



NEVADA LEGISLATURE
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A PLAN
TO REORGANIZE THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
(Section 26 of Assembly Bill 394 [Chapter 543, *Statutes of Nevada* 2015])

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The first meeting of the Nevada Legislature's Technical Advisory Committee to Develop a Plan to Reorganize the Clark County School District was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at 9:30 a.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. A copy of this set of "Summary Minutes and Action Report," including the "Meeting Notice and Agenda" ([Exhibit A](#)) and other substantive exhibits, is available on the Nevada Legislature's website at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/interim/78th2015/committee/>. 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 be available online at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Granicus/>.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Senator Becky Harris, Chair
Marsha Irvin, Vice Chair
Senator Michael Roberson
Assemblyman David M. Gardner
Hannah Brown
Stavan Corbett
Vikki Courtney
Carolyn G. Goodman, Mayor, Las Vegas
Andy Hafen, Mayor, Henderson
Kraig Hafen, Council Member, Mesquite City Council
Brent Husson
Brian Knudsen
Duncan R. Lee
John J. Lee, Mayor, City of North Las Vegas
Ashok "Ash" Mirchandani
Larry Moses, Ed.D.

Tom Rodriguez

Mary Beth Scow, Commissioner, Board of Clark County Commissioners

Allison Serafin, Vice President, State Board of Education

Rich Shuman, Council Member, Boulder City Council

Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent, Clark County School District

Daniel Stewart

John Vellardita

Linda E. Young, Ed.D., President, Board of Trustees, Clark County School District

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Kelly S. Richard, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division

Risa B. Lang, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division

Karly O’Krent, Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division

Julie Waller, Senior Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division

Christina Harper, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division

Any agenda items taken out of order during the meeting have been placed in proper agenda order in the minutes for purposes of continuity.

AGENDA ITEM I—CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Roberson called the meeting to order. He welcomed members, presenters, and the public to the first meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee to Develop a Plan to Reorganize the Clark County School District (TAC). Acting Chair Roberson provided general Committee information and testimony guidelines.

AGENDA ITEM II—PUBLIC COMMENT

Acting Chair Roberson called for public comment.

José Solorio, Member, Hispanics in Politics, and former Clark County School District (CCSD) school board trustee, expressed concern with this process and the results, especially for the Hispanic community. He requested community groups have access to the database if there is consideration to change boundaries. Mr. Solorio voiced a desire to be actively involved in this process.

Georgeann Ray, CCSD parent, voiced concerns regarding the plan presented by Superintendent Skorkowsky. She appreciates the plan includes parental involvement, but it does not go far enough in separating out precincts for community input. Ms. Ray suggested the precincts handle curriculum and the central office handle financial tasks. She echoed the idea of involving parents and community groups in this process.

Karen Soderberg, Break Free CCSD, stated they are excited for the opportunity to find ways to give schools back to the communities and for parents to have a voice.

Sylvester S. (S.S.) Rogers, Ph.D., Pastor, Greater Mt. Sinai Missionary Recruiting Ministries, and President, Ministers Alliance of Southern Nevada, expressed support for the CCSD and opposed the breakup of the CCSD. He contends the breakup will create racial and economic boundaries. Dr. Rogers emphasized the need to focus on students and learning strategies; improve education for all students in every community; increase teacher salaries; provide professional development; and improve access to technology.

Acting Chair Roberson clarified this is not a breakup of the CCSD, but rather an equitable reorganization of the CCSD with respect to *The Nevada Plan*.

Robert L. Green, Ph.D., Dean and Professor Emeritus, Michigan State University, asked how the reorganization will affect students, especially low-income and minority students. He questioned how the allocation of resources would affect teachers and students.

Yvette Williams, Chair, Clark County Black Caucus, echoed Dr. Green's comments. She emphasized the academic performance of African-American students on free and reduced lunch rank in the lowest 25 percent in the State. Ms. Williams testified that the free and reduced lunch population represents over 75 percent of the African-American students in Nevada and 11 percent of the CCSD student population. She requested all communities and minorities have a representative voice in proposed precincts.

AGENDA ITEM III—PRESENTATION SUMMARIZING THE PROVISIONS OF ASSEMBLY BILL 394 OF THE 78TH SESSION OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE WHICH CREATED THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Kelly S. Richard, previously identified, provided a brief overview of the Committee's responsibilities as outlined in Section 26 of A.B. 394, Chapter 543, *Statutes of Nevada 2015* ([Exhibit B](#)).

AGENDA ITEM IV—OPENING REMARKS BY THE ACTING CHAIR

Acting Chair Roberson stated the TAC is to provide the Legislative Advisory Committee with expertise, input, advice, and assistance; he intends to have the two committees work together on issues surrounding the reorganization of the CCSD. As the Chair of the Advisory Committee, he committed to keeping the TAC apprised of the actions of the Advisory Committee. Acting Chair Roberson reviewed the three main goals of A.B. 394:

1. Improve the responsiveness of the school district to local needs;
2. Improve student achievement; and
3. Improve efficiency of the school district.

AGENDA ITEM V—ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Acting Chair Roberson called for nominations for Chair.

