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:**

Assemblywoman Jill Tolles

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:**

Kelly S. Richard, Senior Principal Policy Analyst, Research Division  
Jen Sturm, Senior Policy Analyst, Research Division  
Asher A. Killian, Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division  
Karly O’Krent, Senior Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division  
Julie Waller, Senior Program Analyst, Fiscal Division  
Jaimarie Dagdagan, Program Analyst, Fiscal Division  
Christina Harper, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division

*Items taken out of sequence during the meeting have been placed in agenda order.*

## **AGENDA ITEM I—CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Denis called the meeting to order.

## **AGENDA ITEM II—OPENING REMARKS**

Chair Denis welcomed members, presenters, and the public to the first meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education. He reviewed general meeting and testimony guidelines.

## **AGENDA ITEM III—PUBLIC COMMENT**

Pat Hickey, Executive Director, Charter School Association of Nevada, presented information regarding the charter school partnership with local school districts and improving Nevada's educational process ([Agenda Item III A](#)).

Elisa Cafferata, Principal and Owner, Cafferata & Company and CTL Computers (CTL), introduced Nevada Ready 21, a one-to-one digital learning initiative, whereby CTL will provide computers, educational strategy tools, and professional develop to prepare Nevada's students with twenty-first century skills.

Raymond Bacon, Executive Director, Nevada Manufacturers Association, submitted testimony relating to career and technology education (CTE) programs and the shortage of CTE teachers ([Agenda Item III B](#)).

John S. Haynal, Principal, Dr. C. Owen Roundy Elementary School, Vegas Verdes Elementary School, and Elaine Wynn Elementary School ("Franchise" elementary schools), Clark County School District (CCSD), stated two of these schools attribute their success and growth to the receipt of intervention resources. He urged the Committee to consider a gradual exit plan for schools receiving intervention resources to allow time for the schools to find a funding mechanism to maintain those resources.

Kelly Grondahl, Assistant Principal, Vegas Verdes Elementary School, CCSD, testified as to the success of Vegas Verdes Elementary School due to the receipt of Victory School funding. He outlined, with the loss of the Victory School funding, the continued work to adjust the school's budget to maintain programs for continued growth and success.

**AGENDA ITEM IV—PRESENTATION CONCERNING THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES’ INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION STUDY GROUP AND ITS REPORT TITLED, *NO TIME TO LOSE: HOW TO BUILD A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION SYSTEM STATE BY STATE***

Joyce Woodhouse, Senate District No. 5, provided opening remarks on the work of the National Conference of State Legislatures’ (NCSL) International Education Study Group. She stated there are clear steps the United States can take to reverse the trend of our students falling further and further behind in the *No Time to Lose: How to Build a World-Class Education System State by State* report ([Agenda Item IV A-1](#)).

Michelle Exstrom, Group Director, Education Program, NCSL, outlined information on how to build a world-class education system ([Agenda Item IV A-2](#)) along with the *No Time to Lose: How to Build a World-Class Education System State by State* report ([Agenda Item IV A-1](#)).

Marc S. Tucker, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Center on Education and the Economy, presented information on the process for Nevada to compete with the best education systems in the world ([Agenda Item IV B](#)).

Discussion ensued among Committee members and Mr. Tucker on the following issues:

- The gap analysis of the nine building blocks’ specific policies and practices and what Nevada is doing with respect to those policies and practices;
- The correlation between education funding, the quality of education, and how to organize the educational system;
- The range of education funding across the United States;
- Salaries for educational personnel;
- The administrative and teacher architecture system;
- Extracurricular activities being part of the whole curriculum, as done in other counties, as well as funding for early education and daycare to support families;
- Student diversity and class size;
- Student behavior, classroom management, and family engagement; and
- Educating the whole student.

## **AGENDA ITEM V—OVERVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE’S DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND SIGNIFICANT EDUCATION LEGISLATION ENACTED IN RECENT SESSIONS OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE**

Kelly S. Richard, previously identified, reviewed the Committee’s mission and advised of the ten bill draft request allocations for the 2019 Legislative Session. She concluded by reviewing staff and stakeholder contacts ([Agenda Item V](#)).

