NEVADA LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(*Nevada Revised Statutes* [NRS] 218E.605)

SUMMARY MINUTES
January 23, 2020

The first meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education for the 2019–2020 Interim was held on Thursday, January 23, 2020, at 12:00 noon 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 audio or video recording of the meeting are available on the Committee's meeting page. The audio or video recording may also be found at https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Granicus/. Copies of the audio or video record can be obtained through the Publications Office of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) (publications@lcb.state.nv.us or 775/684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Assemblywoman Brittney Miller, Chair
Senator Moises (Mo) Denis, Vice Chair
Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop
Senator Keith F. Pickard
Senator Joyce Woodhouse
Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton
Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow

COMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Assemblywoman Jill Tolles

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Kelly S. Richard, Senior Principal Policy Analyst, Research Division
Asher A. Killian, Senior Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Amanda Marincic, Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Christina Harper, Assistant Manager of Research Policy Assistants, Research Division

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

AGENDA ITEM I—CALL TO ORDER

Chair Miller called the meeting order. She welcomed members, presenters, and the public to the first meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education. Chair Miller reviewed general meeting and testimony guidelines.

AGENDA ITEM II—PUBLIC COMMENT

Katania Taylor, Oriental Medical Doctor, Path to Wellness, parent of a student in the Washoe County School District (WCSD), and representing Health Freedom Nevada, voiced concern with WCSD's school exclusion policy for vaccine exempt students in accordance with NRS 392.446. She asked for the repeal of NRS 392.446 as healthy students were excluded from school for 31 days with little academic, emotional, or social support.

Alison J. Turner, Vice President of Advocacy, Nevada Parent Teacher Association (PTA), outlined the issues Nevada PTA will be monitoring, including the Commission on School Funding, education funding, and reasonable class sizes.

Mia Lowry, Nevada resident, asked the Committee to protect the rights of a minority population suffering discrimination and segregation. She emphasized that legality is not a guide to morality.

Daphne Lee, Nevada resident, advocated for vaccination choice.

Brenda Pearson, Director, Strategic Policy Initiatives, Clark County Education Association (CCEA), provided written comments outlining the impact of large class sizes and caseloads on students and teachers (Agenda Item II A). She explained CCEA's multi-year strategy to responsibly lower class sizes in all grades.

Chris Daly, Deputy Executive Director, Government Relations, Nevada State Education Association (NSEA), submitted written information expressing concern with Senate Bill 543 (2019) and Assembly Bill 462 (2019). He voiced gratitude for continued progress on: (1) class size reduction; (2) teacher evaluations; (3) teacher recruitment and retention; and (4) the Teachers' School Supplies Assistance Account (Agenda Item II B).

Vikki Courtney, President, CCEA, reviewed written comments discussing the education funding formula and two initiative petitions to raise additional revenue to address Nevada's educational needs (Agenda Item II C).

Linda Jones, Political Field Coordinator, CCEA, provided a brief overview on the unintended consequences of SB 126 (2019) and SB 153 (2019) regarding administrator and teacher accountability (Agenda Item II D).

Victor M. Salcido, Executive Director, Charter School Association of Nevada, commended the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) for its forward progress in implementing AB 462 (2019). He expressed a desire for the public charter school system to have deliberate and well thought out growth while promoting equality as an option for public education.

Alexander Marks, Communications Specialist, NSEA, discussed the importance of correct census reporting for the United States Census 2020 to ensure Nevada receives accurate federal education funding appropriations.

Ed Gonzalez, Nevada resident, expressed concern with SB 469 (2019), which increased the number of local school precincts, within a large school district, that a school associate superintendent is authorized to oversee. He additionally noted problems with human capital management system of the Clark County School District (CCSD).

Rebecca Garcia, President, Nevada PTA, stated the Nevada PTA is committed to ensuring Nevada's students are able to reach their full learning potential. Nevada PTA looks forward to a modern funding formula to serve the needs of all students.

AGENDA ITEM III—REVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE'S DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Kelly S. Richard, previously identified, reviewed the duties and responsibilities of the Committee per Chapter 218E ("Legislative Investigations and Hearings; Legislative Commission and Other Committees") of NRS (Agenda Item III). She stated the Committee has an allocation of up to ten bill draft requests for submission to the 2021 Legislature.

