



**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 fifth meeting of the Nevada Legislature's Technical Advisory Committee to Develop a Plan to Reorganize the Clark County School District was held on Wednesday, February 17, 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 3137, 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  
Senator Michael Roberson  
Assemblyman David M. Gardner  
Hannah Brown  
Stavan Corbett  
Vikki Courtney  
Andy Hafen, Mayor, Henderson  
Kraig Hafen, Council Member, Mesquite City Council  
Brent Husson  
Brian Knudsen  
Duncan R. Lee  
Ashok "Ash" Mirchandani  
Larry R. Moses, Ed.D.  
Tom Rodriguez  
Mary Beth Scow, Commissioner, Board of Clark County Commissioners  
Rich Shuman, Council Member, Boulder City Council

Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent, Clark County School District  
John Vellardita

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:**

Marsha Irvin, Vice Chair

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Carolyn G. Goodman, Mayor, Las Vegas  
John J. Lee, Mayor, City of North Las Vegas  
Allison Serafin  
Daniel Stewart

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:**

Kelly S. Richard, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division  
Karly O’Krent, Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal 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 fifth meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee to Develop a Plan to Reorganize the Clark County School District (TAC). She reviewed testimony guidelines and committee rules.

#### **AGENDA ITEM III—PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Harris called for public comment.

Magdalena Martinez, Ph.D., The Lincy Institute, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, submitted the Latino community's open-ended survey responses ([Exhibit B](#)).

#### **AGENDA ITEM IV—PRESENTATION CONCERNING THE ROLE OF COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS**

Kristin Anderson Moore, Ph.D., Senior Scholar and Codirector of Youth Development, Child Trends, presented information regarding integrated student supports ([Exhibit C](#)).

Discussion ensued between Dr. Moore and the TAC on the following:

- The five elements essential for integrated student supports to be successful;
- Importance of identifying a student's needs and then meeting those needs;
- Factors that influence school success;
- Support systems for students and families; and
- Return on investment.

#### **AGENDA ITEM V—OVERVIEW OF LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCIL MODELS**

Julie Woestehoff, Interim Executive Director, Parents Across America, presented information regarding Local School Councils (LSCs) ([Exhibit D](#)).

There was dialog between Ms. Woestehoff and TAC members on the following topics:

- Budget authority of LSCs;
- The central administration role and responsibilities within LSCs;
- Success and challenges of LSCs;
- The connection of student achievement and community involvement; and
- LSCs board composition.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VI—PRESENTATION CONCERNING UTAH’S SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

Paula Plant, Program Administrator, School LAND Trust Program, Utah State Office of Education, submitted information ([Exhibit E](#)) on School Community Councils (SCC) and their role in the educational process.

There was discussion between Ms. Plant and the TAC members regarding SCC authority and budget responsibility and the approval process for school improvement plans.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VII—OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Patrick Gavin, Executive Director, State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA), reviewed key points for community involvement in charter schools. He provided an overview of the statutory requirements of charter school governing boards, which must contain at least one parent. Mr. Gavin reported on new opportunities for community and parental involvement in charter schools. He noted that charter schools offer the opportunity to be innovative in many areas of education.

Discussion ensued between Assemblyman Gardner and Mr. Gavin regarding how parents are chosen to be a charter school board member.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VIII—OVERVIEW OF NEVADA’S DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION’S OFFICE OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**

Dena Durish, Deputy Superintendent for Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement, Nevada’s Department of Education (NDE), shared how the Office of Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement was established to meet NDE goals ([Exhibit F](#)).

Cynthia Santos, Education Programs Professional, Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement, NDE, continued the presentation with an overview of the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement ([Exhibit F](#)).

Denette Corrales, Chair, Advisory Council on Parental Involvement and Family Engagement, provided information regarding the Advisory Council ([Exhibit F](#)).

Ms. Durish called attention to Nevada's parental involvement and family engagement policy ([Exhibit G](#)). She referred the TAC to the family engagement presentation provided by the Washoe County School District ([Exhibit H](#)).

Discussion ensued between the presenters and the TAC members on the following:

- Strategies and outreach to minority parents and families;
- School districts' family engagement office staff;
- National Parent Teacher Association standards;
- The process and contact information for parents when they experience challenges in the classroom or in the school;
- The role and responsibility of the Council;
- NDE's overarching role as a compliance and support agency to school districts;
- The coordinated effort of NDE, school districts, and schools to develop resolutions; and
- Parental involvement/engagement as a key to student success.

#### **AGENDA ITEM IX—PRESENTATION CONCERNING THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Nicole W. Rourke, Interim Associate Superintendent, Community and Government Relations, Clark County School District (CCSD), introduced the Family and Community Engagement Services (FACES) department.

Cheryl Davis, Director, FACES, CCSD, presented an overview of FACES ([Exhibit I](#)) and the University of Family Learning 2015–2016 Course Catalog ([Exhibit I-1](#)).

There was discussion between the presenters and the TAC members on the following issues:

- FACES' budget and staff;
- FACES' outreach efforts and support role;
- Embedding parental involvement at the school site level;
- Tracking parental involvement and student achievement;
- FACES' goals and performance measures;
- The difference between parental involvement and parental engagement;
- Parental engagement strategies and activities;
- Building parental trust at the classroom and school level; and
- Training on the importance of family engagement.

#### **AGENDA ITEM X—PRESENTATION CONCERNING COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR VICTORY SCHOOLS NEEDS ASSESSMENTS**

Mike Barton, Ed.D., Chief Student Achievement Officer, CCSD, provided information on the development of the needs assessments for Victory schools ([Exhibit J](#)).

