



# **NEVADA LEGISLATURE JOINT INTERIM STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

*(Nevada Revised Statutes [NRS] 218E.320)*

## **MINUTES**

**August 22, 2024**

The seventh meeting of the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education for the 2023–2024 Interim was held on Thursday, August 22, 2024, at 12 p.m. in Room 165, Nevada Legislature Office Building, 7230 Amigo Street, 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/Video/>. 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](mailto:publications@lcb.state.nv.us) or 775/684-6835).

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:**

Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod, Chair  
Senator Carrie A. Buck  
Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop  
Senator Edgar Flores (Alternate for Senator Roberta Lange)  
Assemblyman Reuben D'Silva  
Assemblywoman Melissa Hardy

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:**

Assemblywoman Natha C. Anderson

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER ATTENDING REMOTELY:**

Assemblywoman Alexis Hansen

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:**

Senator Roberta Lange, Vice Chair (Excused)

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:**

Patrick B. Ashton, Principal Policy Analyst, Research Division

Alex Drozdoff, Senior Policy Analyst, Research Division

Crystal Rowe, Senior Research Policy Assistant, Research Division

Melissa Jimenez, Research Policy Assistant, Research Division

Asher Killian, Legislative Counsel, Legal Division

Cameron Newton, Senior Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division

James Malone, Principal Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division

*Items taken out of sequence during the meeting have been placed in agenda order.*  
[Indicate a summary of comments.]

## **AGENDA ITEM I—OPENING REMARKS**

### ***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Good afternoon and welcome to the seventh and final meeting of the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education. Thank you for being here.

[Chair Bilbray-Axelrod reviewed meeting protocol and information related to providing public comment.]

## **AGENDA ITEM II—PUBLIC COMMENT**

### ***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

We will start with our first agenda item, which is public comment. We will start in Las Vegas. Please go ahead when ready.

### ***Brenda Pearson, Ph.D., Director of Strategic Policy Initiatives, Clark County Education Association (CCEA):***

I wanted to talk to you about the critical piece of legislation, that we have been in front of you multiple times discussing, Assembly Bill 428 (2023). It creates a method of a system in place that will help students move from high school into college and then a career to become teachers, to look at what we need for our future workforce needs. I appreciate the time you have given CCEA to present on this multiple times. I wanted to share with you, you should have gotten a document ([Agenda Item II A](#)). I am not going to read it, but essentially it is an update as to where we are with our meetings with the Clark County School District (CCSD). The last meeting we were in, you asked us to put our heads together and try this again. We did and here is the update.

### ***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Thank you for the letter.

Is there anyone else in Las Vegas? I do not see anyone coming forward. Is there anyone in Carson City?

### ***Kent M. Ervin, Ph.D., Director of Government Relations, Nevada Faculty Alliance (NFA):***

The NFA is the independent statewide association of professional employees at the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE). We wish to state our support for four Work Session items related to NSHE ([Agenda Item II B](#)).

Item A1, fee waivers for various categories of deserving students should be uniform and standardized. It is hard enough for students to navigate the different requirements for financial aid of different types. Student fee waivers should also be fully funded to provide incentives for our colleges and universities to serve these students without making other students pick up the cost. Ideally, the fee waivers would be a caseload appropriation in the regular budget outside of the distribution formula that is based on overall enrollments.

Item A2, after the tragic events at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), on December 6, it was crystal clear that our campus safety has been lacking. We supported a deliberative process to identify and correct shortcomings statewide with input from faculty and students. Almost nine months later, and with the new school year starting, we are alarmed that little concrete action has been taken. I believe Doug Unger is on the phone line to give you more details.

Item A3, if the Legislature wants more accountability from NSHE, it must develop expertise and put in the time and effort. This requires a standing policy committee or subcommittee for higher education issues. If Ballot Question 1 is approved by voters, we recommend an interim study of the governance and structure of NSHE. Changes should not be made without thorough vetting.

Item A5, dual and concurrent enrollment has expanded rapidly in recent years with little statewide coordination. Policies should ensure the quality of instruction. The bottom line is dual and concurrent courses must meet the same high academic standards as on campus courses and the instructors must have the same minimum qualifications. Thank you.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Thank you for the testimony. Is there anyone else in Carson City? I am not seeing anyone.

Broadcast and Production Services (BPS), could we go to the phone lines?

