



**NEVADA LEGISLATURE
WORKING GROUP ON SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONAL TEAMS AND
OTHER ISSUES RELATING TO THE REORGANIZATION OF
THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
(Assembly Bill 469 [Chapter 11, *Statutes of Nevada 2017*])**

SUMMARY MINUTES

The fifth meeting of the Working Group on School Organizational Teams and Other Issues Relating to the Reorganization of the Clark County School District for the 2017–2018 Interim was held on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, at 4:00 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 Working Group'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; 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
Sandy Alvarez
Kelly Crompton
Grant Hanevold
Christina Hollowood
Myron Lesane
Larry Moses
Annette Owens
Elena Rodriguez
Xavier Seto
Rich Shuman
George Warner
David Wilson
Ken Womer

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Richard Derrick
Anna Slighting

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Kelly S. Richard, Senior Principal Policy Analyst, Research Division
Jen Sturm, Senior Policy Analyst, Research Division
Risa B. Lang, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Julianne King, Research Policy Assistant, 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—PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Denis called for public comment.

Julie Vigil, Secretary, HOPE For Nevada, read written remarks regarding budget cuts in the Clark County School District (CCSD) ([Agenda Item II](#)).

Chair Denis noted revenue from the 10 percent excise tax on marijuana sold at retail—not the excise tax on the wholesale value of marijuana approved by the voters pursuant to the ballot question—is deposited in the Rainy Day Fund. The Legislature could elect to allocate those funds to education during the 2019 Legislative Session.

Steve Brown, Chair, Clark County, Libertarian Party of Nevada, expressed his concern with: (1) the salaries of administrative employees of CCSD; (2) the work schedules of the District’s custodial staff; and (3) the treatment of female bus drivers in the District.

Michelle DeMaio, Teacher, School Organizational Team (SOT) member, Arbor View High School, shared her experience on the SOT as well as her concerns with the budgeting process and its effect on teachers’ salaries and class size.

Kathryn Buffington-Lacey, Teacher, SOT member, K.O. Knudson Middle School, expressed her concerns with budget cuts.

Scott Walker, Principal, Las Vegas Academy of the Arts, stated his concern with the way budget decisions are made in the CCSD and noted the best schools in the country have smaller class sizes. He expressed his disappointment with the SOT process.

Jerome Streets, Teacher, SOT member, Desert Oasis High School, pointed out issues with the SOT process and the strategic budget.

Noel Kleemann, Teacher, SOT chair, Wing and Lilly Fong Elementary School, stated her disappointment with the proposed budget cuts. She encouraged the Board of Trustees to honor arbitrations with educators.

AGENDA ITEM III—APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 19, 2018

MOTION: Dr. Moses moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 19, 2018. The motion was seconded by Ms. Crompton and passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM IV—DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF BUDGETS FOR LOCAL SCHOOL PRECINCTS

Jason Goudie, Chief Financial Officer, CCSD, gave a presentation on the development of budgets for local school precincts ([Agenda Item IV A](#)).

Subsequent to the presentation, Mr. Goudie and members of the Working Group discussed the following:

- The definitions of various budget-related terms in *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) and *Nevada Administrative Code*;
- District budgeting for staff and attrition savings;
- The percentage of budgets that go to local school precincts versus central services;
- The effect of arbitration losses on CCSD's ending fund balance;
- The transfer of funds from central services to schools;
- The importance of transparency within CCSD;
- The process for budgeting step increases and issues with employees' contracts; and
- The reasons for a budget increase in the upcoming school year.

Dr. Moses recommended the definition of "rural" be added to NRS 388G.

A discussion ensued between Dr. Moses and Mr. Goudie regarding the District's increase in revenue. Mr. Goudie explained the majority of the revenue increase was due to a transfer of funds dispersed as a grant in previous budget cycles.

Kellie Ballard, Director, Office of the Deputy Superintendent, CCSD, gave a presentation on SOT training and school budgets ([Agenda Item IV B-1](#)) and provided an outline of the content of strategic budget training for SOTs ([Agenda Item IV B-2](#)).

Ed Gonzalez, resident, Las Vegas, gave a brief presentation on the development of the strategic budget and his concerns with the budgeting process ([Agenda Item IV C](#)). He provided samples of strategic budgets for various CCSD schools ([Agenda Item IV C-1](#)), ([Agenda Item IV C-2](#)), ([Agenda Item IV C-3](#)), ([Agenda Item IV C-4](#)), ([Agenda Item IV C-5](#)), ([Agenda Item IV C-6](#)), ([Agenda Item IV C-7](#)), and ([Agenda Item IV C-8](#)). He was particularly concerned about the methodology used to develop strategic budgets as there was inconsistency in the way funds were budgeted to the schools; some of the numbers were calculated using an allocation model based on the number of students and teachers, while other numbers were based on per-pupil calculations. Mr. Gonzalez opined this inconsistency required local school precincts to cut their budgets more than was actually necessary.