AGENDA ITEM IV—PRESENTATION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION ON SCHOOL FUNDING

Heidi Haartz, Deputy Superintendent, Business and Support Services Division, Nevada's Department of Education (NDE), gave a brief update on the progress of the Commission on School Funding. She stated the Commission has held six meetings and appointed two workgroups: (1) the formulation and distribution workgroup looking at the funding formula and the distribution of funds; and (2) a reporting and monitoring workgroup considering the reporting and monitoring required by SB 543 (2019). Ms. Haartz reported the Commission anticipates using Fiscal Year 2019–2020 information for the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan and to receive school district budgets before May 15, 2020, in order to submit reports to the Committee by the July 15, 2020, deadline.

AGENDA ITEM V—PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE INITIAL PLAN TO MANAGE THE GROWTH OF CHARTER SCHOOLS PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 462 (2019)

Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director, SPCSA, and Melissa Mackedon, Chair, SPCSA, delivered an overview of SPCSA and an update on the implementation of AB 462 (2019) (Agenda Item V A-1)*; 2020 Growth Management Plan* (Agenda Item V A-2); the *2020 Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment* (Agenda Item V A-3); and the *2019–2024 Strategic Plan* (Agenda Item V A-4).

Discussion ensued on the following charter school related issues:

- Student transportation;
- Providing charter school options in low-poverty areas;
- Traffic problems, neighborhood outreach, and communication;

- Charter schools approved that may not meet the authorization criteria and discussion on the exemption criteria used for the charter school authorization;

- Inclusion of low-poverty student and English language learners, as addressed in the Growth Plan;

- Student demographic criteria;

- School site location, selection, and site visits;

- The application approval process and local school district collaboration; and

- The weighted student lottery system.

MOTION: Senator Denis moved to allow Committee members to provide written feedback and/or questions to Jen Sturm, Senior Policy Analyst, Research Division, LCB, by February 1, 2020, for compilation and submission to the SPCSA. The motion was seconded by Senator Woodhouse.

Prior to voting, there was a conversation regarding the ability to continue to provide feedback past the February 1st deadline and future discussions on these issues.

Asher A. Killian, previously identified, clarified the feedback and questions to the SPCSA should be related to the Growth Plan.

The previous motion made by Senator Denis and seconded by Senator Woodhouse passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM VI—REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGES TO THE REGULATION OF CHARTER SCHOOLS PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 78 (2019)

Rebecca Feiden, previously identified, shared a PowerPoint presentation on the requirements and progress of AB 78 (2019) (Agenda Item VI). She stated SPCSA-sponsored charter schools provide students with the opportunity to excel and access for historically underserved student groups. Ms. Feiden asserted the SPCSA continues to evaluate its practices in order to enable ongoing improvement and satisfying legislative requirements.

AGENDA ITEM VII—REPORT CONCERNING THE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FROM THE TEACHERS' SCHOOL SUPPLIES ASSISTANCE ACCOUNT PURSUANT TO SENATE BILL 324 (2019)

Lindsay Anderson, Director, Government Affairs, WCSD, stated every teacher who has opted in to receive reimbursement for the purchase of school supplies will have funds direct deposited into his or her checking or savings account.

Wayne L. Workman, Superintendent, Lyon County School District (LCSD), and President, Nevada Association of School Superintendents (NASS), representing LCSD and the 15 rural school districts in Nevada, reported that each of the rural school districts are in compliance with SB 324 (2019). He expressed appreciation for the flexibility provided to ensure access to the funds. Mr. Workman indicated some school districts use a written form process with submission of receipts, while other districts provide the full amount of funds up front.

He stressed the need for a written accountability policy for the Teachers' School Supplies Assistance Account.

Brad Keating, Director, Government Relations, CCSD, stated there has been an increase in the number of teachers participating in this program. He referred to a November 15, 2019, guidance memorandum to all CCSD principals and teachers outlining the purpose of the program to assist teachers with certain out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the purchase of necessary school supplies for the pupils they instruct (Agenda Item VII).

Discussion ensued on the following issues:

- The type of school supplies purchased by a teacher:
- Policies in WCSD and LCSD state that supplies purchased by the teacher are the teacher's supplies and may be taken with him or her when leaving the school and/or district; and
- Within CCSD, the guidance memo is interpreted differently at individual schools. The CCSD's administration is requesting teachers report when the guidance memo is not being followed.
- Senate Bill 324 indicates supplies purchased must be used in the classroom or for the benefit of students, but does not specify what can or cannot be purchased; individual district policies should guide on this issue;
- A suggestion to establish a definition of *school supplies* and a procedure for the return of unused funds;
- A reallocation process for distribution of unused funds;
- Communication avenues to inform teachers of SB 324 and the opt in process; and
- Concern in CCSD that teachers have been directed by principals to purchase certain supplies.