***BPS:***

To provide public comment, please press \*9 to take your place in the queue.

***Serena Evans, Policy Director, Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence and Chair, Committee on Responses to Power-Based Violence in Schools:***

Good afternoon, Chair and Members of the Committee. This Committee on Responses to Power-Based Violence in Schools was formed out of the passage of AB 245 (2023) and is made up of diverse partners who offer unique perspectives of the education system and schools responses to violence. Its discussions focused on improving and adapting to the changing landscape of power-based violence in schools and centering the lived experiences of student survivors and their families. After robust discussion and exploring various topics relating to power-based violence in K through 12 schools, the Committee identified two recommendations that would positively improve the experiences of students and prevent violence.

The first recommendation is to have trauma-informed staff at all schools. This would require schools to have at least one trained designated site-based personnel who undergo annual training on trauma-informed practices that a community-based organization provides. The designated trauma-informed staff would be required to triage disclosures of power-based violence and assist survivors in the next steps and protocols. The Committee identified this recommendation based on the lived experiences of student survivors who shared that their disclosures were mishandled by school personnel and inadvertently caused more harm and trauma. Having trained staff on site will ensure the sensitive disclosures of power-based violence are handled in an appropriate manner putting the survivor first.

The second recommendation is to commit funding to schools to invest in training and prevention programming. The Committee recognizes that power-based violence continues to

impact our K through 12 students and be normalized. Without proper investment in prevention education and training, violence will continue.

This Committee is dedicated to ending violence in our schools and ensuring that appropriate support and resources exist for survivors. These recommendations are the first step in making this a reality. I will follow up with the Committee to share the final report from the Committee on Responses to Power-Based Violence in Schools. Thank you for your time.

***Douglas A. Unger, Acting President, UNLV Chapter, NFA:***

Thank you, Chair Bilbray-Axelrod, Vice Chair Lange, and Members of the Committee. I would be there in person but must phone in on a break from student orientation and meetings, which is always such a thrilling time for new hope. I cannot tell you how thrilled I am to be with our new students and how wonderful they are.

We appreciate and support many of the major recommendations for higher education on today's Work Session. They are all important, especially the establishment of a standing committee for oversight of NSHE—when, not if, Ballot Question 1 passes.

The most urgent reason I am calling is Recommendation 2. The letter to NSHE requesting to report school safety recommendations to the next legislative session. I would like to inform this Committee that we have these recommendations. I was appointed a member of the NSHE ad hoc Committee on Public Safety established as a response to the shooting last December 6, which killed three of our faculty colleagues and wounded another. My colleagues and I, on this Committee, have put in dozens of hours and have come up with 13 major safety recommendations for the short-term, mid-term, and long-term reported to the Board of Regents on April 19. None of these have been implemented, not even the six that cover better communications and emergency response that cost little, other than staff time. Aside from the major renovation of Frank and Estella Beam Hall to improve security and paint over the scars, nothing—and I mean nothing—has been done. The UNLV campus is no safer now than it was last December 6. The eight-month delay caused by internal politics at UNLV, combined with bureaucratic foot dragging at NSHE is not acceptable. Not for faculty, not for students, not for anyone. Please join me in helping to light a fire under these people. Let us make them do something. Thank you.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Thank you for your testimony. BPS, are there any other callers?

***BPS:***

Chair, the public line is open and working, but there are no additional callers for public comment.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Thank you, and it looks like we have somebody else in Las Vegas. If you want to come forward. Anyone else wishing to make public comment in Las Vegas, please fill up the chairs. Go ahead when you are ready.

***Abraham Camejo, Nevada Resident:***

I am a community member and small business owner. I own a risk management consulting company. I am here to talk about the early childhood and school operations. I would like to first thank everybody who is present. I appreciate you.

Early childhood asked that preschool be required at rural schools for children ages three-years-old and up to four. I am a father of five daughters and one boy, so I speak as a father myself. These schools should include the rural schools of Goodsprings, Lundy, Moapa, Mesquite, Boulder City, Searchlight, Bunkerville, Nelson, and Sandy Valley.

Also, I would like to talk about school closures regarding where we can get more involvement from our School Organizational Team (SOT) parents and members. This way we can include these members from the SOT to work together with the bond oversight committee and oversight facility committee, and where we can be granted access to these sites and be considered in these conversations, especially for our rural schools that we have coming.