Jen Sturm, previously identified, provided a brief overview of the education legislation adopted during the 2017 Legislative Session that may affect the work of this Committee:

- Senate Bill 178 (Chapter 453, *Statutes of Nevada*) revised the State’s funding formula;
- S.B. 390 (Chapter 544 *Statutes of Nevada*) extended and revised Zoom schools program funding;
- S.B. 555 (Chapter 600, *Statutes of Nevada*) authorized the issuance of an additional amount of credits against the modified business tax for taxpayers who donate money to a scholarship organization;
- S.B. 391 (Chapter 461, *Statutes of Nevada*) provided for awards of scholarships by certain community colleges in the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), referred to as the Nevada Promise Scholarship;
- Assembly Bill 447 (Chapter 344, *Statutes of Nevada*) continued the Victory schools program;
- A.B. 320 (Chapter 343, *Statutes of Nevada*) revised provisions relating to the statewide performance evaluation system;
- A.B. 469 (Chapter 11, *Statutes of Nevada*) placed in statute the requirements for the reorganization of large school districts, providing for more local control and the creation of school organizational teams; and
- A.B. 7 (Chapter 501, *Statutes of Nevada*) made technical changes to conform with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 and made changes to high school diplomas.

## **AGENDA ITEM VI—REPORTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SIGNIFICANT EDUCATION LEGISLATION ENACTED IN RECENT SESSIONS OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE**

Constance Brooks, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor, Government and Community Affairs, NSHE, provided an update to S.B. 391, which creates the Nevada Promise Scholarship for students attending Nevada’s community colleges. She encouraged community members to

become a volunteer mentor, one of the scholarship requirements, to be paired with a community college student.

Chair Denis added that another requirements it the student must also apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to increase the ability to receive federal aid.

Gina Tempel, Associate Dean, College of Science, NevadaTeach Science Codirector, University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), shared an update to A.B. 522 (Chapter 607, *Statutes of Nevada 2017*), which provides an appropriation to the NevadaTeach program at UNR ([Agenda Item VI A](#)). NevadaTeach is a dual degree program which assists UNR students obtain teaching certifications in mathematics, science, or engineering at the middle or high school level.

Jessica Ferrato, Public Policy Specialist, Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB), and Bridget Peterson, Member, Lyon County School Board, and Vice President, NASB, presented information on A.B. 451 (Chapter 22, *Statutes of Nevada 2017*), which requires a member of the board of trustees of a school district to complete certain training for professional development. Ms. Peterson reviewed the NASB report of school trustee completion ([Agenda Item VI B-1](#)); gave an outline of the training and conferences offered ([Agenda Item VI B-2](#)); and provided an explanation of the certificates awarded ([Agenda Item VI B-3](#)) ([Agenda Item VI B-4](#)) ([Agenda Item VI B-5](#)). She concluded her remarks with a brief overview of the certified public official program ([Agenda Item VI B-6](#)).

Discussion ensued between Vice Chair Thompson and Ms. Peterson regarding the evaluation process for the training and conferences.

Teri White, Vice President, Nevada Association of School Superintendents, and Superintendent, Douglas County School District, summarized the implementation of S.B. 19 (Chapter 100, *Statutes of Nevada 2017*) relating to dual credit courses and S.B. 132 (Chapter 491, *Statutes of Nevada 2017*) relating to academic plans for students ([Agenda Item VI C](#)).

Nicole Rourke, Associate Superintendent, Community and Government Relations, CCSD, provided updates on the following legislation:

- S.B. 300 (Chapter 458, *Statutes of Nevada 2017*) instituted a program of peer assistance and review of teachers. There are nine consulting teachers working with educators to increase teacher retention, primarily with first-year teachers.
- S.B. 391 revised the process for a student to obtain dual credit classes. Clark County School District has a Memorandum of Understanding with the College of Southern Nevada, and soon with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, to offer a pilot dual credit program. A grant will pay the cost for the spring 2018 courses.

- S.B. 132 provided for the establishment of individual graduation plans for certain pupils to allow them to remain in high school for an additional period of time to work towards graduation. Clark County School District is working with Nevada's Department of Education (NDE) on the Infinite Campus program for access to student information for parents and students.