MOTION: Mr. Husson nominated Senator Harris as Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mirchandani and passed unanimously.

Acting Chair Roberson called for nominations for Vice Chair.

MOTION: Assemblyman Gardner nominated Ms. Irvin as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hafen and passed unanimously.

Acting Chair Roberson turned the gavel over to Chair Harris.

AGENDA ITEM VI—PRESENTATION REGARDING SUGGESTED ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN CONSIDERING THE REORGANIZATION OF THE CCSD

Nancy E. Brune, Ph.D., Executive Director, and Victoria (Tori) Carreón, Director of Education Policy, Guinn Center for Policy Priorities, presented a policy report, *Breaking Up Is Hard to Do: Issues to Address in the Reorganization of the Clark County School District*, ([Exhibit C](#)) identifying five key areas of importance.

There was discussion regarding the gathering of data in the most efficient way for the TAC.

Following discussion, Chair Harris requested the following information be collected for presentation and review by the TAC:

- Current CCSD data;
- Summary of New York’s experience using different models and the reasons why certain models failed or succeeded;
- Research concerning what strong schools look like in terms of being responsive to parent concerns, using Kentucky and Massachusetts as examples;
- Summary of the deconsolidation efforts and experiences of the Los Angeles Unified School District; and
- What other states and districts are doing in this area.

AGENDA ITEM VII—ISSUES OF CONCERN TO RURAL COMMUNITIES WITHIN CCSD WITH REGARD TO THE REORGANIZATION OF THE DISTRICT

Shari Lyman, Ph.D., Chair, Moapa Valley Community Education Advisory Board (MVCEAB), provided an overview of Moapa Valley schools. She noted the MVCEAB was established by the CCSD bylaws to allow for community input. Dr. Lyman said the MVCEAB established an A.B. 394 Reorganization Task Force that set forth the following as important issues to their community: 1) a smaller precinct model; 2) a unique Moapa Valley precinct; 3) financial feasibility; and 4) Moapa Valley’s ability to function as its own precinct.

Lindsey Dalley, D.D.S., resident of Moapa Valley, Member, Past Chair, and Vice Chair, MVCEAB, and Chair of the A.B. 394 Reorganization Task Force, addressed educational equity and diversity for students who live outside the Las Vegas Valley. He stated these students receive none of the urban advantages such as magnet schools, many dual credit college classes, and technical training opportunities.

Dr. Dalley stated that A.B. 394 could ensure that schools can respond to parental and community needs and concerns by: 1) establishing smaller, independently elected precincts;

2) providing equitable funding across the entire county tax base; and 3) ensuring equitable funding is controlled at the local precinct level.

Discussion ensued between TAC members and Dr. Dalley on the following issues:

- Per pupil funding and expenditures;
- Capital and facility costs;
- Transportation costs;
- School bonding;
- Human resources; and
- Precinct formation.

Larry R. Moses, Ed.D., retired CCSD teacher and school administrator, provided a rationale for the development of individual precincts within CCSD as prescribed in A.B. 394 ([Exhibit D](#)).

Dr. Young explained the successful Moapa Education Service Center, initiated by the CCSD, to help Paiute students in the Moapa Valley. She stressed continued communication with all Moapa Valley residents, including American Indians and migrant workers.

Superintendent Skorkowsky and Dr. Moses debated the issue of the sports classification divisions within the CCSD and the governing Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association.

AGENDA ITEM VIII—ISSUES OF CONCERN TO TEACHING PROFESSIONALS EMPLOYED BY CCSD WITH REGARD TO THE REORGANIZATION OF THE DISTRICT

Vikki Courtney, President, Clark County Education Association (CCEA), provided written testimony ([Exhibit E](#)), which focused teachers, professional development, peer support, and salaries. She stressed the need to retain teachers and entice qualified individuals into the teaching profession.

John Vellardita, Executive Director, CCEA, provided written testimony ([Exhibit F](#)), and presented a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation ([Exhibit G](#)). He addressed the following issues:

- The teacher shortage crisis in the State;
- The basic top-down management structure of the CCSD;

- New investments into education by the Governor and Legislature;
- Improving the education delivery system;
- Relevant professional development;
- An effective leadership model for the school district; and
- Teacher salaries.

Discussion ensued among TAC members and Mr. Vellardita regarding the following issues:

- Qualified teachers in every classroom;
- The inadequacies of teacher salaries;
- Addressing the problems in the public school system; and
- CCSD's program budgets.

Chair Harris expressed a desire to have the following information provided to the TAC:

- The criteria for an effective leader at the superintendent level;
- Identification of the core competencies needed to run key CCSD operational systems and programs; and
- Methods and strategies to improve the effectiveness of elected school board members in their role in governing the school district.

Based upon comments of the TAC, it was recognized that the end goal is to ensure every student in the CCSD receives a quality education.

AGENDA ITEM IX—PRESENTATION REGARDING CCSD'S REORGANIZATION PROPOSAL

Pat Skorkowsky, previously identified, presented the CCSD's response to A.B. 394 ([Exhibit H](#)). He stated the CCSD faces many challenges to increase student achievement, ensure all students progress in school, and graduate prepared to succeed and contribute in a diverse global society.