It has been a year since devastations happened at Mount Charleston and Earl B. Lundy Elementary School is still not open. No repairs. Estimates for that community are up to \$6 million. No real estimates have been conducted. The community is still facing repairs from getting the roads fixed to their homes to getting potable drinking water. I have been able to witness the children being bused down from Lundy all the way to Indian Springs. I have children in that age group. I encourage you to look into more detail on this matter and see where you can help out, especially our rural schools.

I believe, as a father, that everybody has a right to have a teacher in front of them so they can be educated, especially at a young age, which is early childhood. I see the kids who are lacking reading skills and math skills with everything that happened during the Coronavirus Disease of 2019. I would hate to see this happen to our schools in our rural communities. If there is anything we can do as a community, please let us know so we can work together. Once again, I appreciate your hard work and your time. Thank you for allowing me to speak today.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Thank you for being here, and I will continue to monitor that issue in Lundy. It is a special place, and we need to recognize that.

### **AGENDA ITEM III—APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING ON JUNE 20, 2024**

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

With that, we will move on to our next agenda item, approval of the minutes for the meeting on June 20, 2024.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 20, 2024.

ASSEMBLYMAN D'SILVA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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## **AGENDA ITEM IV—WORK SESSION—DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO:**

### ***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Next, we will get started with our Work Session. The purpose of the Work Session is for our Committee to decide which legislative measures, if any, will be requested for the 2025 Session of the Nevada Legislature, as well as any other actions the Committee may endorse.

Staff has assisted in preparing a “Work Session Document” (WSD) to help guide us through the Work Session ([Agenda Item IV](#)). The WSD is available online and at each meeting location. Members, you should have a copy in front of you as well.

The recommendations outlined in the document are not necessarily set in stone. If the Committee is so inclined, measures may be amended prior to a vote. Staff will guide us through the document. There will be a discussion period for each item the Committee will consider individually, and then, if Members are so inclined, I will accept a motion to approve that item.

I will turn things over to Ms. Drozdoff to introduce the WSD, and then we will discuss the consent calendar. Ms. Drozdoff, please go ahead.

### ***Ms. Drozdoff:***

As nonpartisan legislative staff, I can neither support nor oppose any proposal that comes before you today.

As the Chair mentioned, the WSD has been posted as an exhibit to the Committee's webpage and Members will find it in their packets as well ([Agenda Item IV](#)). The WSD has been prepared to assist the Committee in determining which legislative measures and other actions it will put forth for consideration for the 2025 Session of the Nevada Legislature. This WSD contains a summary of recommendations presented during public hearings, through communication with individual Committee members, or through correspondence submitted to the Committee Members or staff. The proposals listed in this document are organized so the Committee Members can review them and decide whether they want to accept, reject, modify, or take no action on the recommendations. Proposals are grouped by topic and are not preferentially ordered.

The Committee may request up to ten legislative measures for the 2025 Legislative Session on issues that address education. The Committee may vote to send as many letters of recommendation or support as it chooses and include statements in the final report. Committee members are advised that LCB staff, at the direction of the Chair, may coordinate with interested parties to obtain additional information for drafting purposes or for information to be included in the Committee's final report.

### ***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Next, I would like to review our consent calendar, which can be found on page 14 of the WSD. The consent calendar lists recommendations that may be approved together in one motion rather than consider each item individually. However, any Committee Member may request that an item is taken out of the consent calendar—removed for further

clarification, discussion, or consideration. Members, are their current items listed on the consent calendar that you would like to pull for additional discussion?

***Assemblywoman Anderson:***

Chair, I had two questions. One was on the higher education area, but it was a specific area. The other had to do with the early childhood items, which would be D-16, and it is because I want to get a clarification on that one. Then A-1 and again, it is clarification. I am comfortable with both of them, I just need a small clarification.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Those are both recommendations for legislation; they are not on the consent calendar.

***Assemblywoman Anderson:***

Thank you for the clarification. I have no other questions.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

To be clear, any proposed legislation we will be discussing. The consent calendar is not for those. Anything else? [There were none.]

I would entertain a motion to approve the items listed on a consent calendar. Is there any discussion on the motion? [There was none.]

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS LISTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

ASSEMBLYMAN D'SILVA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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***A. HIGHER EDUCATION***

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Ms. Drozdoff, please review the next recommendation from the WSD.