Chair Denis read written comments submitted by Lindsay Anderson, Director of Government Affairs, Washoe County School District (WCSD), updating WCSD's progress on A.B. 451, S.B. 132, S.B. 19, and S.B. 300 ([Agenda Item VI D](#)).

Steve Canavero, Ph.D., Superintendent, NDE, presented a status update on education legislation adopted during the 2017 Legislative Session ([Agenda Item VI E-1](#)) and funding amounts for the 35 Victory schools ([Agenda Item VI E-2](#)).

Discussion ensued between Assemblywoman Miller and Dena Durish, Deputy Superintendent, Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement, NDE, regarding teacher incentives directed to teachers in the most challenged schools and teacher retention.

There was discussion among Chair Denis, Vice Chair Thompson, and Dr. Canavero regarding the data for Wi-Fi access and availability to all students and school districts.

## **AGENDA ITEM VII—PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Denis called for public comment; however, no testimony was presented.

The following documents were received from Steve Canavero, previously identified, following the meeting in response to questions on Nevada Ready 21:

- Comments regarding community/home connectivity to the Internet ([Agenda Item VII A-1](#));
- Information on connected assessment ([Agenda Item VII A-2](#)); and
- Proposed recommendations for broadband connectivity ([Agenda Item VII A-3](#)).

## **AGENDA ITEM VIII—ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Christina Harper  
Senior Research Secretary

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Kelly S. Richard  
Senior Principal Policy Analyst

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Jen Sturm  
Senior Policy Analyst

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Moises (Mo) Denis  
Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## MEETING MATERIALS

AGENDA ITEM	WITNESS/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item III A</u></a>	Pat Hickey, Executive Director, Charter School Association of Nevada	Written testimony
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item III B</u></a>	Raymond Bacon, Executive Director, Nevada Manufacturers Association	Written testimony
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item IV A-1</u></a>	Michelle Exstrom, Education Group Director, National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)	Report - <i>No Time to Lose, How to Build a World-Class Education System State by State</i>
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item IV A-2</u></a>	Michelle Exstrom, Education Group Director, NCSL	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item IV B</u></a>	Marc S. Tucker, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Center on Education and the Economy	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item V</u></a>	Kelly S. Richard, Senior Principal Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau	Staff and stakeholder contact information
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item VI A</u></a>	Gina Tempel, Associate Dean, College of Science, NevadaTeach Science Codirector, University of Nevada, Reno	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item VI B-1</u></a>	Bridget Peterson, Lyon County School Board, and Vice President, Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB)	Chart
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item VI B-2</u></a>	Bridget Peterson, Lyon County School Board, and Vice President, NASB	Training and conference information
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item VI B-3</u></a>	Bridget Peterson, Member, Lyon County School Board, and Vice President, NASB	Certificate
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item VI B-4</u></a>	Bridget Peterson, Member, Lyon County School Board, and Vice President, NASB	Certificate
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item VI B-5</u></a>	Bridget Peterson, Member, Lyon County School Board, and Vice President, NASB	Certificate
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item VI B-6</u></a>	Bridget Peterson, Member, Lyon County School Board, and Vice President, NASB	Program review
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item VI C</u></a>	Teri White, Vice President, Nevada Association of School Superintendents, and Superintendent, Douglas County School District	Summary report
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item VI D</u></a>	Lindsay Anderson, Director of Government Affairs, Washoe County School District	Written testimony
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item VI E-1</u></a>	Steve Canavero, Ph.D., Superintendent, Nevada's Department of Education (NDE)	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation

<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item VI E-2</u></a>	Steve Canavero, Ph.D., Superintendent, NDE	Funding information for Victory schools
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item VII A-1</u></a>	Steve Canavero, Ph.D., Superintendent, NDE	Written comments
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item VII A-2</u></a>	Steve Canavero, Ph.D., Superintendent, NDE	Information on Connected Assessment
<a href="#"><u>Agenda Item VII A-3</u></a>	Steve Canavero, Ph.D., Superintendent, NDE	Recommendations

The Summary Minutes are supplied as an informational service. Copies of all meeting materials are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. You may contact the Library at [www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm) or (775) 684-6827.