



**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**

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The fourth meeting of the Nevada Legislature's Technical Advisory Committee to Develop a Plan to Reorganize the Clark County School District was held on Friday, January 29, 2016, at 8:00 a.m. in Room 4401, Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 2134, 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](mailto: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  
Stavan Corbett  
Carolyn G. Goodman, Mayor, Las Vegas  
Andy Hafen, Mayor, City of Henderson  
Kraig Hafen, Council Member, Mesquite City Council  
Brent Husson  
Duncan R. Lee  
Ashok "Ash" Mirchandani  
Larry R. Moses, Ed.D.  
Tom Rodriguez  
Mary Beth Scow, Commissioner, Board of Clark County Commissioners  
Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent, Clark County School District  
Daniel Stewart

John Vellardita

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:**

Brian Knudsen

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Hannah Brown

Vikki Courtney

John J. Lee, Mayor, City of North Las Vegas

Allison Serafin

Rich Shuman, Council Member, Boulder City Council

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:**

Kelly S. Richard, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division

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

Julie Waller, Senior Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division

Jaimarie Dagdagan, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis 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 Harris called the meeting to order.

## **AGENDA ITEM II—OPENING REMARKS**

Chair Harris welcomed members, presenters, and the public to the fourth meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee to Develop a Plan to Reorganize the Clark County School District (TAC). Chair Harris reviewed testimony guidelines.

## **AGENDA ITEM III—PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Harris called for public comment.

Jazneed Sing, parent, Las Vegas, Nevada, shared her wish list for her son's education: 1) to be made aware of the curriculum, course syllabus, and test dates, and 2) the ability to track educational progress in both homework and tests.

Caryne Shea, Honoring Our Public Education (HOPE), presented written comments ([Exhibit B](#)) and an update on survey results conducted by HOPE related to funding equity.

Lindsey Dalley, D.D.S., resident of Moapa Valley; member, Moapa Valley Community Education Advisory Board (MVCEAB); and chair of the Assembly Bill 394 Reorganization Task Force, clarified his January 27, 2016, testimony regarding the loss of programs and staff. He stated the MVCEAB was not aware of the virtual reality education program for outlying areas, but discovered there are 33 Moapa Valley students enrolled in virtual reality courses for credit retrieval. Dr. Dalley was of the opinion that online credit retrieval courses do not benefit the students.

Vice Chair Irvin stated an error was discovered in the January 27, 2016, Urban Chamber of Commerce's presentation on administrative survey results. She indicated the response rate should have been reported at 88 percent, with one principal requesting additional information on the question regarding that a decision-making, school-based advisory council/board would improve school culture, student achievement, and parental involvement. Ms. Irvin stated the Legislative Counsel Bureau has been provided with an updated version of the presentation.

Emily Higby, Executive Director, Asian Community Resource Center, provided information that one out of four Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) students is as an English Language Learner or lives in a linguistically limited household. She reported the AAPI high school dropout rate is staggering with the highest among Hmong and Cambodian students. Ms. Higby addressed the need for AAPI student access to pre-kindergarten classes and language assistance for students and families.

Rozita V. Lee, President and Chief Executive Officer, Rozita V. Lee Consulting, and Asian advocate, advised of the growing population of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) in Clark County. She addressed the issue of the low number of NHPI teachers and for educators to understand the different cultures of students. Ms. Lee provided statistics in the report, *A Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the West* ([Exhibit C](#)).

Roshita Swanee, parent, Las Vegas, Nevada, expressed support for the Clark County School District's (CCSD) magnet program. She questioned future plans to engage students and provide incentives to teachers. Ms. Swanee voiced concern regarding the funding allocation for teaching and resources.

#### **ITEM IV—MATTERS CONTINUED FROM THE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 27, 2016, IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

There were no matters continued from the January 27, 2016, meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM V—PRESENTATIONS BY COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER GROUPS ON EQUITY OF SCHOOL DISTRICT FUNDING**

##### **A. City of Henderson**

Andy Hafen, previously identified, presented information on the development, feedback solicitation, and results of a survey conducted in the City of Henderson ([Exhibit D](#)).

There was discussion that Henderson's residents, overall, are satisfied with their schools, but not with the CCSD.

Richard A. Derrick, Chief Financial Officer, City of Henderson, reported that decentralization and the empowerment school model resonated with parents and teachers. He stated a common request was for community input and control of the education system.

Javier Trujillo, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, City of Henderson, responded to questions regarding whether respondents provided income information.

The following issues were discussed:

- Input into equitable funding allocation;
- Local school autonomy;
- Zone variances;

- Frustration among parents on the inability to discuss issues with school board members or school district employees;
- Smaller precincts equal better accessibility; and
- The success of Henderson's schools being attributed to good educators, parents, and a sense of belonging and neighborhood identity.