***Ms. Drozdoff:***

The next recommendation for consideration is Recommendation A-1 related to fee waivers. This recommendation is to propose legislation unifying the conditions and requirements of NSHE fee waivers offered. Such unification would include:

- a. Encouraging all waiver applicants to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as a condition of eligibility;
- b. Standardizing the courses covered by such waivers to be courses that apply toward an undergraduate or graduate degree, excluding professional programs. For clarity, NSHE shall publish a list each semester of courses that will be covered;

- c. If additional fee waiver programs are created, or student participation in current programs is expanded beyond current capacity, encouraging the Senate Committee on Finance (FIN) and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means (WM) of the 2025 Legislative Session to consider State funding to support the offset of the fee waiver costs; and
- d. Requiring that NSHE utilize a standardized structure for all fee waivers so the full amount of registration, laboratory, and other mandatory fees assessed against an eligible student for the term are covered.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Any questions from the Committee? Assemblywoman Anderson.

***Assemblywoman Anderson:***

I have two questions. The first is, are we considering all of these? Let us say that we do bring this forward as one of our Committee bills, should we question the areas that we might have concerns about or is that something for us to utilize during the legislative process during this session? For example, and I have already talked with representatives from NSHE, I do have concerns over 1(b). But I do not know if this is the proper place for me to bring that up, or if it is better for us to bring that up when we go through the drafting process and through the process of legislation.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

These are just the jumping off point. This is the Committee's recommendation; we can work on that during drafting as well as amending the bill. Rarely does a bill come out that is absolutely perfect with the intent of what we— No offense to our amazing LCB staff. It is just the nature of the work. I know you will be present for all those committee meetings, so I encourage you to work through it and make it the best bill that was ever put through the Nevada Legislature.

***Assemblywoman Anderson:***

Thank you for the confidence. My other question is something, again, more towards the legislative time frame. With the fee waiver, I know there is another group working on creating an NSHE formula. I do not know if the fee waiver is also part of that formula for funding or if it is separate. Would this be the proper place to bring that up, or should we wait until the bill is drafted and then we get to amend it?

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

I will have our Legislative Counsel address that.

***Mr. Killian:***

I believe the study group from NSHE, that was focusing on the funding formula, submitted their final report to the LCB—I want to say within the last week or so. I have not had a chance to review it in its entirety, so I do not know whether fee waivers are a component of that or not. Certainly, if there is an appetite by the Committee to consider the interaction between those issues, the Committee could. Whichever entities would be carrying that bill on behalf of NSHE, considering the funding formula more generally, could also consider the impact of few waivers at that time.

***Assemblywoman Anderson:***

Thank you for the clarification.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

With that, do I have a motion? Any discussion on the motion? [There was none.]

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION A-1 (a), (b), (c), and (d).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HARDY SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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***B. DATA AND ACCOUNTABILITY***

***Ms. Drozdoff:***

The next item for the Committee's consideration is Recommendation B-6 related to chronic absenteeism. This is a proposal for legislation to require Nevada's Department of Education (NDE) to create, or utilize an existing system to house, a real-time attendance data dashboard. Further, require school districts to report attendance information daily to the dashboard. The dashboard should make publicly available any trends or rates related to absenteeism. Internally, school districts should monitor this dashboard so school leaders may identify attendance issues early, specifically for pupils trending to be missing more than 10 percent of the school year.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Members, any questions? Seeing none, I would take a motion. Any discussion on the motion? [There was none.]

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION B-6.

ASSEMBLYMAN D'SILVA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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***Ms. Drozdoff:***

The next item for consideration is Recommendation B-7. This is to propose legislation requiring NDE to convene and oversee a task force that will develop and update a new education scorecard. This scorecard should include a variety of metrics and primarily be focused on assessing Nevada in comparison to other states with similar practices.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Senator Dondero Loop, do you have a question?

**Senator Dondero Loop:**

It may be more of a comment. As I read through this, as an educator, I have a bit of angst about calling this a scorecard. I am hoping that moving forward, we come up with different verbiage. We are not scoring, we are helping and facilitating schools to become better. I have a real thorn in my side about the verbiage there. While we are adding another task force that I think is important. Is this an add on to the star system, or is this a different system? I do not know if we have all the information we need here, while I see it could come out in a bill. I hope it is not a scorecard. I think that is not what I want to hear.

**Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:**

Do you have a recommendation for a different word? I agree words matter. We do not want them to think we are scoring them. I know we have teachers on this Committee as well. If you think there is a better way to say it, I would be—

**Senator Dondero Loop:**

I do not have one today, but I will bet by February 3, I will have one.

**Assemblywoman Anderson:**

I agree with the Senator. I also have concerns about this because currently we have too many people who utilize the rankings as if it is almost a hotel—five star versus three star—and it creates an unfair feeling towards our students.

As teachers, we are often asked to use rubrics. I think a rubric would make much more sense. If I remember Mr. Butterworth's presentation, it would be great to have clear information about what the comparison is based on. Because when we are comparing the ACT scores in our State—where every junior has to take it—to another state—where only students opt-in to take it—the rubric utilized often shows we are not doing as well as I know my students are doing and many of our schools are doing.

I appreciate what the Senator brought up and would like to also echo that concern.

**Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:**

I appreciate the comments. We could use the term *rubric* when we move forward. I am fine with that and even have that be a placeholder. We have a representative from the Kenny Guinn Center for Policy Priorities. If you want to come up and answer the question that was brought up.

**Anna Colquitt, Director of Education Policy, Kenny Guinn Center for Policy Priorities:**

Mr. Butterworth was the author of this report, so I do not want to claim ownership over that. However, I agree that having a standardized and more objective rubric is critical for this type of measurement. These metrics need to be consistent and, like it was discussed, we cannot have apples to oranges comparisons. This is the whole problem. Having these objective measures would make it easier to know where our pain points are and where we are doing well. It is a critical consideration. I also agree with Senator Dondero Loop that the idea of a scorecard and potentially the negative connotation that could be associated with that. There is an opportunity to create verbiage that might be a better fit for this.

**Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:**

Thank you for the clarification. Does the Committee have an appetite to moving forward calling it a rubric? Can we take that verbiage out?

**Senator Dondero Loop:**

If we want to say an education rubric instead of scorecard that would be acceptable on my end. Then, we can move forward and may find a different word that works better.

**Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:**

I think that is a great idea. We will make that change. With that, would you like to make the motion Senator? Any discussion on the motion? [There was none.]

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION B-7 TO PROPOSE LEGISLATION REQUIRING NDE TO CONVENE AND OVERSEE A TASK FORCE THAT WILL DEVELOP AND UPDATE A NEW EDUCATION RUBRIC.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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**Ms. Drozdoff:**

The next item for the Committee's consideration is Recommendation B-8. I will note that the language for this recommendation has shifted slightly compared to what was in the Work Session originally after continued conversations with the Commission on School Funding. I will read all of that out as it is now.

This recommendation is to propose legislation creating a due date for the quarterly report submitted relating to AB 400 (2023) and Senate Bill 98 (2023) associated with the academic progress of pupils. The specific date will be established by the Commission on School Funding in the coming months.

**Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:**

The clarification is that it is due in November for this time, but then they will work it out in the future. Correct?

**Ms. Drozdoff:**

My understanding is yes, they are aiming for a November due date for this year. But in the future, they are still considering dates that may align better with other reporting metrics and therefore with this as well.

**Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:**

Great, thank you. Any other questions or discussions? [There were none.]

I would take a motion. Any discussion on the motion? [There was none.]

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION B-8 TO PROPOSE LEGISLATION CREATING A DUE DATE FOR THE QUARTERLY REPORT SUBMITTED RELATING TO AB 400 (2023) AND SB 98 (2023) ASSOCIATED WITH THE ACADEMIC PROGRESS OF PUPILS, TO BE PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION ON SCHOOL FUNDING.

ASSEMBLYMAN D'SILVA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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### **C. GOVERNANCE**

#### ***Ms. Drozdoff:***

The next item for the Committee's consideration is Recommendation C-14 related to school closure. This recommendation is to propose legislation making certain changes to the process by which a school may be closed. Specifically, amend NRS 393.080 to:

- a. Replace "kindergarten" with "pre-kindergarten" in Section 1(d);
- b. In Section 2, include community members surrounding the school in those whom the board of trustees is required to provide the 30 days' written notice;
- c. The written notice must include:
  - i. The reason for the recommendation to close the school;
  - ii. Any documentation of costs associated with the school closure; and
  - iii. The scope of work necessitated to keep the school open; and
- d. Furthermore, clarify that under no circumstances may a school be recommended for closure if impacted by a fire or flood, or for any reason relating to enrollment.