Robin Vitiello, SOT member, Rancho High School, provided her perspective as a parent SOT member and noted her frustration with the lack of SOT input in the budgeting process.

Jill Jaeger, Teacher, SOT member, Spring Valley High School, remarked that SOTs have little power over the budget. She expressed her opinion that SOTs are a good idea on paper but not in practice.

Bradley Evans, English Language Learner Facilitator, SOT member, Valley High School, shared his experience as an SOT member and pointed out that the budget cuts to the school have resulted in the elimination of multiple positions.

In response to questioning from Ms. Rodriguez, Mr. Evans explained the following: (1) the school uses grant funding to provide for certain positions, such as social workers; (2) the graduation rate at Valley High School has greatly increased in the past three years; and (3) there is a desire for more transparency and communication in the District.

Jessica Beeghly, Teacher, SOT chair, Charles Silvestri Junior High School, noted budget cuts include cuts to textbook purchases, campus monitors, and the elimination of a librarian position.

Renisha O'Donnell, SOT Project Coordinator, Clark County Education Association, shared feedback from educators and parents regarding the development of the strategic budget process ([Agenda Item IV D](#)). She submitted multiple statements from SOT members regarding their experiences with the process ([Agenda Item IV D-1](#)), ([Agenda Item IV D-2](#)), and ([Agenda Item IV D-3](#)). Ms. O'Donnell suggested a committee similar to the Working Group be formed in order to focus on SOT issues in the future.

Clara Bordelon, Teacher, Palo Verde High School, commented on the safety and security issues occurring at her school as a result of budget cuts.

In response to Ms. Bordelon's testimony, Dr. Moses and Ms. Alvarez discussed whether building security is the responsibility of central services or local school precincts.

Noel Kleemann, previously identified, shared her experience with the budget process as an elementary school teacher. She discussed the school's loss of grant money due to its improved performance and explained that it has resulted in the need to shift funding from other sources.

Ms. Rodriguez submitted for the record an article detailing Colorado's transparency in spending taxpayer dollars ([Agenda Item IV E](#)).

AGENDA ITEM V—PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Chair Denis stated he will confer with Legislative Counsel Bureau staff to compile a list of recommendations to discuss at the final meeting of the Working Group.

AGENDA ITEM VI—ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Working Group, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julianne King
Research Policy Assistant

Kelly S. Richard
Senior Principal Policy Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Senator Moises (Mo) Denis
Chair

Date: _____

MEETING MATERIALS

AGENDA ITEM	WITNESS/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
Agenda Item II	Julie Vigil, Secretary, HOPE For Nevada	Written Comments regarding budget cuts in Clark County School District (CCSD)
Agenda Item IV A	Jason Goudie, Chief Financial Officer, CCSD	Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation
Agenda Item IV B-1	Kellie Ballard, Director, Office of the Deputy Superintendent, CCSD	Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation
Agenda Item IV B-2	Kellie Ballard, Director, Office of the Deputy Superintendent, CCSD	Overview of Strategic Budgets Training
Agenda Item IV C	Ed Gonzalez, resident, Las Vegas	PowerPoint Presentation
Agenda Item IV C-1	Ed Gonzalez, resident, Las Vegas	Strategic Budget
Agenda Item IV C-2	Ed Gonzalez, resident, Las Vegas	Strategic Budget
Agenda Item IV C-3	Ed Gonzalez, resident, Las Vegas	Strategic Budget
Agenda Item IV C-4	Ed Gonzalez, resident, Las Vegas	Strategic Budget
Agenda Item IV C-5	Ed Gonzalez, resident, Las Vegas	Strategic Budget
Agenda Item IV C-6	Ed Gonzalez, resident, Las Vegas	Strategic Budget
Agenda Item IV C-7	Ed Gonzalez, resident, Las Vegas	Strategic Budget
Agenda Item IV C-8	Ed Gonzalez, resident, Las Vegas	Strategic Budget
Agenda Item IV D	Renisha O'Donnell, SOT Project Coordinator, Clark County Education Association (CCEA)	Written comments regarding feedback and recommendations from SOT members
Agenda Item IV D-1	Renisha O'Donnell, SOT Project Coordinator, CCEA	Written comments from Jessica Cascio
Agenda Item IV D-2	Renisha O'Donnell, SOT Project Coordinator, CCEA	Written comments from Alice Feld
Agenda Item IV D-3	Renisha O'Donnell, SOT Project Coordinator, CCEA	Written comments from Bonnie Lykins
Agenda Item IV E	Elena Rodriguez, member, Working Group on SOTs and Other Issues Relating to the Reorganization of CCSD	Article regarding transparency in Colorado's use of tax money

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 or (775) 684-6827.