There was discussion between Dr. Barton and the TAC members regarding school funding and the use of Zoom strategies and best practices in Victory schools.

Upon questioning, Jeffrey Geihs, Ed.D., Assistant Chief Student Achievement Officer, Performance Turnaround Zone, CCSD, reported that the CCSD self-imposed a turnaround process modeled after the school improvement plan to help struggling schools.

In discussion between Dr. Barton and the TAC members, he explained the sense of autonomy, the high-level accountability, the constant review of results, and developing plans for schools to succeed. He further shared plans to improve achievement results, including the addition of instructional time, tutoring, teacher incentives, employment of paraprofessionals, afterschool wraparound services, parental engagement, and resources.

#### **AGENDA ITEM XI—PRESENTATION CONCERNING PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOLS**

Lisa Cano Burkhead, Principal, Victoria Fertitta Middle School, CCSD, shared information on the Ron Clark Academy (RCA) in Atlanta, Georgia, which has attributed to the success of

Victoria Fertitta Middle School, a five-star school, and showed a short video (The video may be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5SBsk3rS6s>.) She provided information on the factors leading to the success of Victoria Fertitta Middle School ([Exhibit K](#)). Ms. Burkhead emphasized the importance of parent/family engagement and involvement. She provided a brief review of the following information:

- Fertitta Middle School fact sheet ([Exhibit K-1](#));
- Fertitta 15 Manners Matter and an explanation of each manner ([Exhibit K-2](#)); and
- 7th Grade Fertitta Academy Parent/Student contract ([Exhibit K-3](#)).

Discussion ensued between Ms. Burkhead and the TAC members regarding the following:

- The RCA model;
- The cost and funding of teachers to attend the RCA; and
- Working with other CCSD schools to implement the RCA model.

Chair Harris indicated the agenda for the March 28, 2016, meeting would include presentations by interested community groups on the necessary elements for parent and/or community involvement and engagement, ways to foster involvement, and recommendations for the TAC. She stressed the presentations will be restricted to this topic, and that each community group will be given no more than 30 minutes to present, with an additional 15 minutes for question and answer.

## **AGENDA ITEM XII—PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Harris called for public comment.

José Solorio, Member, Hispanics in Politics, and former CCSD school board trustee, suggested approaching minority families in a different way to increase parental involvement. He encouraged diversity within the CCSD in the culture, curriculum, hiring of educators and administrators; language; school-based family engagement; and per pupil funding to follow the student to address their needs.

Robert L. Green, Ph.D., Dean and Professor Emeritus, Michigan State University, professed the power of parental involvement and engagement, along with high expectations. He expressed the need for diversity among educators and administrators to make a difference.

Following the meeting, written testimony was received from Anna Slighting, CCSD teacher and parent of CCSD students ([Exhibit L](#)).

**AGENDA ITEM XII—ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.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="#"><u>Exhibit A</u></a>	Kelly S. Richard, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau	Agenda
<a href="#"><u>Exhibit B</u></a>	Magdalena Martinez, Ph.D., The Lincy Institute, University of Nevada, Las Vegas	Written responses to the Latino Community survey
<a href="#"><u>Exhibit C</u></a>	Kristin Anderson Moore, Ph.D., Senior Scholar and Codirector of Youth Development, Child Trends	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<a href="#"><u>Exhibit D</u></a>	Julie Woestehoff, Interim Executive Director, Parents Across America	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<a href="#"><u>Exhibit E</u></a>	Paula Plant, Program Administrator, School LAND Trust Program, Utah State Office of Education	Written information
<a href="#"><u>Exhibit F</u></a>	Dena Durish, Deputy Superintendent, Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement, Nevada's Department of Education (NDE), and Cynthia Santos, Education Programs Professional, Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement, NDE	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<a href="#"><u>Exhibit G</u></a>	Dena Durish, Deputy Superintendent, Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement, NDE	Nevada's parental involvement and family engagement policy
<a href="#"><u>Exhibit H</u></a>	Child and Family Services Department, Washoe County School District	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<a href="#"><u>Exhibit I</u></a>	Nicole W. Rourke, Interim Associate Superintendent, Community and Government Relations, Clark County School District (CCSD), and Cheryl Davis, Director, Family and Community Engagement Services (FACES), CCSD	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<a href="#"><u>Exhibit I-1</u></a>	Nicole W. Rourke, Interim Associate Superintendent, Community and Government Relations, CCSD, and Cheryl Davis, Director, FACES, CCSD	Course catalog
<a href="#"><u>Exhibit J</u></a>	Mike Barton, Ed.D., Chief Student Achievement Officer, CCSD	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation

<a href="#">Exhibit K</a>	Lisa Cano Burkhead, Principal, Victoria Fertitta Middle School, CCSD	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<a href="#">Exhibit K-1</a>	Lisa Cano Burkhead, Principal, Victoria Fertitta Middle School, CCSD	Fact Sheet handout
<a href="#">Exhibit K-2</a>	Lisa Cano Burkhead, Principal, Victoria Fertitta Middle School, CCSD	Fertitta 15 Manners Matter
<a href="#">Exhibit K-3</a>	Lisa Cano Burkhead, Principal, Victoria Fertitta Middle School, CCSD	7th Grade Fertitta Academy, Parent/Student Contract
<a href="#">Exhibit L</a>	Anna Slighting, CCSD teacher and parent of CCSD students	Written testimony

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.