Additionally, amend NRS 393.085, in regard to a hearing for reconsideration by a board of trustees, to clarify that if no action is taken by the board of trustees, or if they vote to not close the school, the school must remain open. Finally, add that the decision of the board of trustees, after its reconsideration hearing, is subject to review by Nevada's State Board of Education prior to judicial review.

#### ***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Any discussion on this item? Senator Buck.

#### ***Senator Buck:***

I am concerned with the recommendation in that if enrollment declines and districts decide to combine schools, why we would not leave that autonomy up to make sense for them.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

I wanted that in there because I think those who are affected by that are mostly rural schools. I hate to see young kids being put on a bus for an hour and 45 minutes one way to get to a school because of it. I think that our biggest issue is absenteeism and parental involvement. When you close a school, those items are exacerbated. It is for the rural schools that I wanted to keep that in. The bill is coming forward so you can still work on it, but that was my thought behind it.

***Senator Buck:***

Coming from rural Iowa, I know many times they combine schools to have it make more sense so there are more resources going if enrollment declines. I will look forward to this during session and making recommendations.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Remember we have a vast number of counties. Some counties in Nevada have one high school so it is important that education is accessible to everyone. I think we would all agree with that. Any other questions?

***Senator Dondero Loop:***

I have a clarifying question in regard to the comments just made. In a rural setting, if they decided to close that school or to do something different— At some point in Austin, Nevada, we may have had five kids. If the county or school district decides to do something different, this will not prohibit them from doing something different, it will allow them to do it if they want.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

I think it would. If those five students, in Austin, Nevada, based on the fact that there are five students and they would have to go two hours for school, this would. I will have Mr. Killian speak on that. Would it go all the way up to the courts at some point?

***Mr. Killian:***

It is a question for the Committee as to what the intent of the bill draft request (BDR) would be. As written in the WSD, yes, there would be no ability for a school board to close a school on the basis of too much or too little enrollment. In that situation, I do not think the school board would be allowed to close the school as the WSD is currently written. If the Committee wants to move in a different direction with intent for the BDR, certainly, this is a question for the Committee. As written, that is what the intent would be.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Senator, that is the reason I wanted to include it because those five students still are entitled to an education and not; what is the closest school to Austin? I have been to Austin.

***Senator Dondero Loop:***

You are absolutely right. I only threw that out as an example if you have two high school students and they choose to do something different in the school and it becomes not used for some reason. Even in Lundy, if at some point we do not have the same amount of

children there, or the parents choose to send their kids down to the William and Mary Scherkenbach Elementary school or something. I want them to have those capabilities as well. I want that flexibility. I think that will come out as we go through the bill.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

I agree. Thank you for that clarification. I am glad I was able to put that on the record as that was the intent.

***Assemblywoman Anderson:***

My question has to do with the last sentence, "subject to review by Nevada's State Board of Education." Is that currently the process, or is this adding another layer we currently do not have? I am asking for clarity.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

It is not currently the process. We are adding more oversight.

***Assemblywoman Anderson:***

Great. I do not think any school opening or closing has been under the State Board of Education at this time. Is that correct?

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Correct.

***Assemblywoman Hansen:***

This situation with Austin is in my District. Austin has struggled with enrollment. I appreciate you putting in the language not close it because of enrollment numbers. Lander County handled this on their own. Yes, Battle Mountain is quite a drive, and that was a lot of the issue to ship those few children all the way to Battle Mountain. It is a long time on a bus. I want to make sure the school boards in those local districts still have the autonomy to either keep a school open or close it. I did not get the impression this language would forbid that. They could have other reasons to close it if they decide as a school board. Yes, we have small enrollment, but we also have trouble staffing it with teachers. It is hard to recruit to some of these rural towns. I want to make sure I am not binding the hands of the school boards there if we were to include the language. The way we are recommending it did not appear to me that we were doing that, but perhaps I have looked at it incorrectly. Maybe Legal could clarify.