AGENDA ITEM VIII—REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE STUDY REGARDING THE IMPACT AND VALIDITY OF THE STATEWIDE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGES TO THE SYSTEM REQUIRED BY SENATE BILL 475 (2019)

Felicia Gonzales, Deputy Superintendent, Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement Division, NDE, submitted a PowerPoint presentation with an update on the implementation and timeline of the study regarding the impact of the Nevada Educator Performance Framework (NEPF) as required by SB 475 (Agenda Item VIII).

Kathleen Galland-Collins, Education Programs Supervisor/Las Vegas, Offices of Educator Licensure, Educator Development and Support, and Parental Involvement and Family Engagement, NDE, added that the Teachers and Leaders Council (TLC) is comparing class sizes and determining whether class size has an impact on a teacher's ability to provide quality instruction. She stated the TLC will be discussing class size recommendations at its January 29, 2020, meeting; NDE will ensure the TLC is apprised of the current adopted class size guidelines. Ms. Galland-Collins stated the TLC has held discussions regarding the relation of professional development within NEPF.

There was extensive dialog concerning the TLC's consideration of class sizes within NEPF protocols and how class sizes impact student instruction. Emphasis was placed on the following issues:

- Inconsistencies with what is considered an appropriate class size;
- The State Board of Education's established and adopted class size ratios for students and teachers to excel are not being applied to classrooms;
- The size of a teacher's class needs to be considered within a teacher's evaluation, especially if that teacher has a large class size; and
- Time is of the essence to establish class size ratios; teacher evaluations are due in March.

AGENDA ITEM IX—REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGES TO NEVADA'S CLASS-SIZE REDUCTION PROGRAM PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 304 (2019)

Heidi Haartz, previously identified, provided information on the implementation of AB 304 (2019) in regard to class size reduction (CSR).

Megan Peterson, Management Analyst III, Office of District Support, Business and Support Services Division, NDE, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the CSR program outlining baseline ratios, financial authority, reporting responsibilities, staff allocations, and variances (Agenda item IX).

Amber Reid, Education Program Professional/Carson City, Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment, Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement Division, NDE, discussed the recommended and national ratios for school counselors and school social workers.

Mark Newburn, Vice President, State Board of Education, stated the CSR program is important to students and teachers as large class sizes equate to inferior learning and teaching. He expressed concern with the increase in the number of CSR variance waivers and the inability to hire staff as the waiver justification. Mr. Newburn concluded that large class sizes make it difficult for school districts to recruit and retain teachers.

There was discussion regarding the school variance waiver process and CSR program corrective action plans.

Upon questioning, the school districts reported on their current school counselor-to-student ratios in elementary, middle, and high schools.

There was a request, for a future school safety discussion, to receive the ratio numbers for school psychologists, counselors, and nurses working at the school level.

Lindsay Anderson, previously identified, joined by Kyle Kemp, Data and Research Analyst, Office of Accountability, WCSD, advised that class size information is available on WCSD's webpage and is searchable by school, course, and the number of teachers assigned to each course. She added that understanding class sizes assists in the development of budget requests and equity overall.

Wayne L. Workman, previously identified, reported the 15 rural school districts are in compliance with website class size reporting for elementary schools, but only two districts have reported class size numbers for K–12. He indicated that, at the next NASS meeting, he will notify all school districts that class size information is to be reported for K–12.

Brad Keating, previously identified, referred to CCSD's class size reports, which are available at: http://ccsd.net/departments/government-affairs/student-enrollment-and-school-capacity. He stated there are three different reports by elementary, middle, or high schools separated by school and course.

Chair Miller noted that AB 304 requires class size reporting to include each teacher and class. While she appreciates the forward progress, Chair Miller noted there is still a lot of work that needs to be done to meet AB 304 requirements.

There was dialog concerning the schools districts' plans to comply with AB 304.

AGENDA ITEM X—APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE NEVADA STATE TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ADVISORY TASK FORCE (ASSEMBLY BILL 276 [2019])

Chair Miller provided background information on the creation of the Nevada State Teacher Recruitment and Retention Advisory Task Force; 20 members comprised solely of licensed, active teachers employed by public school districts. The Task Force membership is to be constructed as follows: three members from CCSD, two members from WCSD, and one member from each of the rural school districts. She thanked NDE for its assistance in the application process.