## **B. City of Mesquite**

Robert D. Sweetin, J.D., City Attorney, City of Mesquite, outlined the four common concerns and survey highlights from Virgin Valley, the City of Mesquite, and Bunkerville ([Exhibit E](#)).

Kraig Hafen, previously identified, opined they could do more with the per pupil funding amount with community resources. He added that teachers are willing to go the extra mile but are hindered by current policies.

There was discussion regarding the following issues:

- Funding decisions at the local level;
- Unequal athletic services and resources;
- Special education funding and the mainstreaming of special education students;
- Bilingual education;
- The unavailability of coursework in rural areas;
- The uniqueness of rural area needs;
- The ability to utilize local resources; and
- Autonomy and equitable funding.

## **C. Sandy Valley**

Dawn Haviland, President, Sandy-Mesquite Valley Educational Foundation, discussed the educational issues and problems that plagued the Sandy-Mesquite Valley residents. She outlined how the community united to create a charter school to educate its students. Ms. Haviland reported that the charter school has since closed and students now attend a CCSD public school. She provided information on the following issues since education services have been available in their community:

- An increase in graduation rates;
- Dropout rates have decreased;
- The availability of athletic facilities for competitions held in the community;
- Increase in student involvement in school activities;
- Successful Future Farmers of America program; and
- An overall increase in community involvement.

Larry R. Moses, Ed.D., retired CCSD teacher and school administrator, reported on his visit to Sandy Valley and its tremendous sense of community and pride. He concurred, that if allowed to, rural communities will provide solutions to challenges within their communities.

Senator Roberson invited TAC members, staff, and the public to the February 26, 2016, meeting of the Advisory Committee to Develop a Plan to Reorganize the Clark County School District. He announced that three world-recognized experts, Michael Strembitsky, International Consultant and former Superintendent of Schools for Edmonton Public Schools in Edmonton, Canada; William Ouchi, Distinguished Professor, *Emeritus*, University of California, David Geffen School of Medicine; and Eric Nadelstern, Professor of Practice in Educational Leadership and Director of the Principals Academy, Teachers College, Columbia University, will be presenting information on school site decision-making, decentralization, reorganizing large districts, and empowerment school models.

#### **D. Nevada Parent Teacher Association**

Stavan Corbett, Vice President, Advocacy, Nevada Parent Teacher Association, presented information and results from the family and teacher and administrator surveys ([Exhibit F](#)).

There was discussion on the possible collection of information regarding single parents, such as how many children they have; their employment status; and how that may impact students and learning. There was further discussion to provide the survey results to educators to improve the educational learning process.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VI—PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Harris called for public comment.

Sylvester S. (S.S.) Rogers, Ph.D., Pastor, Greater Mt. Sinai Missionary Recruiting Ministries, and President, Ministers of Alliance Association of Southern Nevada, stated he continues to attend educational meetings supporting education for all students. He proposed upgrading our schools and providing adequate funding for resources. Dr. Rogers opposes the reorganization

of the CCSD into smaller precincts. He opined the west side's Prime 6 schools would suffer from insufficient funding and resources.

Jeanette Spear, parent, Las Vegas, Nevada, shared her frustration with the CCSD regarding accessing resources for one daughter requiring special needs services and the other daughter requiring gifted and talented services. She encouraged better communication and direction from the CCSD and schools to parents to help students succeed.

Ed Uehling, Las Vegas, Nevada, opined the State of Utah has achieved better education outcomes with less per pupil spending. He suggested CCSD could enter into an agreement with Utah to educate Virgin Valley students.

Chair Harris requested Superintendent Skorkowsky provide a written explanation of virtual learning and other learning opportunities available to CCSD students.

Annalise Castor, parent, Break Free CCSD, reported the community does not believe A.B. 394 will result in change. She stated Break Free CCSD is making an effort to inform the community about the work of this Committee to return schools to the community and excite individuals about the process.

## **AGENDA ITEM VII—ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Christina Harper  
Senior Research Secretary

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Kelly S. Richard  
Principal Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Becky Harris, Chair

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



## EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT	WITNESS/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
<a href="#">Exhibit A</a>	Kelly S. Richard, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau	Agenda
<a href="#">Exhibit B</a>	Caryne Shea, Honoring Our Public Education	Written comments
<a href="#">Exhibit C</a>	Rozita V. Lee, President and Chief Executive Officer, Rozita V. Lee Consulting	<i>A Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the West</i> report
<a href="#">Exhibit D</a>	Andy Hafen, Mayor, City of Henderson	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<a href="#">Exhibit E</a>	Robert D. Sweetin, J.D., City Attorney, City of Mesquite	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<a href="#">Exhibit F</a>	Stavan Corbett, Vice President, Advocacy, Nevada Parent Teacher Association	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation

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](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm) or telephone: (775) 684-6827.