Discussion ensued among Superintendent Skorkowsky and TAC members regarding the following issues:

- The national and State teacher shortage and the reasons for the shortage;
- The issue of teacher salaries and teacher licensure requirements;
- The fact that a licensed teacher cannot teach outside their area of licensure endorsement;
- A structure wherein the money follows the student, per-pupil funding equity, accountability, and ensuring students are receiving allocated resources;
- The funding requirements of Title I and II schools, Zoom and Victory schools, and funding accountability;
- The separate needs of rural and inner city schools in establishing local precincts to allow for community input;
- Accountability of a local precinct superintendent to a local board, students, families, and the community; and
- The budget development process.

Superintendent Skorkowsky stated the CCSD is working on flexible budgeting to enable all schools to utilize funds to address their needs.

Discussion ensued between Ms. Serafin and Superintendent Skorkowsky regarding the timing of decisions and the pace of placing qualified teachers in the classroom.

Upon a request from Vice Chair Irvin, Superintendent Skorkowsky provided information on the following three issues: 1) the teacher shortage; 2) the instructional redesign of professional development/professional learning division; and 3) the redesign of the education services division.

There was discussion regarding the challenges and establishment of local precincts.

Chair Harris requested Mr. Stewart put his factors regarding redistricting and civil rights issues into a memorandum for the TAC.

Discussion ensued regarding the concerns of the Latino community.

There was dialogue regarding the structure of the CCSD plan, the redirection of funds to follow the student, and curriculum flexibility to improve students' academic achievement.

Superintendent Skorkowsky detailed that instructional decisions would be made at the local precinct level with monitoring by the district superintendent to ensure academic benchmarks are achieved.

Discussion ensued regarding precinct accountability and autonomy and the accountability of local precinct superintendents.

Superintendent Skorkowsky pointed out that schools have become the hub for wraparound services to meet a family's basic needs to include food, clothing, and assistance with bills. He contends providing support for students will help with academic success.

Mr. Knudsen requested a breakdown of the funding for each CCSD department.

Superintendent Skorkowsky replied he would provide this information; it is also available on the CCSD's website under Open Book.

There was dialogue on the centralization of bond decisions.

Mayor Goodman stressed that inner city schools have different needs and issues than rural schools and the need to look at the issues from those viewpoints.

Discussion revealed the biggest need is support and resources for the student.

There was conversation regarding how parent groups interact and provide input to the CCSD. Discussion ensued between Chair Harris and Superintendent Skorkowsky concerning how the CCSD plans to be more responsive and involve parents at every school level.

Superintendent Skorkowsky stated there are parent engagement strategies in place. The CCSD is working to ensure every school has an active parent group and teach parents how to engage with their student and others in the community.

Chair Harris stated TAC staff would prepare a report advising the Legislative Advisory Committee of the TAC activities.

Ms. Serafin requested, based on Agenda Item XI, the CCSD prepare two actual operating budgets for elementary school A and B. She asked the information include State and local revenue, categorical revenue, as well as any additional revenue distributed by the district for presentation at the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM X—PRESENTATION REGARDING THE FINANCING OF CAPITAL PROJECTS OF CCSD

This item was postponed until the next TAC meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XI—PRESENTATION CONCERNING EQUITY OF FUNDING DISTRIBUTION FOR CCSD

This item was postponed until the next TAC meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XII—PUBLIC COMMENT

Yvette Williams, previously identified, requested there be a mechanism in place to ensure advisory councils are diverse that would enable minorities to have a voice and a vote.

Wendy Malcoup, Las Vegas, Nevada, expressed concern the advisory committees are only advisory and should have the ability to actively participate in the educational process.

Annalise Castor, parent, Las Vegas, Nevada, thanked the TAC for acknowledging the importance of parental involvement. She stated five-star schools come from five-star families and can make a difference in the education in this State.

AGENDA ITEM XIII—ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Harper
Senior Research Secretary

Kelly S. Richard
Principal Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Senator Becky Harris, Chair

Date: _____

EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT	WITNESS/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
Exhibit A	Kelly S. Richard, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB)	Agenda
Exhibit B	Kelly S. Richard, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB	Provisions of Assembly Bill No. 394 (2015) Sections 25 through 30
Exhibit C	Nancy E. Brune, Ph.D., Executive Director, Guinn Center for Policy Priorities	Policy Report
Exhibit D	Larry R. Moses, Ed.D., retired Clark County School District (CCSD) teacher and school administrator	Written testimony
Exhibit E	Vikki Courtney, President, Clark County Education Association (CCEA)	Written testimony
Exhibit F	John Vellardita, Executive Director, CCEA	Written testimony
Exhibit G	John Vellardita, Executive Director, CCEA	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
Exhibit H	Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent, CCSD	Written presentation regarding CCSD's response to A.B. 394

This set of "Summary Minutes and Action Report" is supplied as an informational service. Exhibits in electronic format may not be complete. Copies of the complete exhibits and other materials distributed at the meeting are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. You may contact the Library online at www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm or telephone: (775) 684-6827.