The applications were reviewed with the following considerations: (1) diversity; (2) experience; (3) range of grade levels; (4) statutory requirements; and (5) types and variety of teaching assignments. Chair Miller announced that an assortment of outstanding applications were received.

Chair Miller noted application submission from all but one rural school district. There was discussion that applicants represent a broad diversity, a variety of grade levels and teaching experiences.

Chair Miller recommended the following individuals for rural school district representation: Carson City: Sarah Santos; Churchill County: Lance Lattin; Douglas County: Elizabeth Rechs; Elko County: Tammie Smithburg; Esmeralda County: Elizabeth Vessels; Eureka County: Meridon Fortune; Humboldt County: Tamara McCord; Lander County: William Cox; Lincoln County: Kathleen Keene; Lyon County: LaResa Darrington; Mineral County: Vici Cooper; Nye County: Dana Boam; Pershing County: none; Storey County: Allison Brolsma; and White Pine County: Kristina Ernest.

MOTION: Senator Denis moved to appoint the individuals recommended by Chair Miller. The motion was seconded by Senator Woodhouse and passed. Senator Pickard was absent for the vote.

Chair Miller recommended the following individuals from the WCSD: Maria Cristy Fernandez and Laurie Henderson.

MOTION: Senator Denis moved to appoint the individuals recommended by Chair Miller from WCSD. The motion was seconded by Senator Woodhouse and passed. Senator Pickard was absent for the vote.

Chair Miller recommended the following individuals from the CCSD: David Navarette, Magdaline Wells, and Eleanor Williams.

MOTION: Senator Denis moved to appoint the individuals recommended by Chair Miller from CCSD. The motion was seconded by Assemblywoman Carlton and passed. Senator Pickard was absent for the vote.

AGENDA ITEM XI—PUBLIC COMMENT

Daphne Lee, previously identified, expressed appreciation for the Teachers' School Supplies Assistance Account.

Chris Daly, previously identified, voiced gratitude for bringing attention to the issue of overcrowded classrooms. He stated Nevada continues to rank last in education due to large class sizes, as smaller class sizes improve education overall with individual instruction and improved classroom management. Mr. Daly recognized the significant case load for counselors and other licensed professionals.

Brad Keating, previously identified, announced the next elementary school in CCSD will be named after the late Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson. He noted CCSD was notified by Magnet Schools of America that 34 CCSD schools were merit recipients for School Year 2019-2020; 16 CCSD magnet schools were awarded Schools of Excellence designation, and 19 CCSD schools were awarded Schools of Distinction designation.

Lindsay Anderson, previously identified, stated 20 WCSD students have been hit by vehicles this school year. She reminded individuals to put cell phones down and watch for students.

Sarah Adler, resident, Carson City, acknowledged the leadership and work of the late Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson on the passage of AB 462.

AGENDA ITEM XII—ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Christina Harper

Assistant Manager of Research Policy Assistants

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Kelly S. Richard

Senior Principal Policy Analyst

APPROVED BY:

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Assemblywoman Brittney Miller, Chair

Date: _____

MEETING MATERIALS

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
Agenda Item II A	Brenda Pearson, Director, Strategic Policy Initiatives, Clark County Education Association (CCEA)	Written comments
Agenda Item II B	Chris Daly, Deputy Executive Director, Government Relations, Nevada State Education Association	Written comments
Agenda Item II C	Vikki Courtney, President, CCEA	Written comments
Agenda Item II D	Linda Jones, Political Field Coordinator, CCEA	Written comments
Agenda Item III	Kelly S. Richard, Senior Principal Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau	Legislative Committee on Education's duties and responsibilities
Agenda Item V A-1	Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director, State Public Charter School Association (SPCSA)	PowerPoint presentation
Agenda Item V A-2	Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director, SPCSA	Growth Management Plan
Agenda Item V A-3	Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director, SPCSA	Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment
Agenda Item V A-4	Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director, SPCSA	Strategic Plan
Agenda Item VI	Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director, SPCSA	PowerPoint presentation
Agenda Item VII	Brad Keating, Director, Government Relations, Clark County School District	Memorandum
Agenda Item VIII	Felicia Gonzales, Deputy Superintendent, Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement Division, Nevada's Department of Education (NDE)	PowerPoint presentation

Agenda Item IX	Megan Peterson, Management Analyst III, Office of District Support, Business and Support Services Division, NDE	PowerPoint presentation

The Summary Minutes are supplied as an informational service. All meeting materials are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. For copies, contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Library/About/Contact/feedbackmail.cfm.