***Senator Dondero Loop:***

This is exactly why I used that example, because we do not want to bind their hands. We want them to be able to make that decision. If those students decide they want to do—which they did at one time—online learning or go into Battle Mountain. We want them to be able to make those decisions, and we want them to be able to stay there if they want to. I did not want it to be a situation where if they wanted to do something different, like close the school or send those kids to Battle Mountain, and then they did ultimately close the school they could not do that too. I wanted to leave them the options of doing what was best for that community.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

I would recommend taking this bill as is and then working on it through the policy of the Committee to see what that looks like. My concern, if we take that out completely, is enrollment could be an issue. Mr. Killian, correct me if I am wrong, by leaving it in and then tweaking it once we are in the policy—

***Mr. Killian:***

My understanding of what you are proposing is that this language, regarding prohibition against closing a school solely on the basis of enrollment, would remain in the bill with the intent that it may be amended as the bill works its way through the process to something else relating to that same concept. Having that language in the bill, at the start, would give a basis for that amendment to be germane. By including this at the start, you are creating the opportunity for such an amendment to be germane. If there were nothing in the bill dealing with this concept at all, then an amendment to that may not be germane. This would at least create a bill that could be a vehicle for whatever the ultimate policy is. Whereas not including this at all, there may not be the opportunity to amend in that fashion.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

For example, and I am not suggesting this would be the language, but this could be, if a majority of the parents think if there are three students and two are fine with going 45 minutes away. I would like to leave this language in there and then you can tweak it and make it the best bill ever. Is that amendable to you, Assemblywoman?

***Assemblywoman Hansen:***

Yes, I am understanding your intent, but I am questioning. I guess I need an example of where we need that protection, because Austin did not close over low enrollment. The Board chose to keep it open.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Correct, but they could have. We would like additional oversight on that. To me, it is really clear, it is access to education for children. As I mentioned before, chronic absenteeism and parental involvement are two of our biggest hurdles. Having children drive an hour and 45 minutes—or from Austin to Battle Mountain, which is even further—it is not conducive to eliminating those obstacles. I know you will figure out exactly how to say that. I would like to move this item as written.

Do we have a motion?

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION C-14 AS STATED IN THE WSD.

ASSEMBLYMAN D'SILVA SECONDED THE MOTION.

Is there any discussion on the motion? Assemblywoman Hansen.

***Assemblywoman Hansen:***

I truly get what your intention is, but I think I am going to have to be a no. I need to have conversations with the six superintendents in my District because we have dealt with this before. I do not know if it is broken, but I do get the reason for wanting to have that protection. I am going to be a no at this point and as it moves forward, I am more than happy to be a part of the conversation and maybe support it as it eventually evolves.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Remember that just because we move this bill forward, and you say yes to this bill, does not mean we are binding you to be in support of this bill when it comes before the Committee. Additionally, we did put all districts but many times in the past we put districts over a certain amount. It is, for the most part, the enrollment issue. I was worried about rural schools, but we have rural schools in Clark County as well. If you want to be a no, you can be a no, but know you can always change your vote.

***Senator Buck:***

I believe autonomy needs to be closest to the students who are most impacted. I worry also about C-14(d) and the implications of taking that governance away from them and making the best decision for the children who are most impacted. I will be a no today for that reason. I am open to other conversations on the Education Committee during the session.

THE MOTION PASSED (SENATOR BUCK AND ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANSEN VOTED NO).

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***Ms. Drozdoff:***

The next item for the Committee's consideration is Recommendation C-15 relating to Nevada's State Board of Education. This recommendation is to propose legislation altering the appointment timeline of Nevada's State Board of Education members, so that appointment periods are staggered rather than having all members appointed at the same time.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Members, any questions? If you recall, this was a recommendation made by Maggie Carlton, Board Member, Nevada's State Board of Education, who commented there seems to be cohesiveness when everyone comes in. To have that staggered, you have more knowledge of what is going on.

***Senator Dondero Loop:***

I would move to move forward on this recommendation. I think it is a good idea, and it is hard when everybody gets replaced at once.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Any discussion on the motion? [There was none.]

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION C-15.

SENATOR BUCK SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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#### ***D. EARLY CHILDHOOD***

***Ms. Drozdoff:***

The next item for the Committee's consideration is Recommendation D-16 relating to an early childhood office. This recommendation is to propose legislation to create an interim Office of Early Childhood Services within the Office of the Governor. The Office would include a cabinet position as well as sunset dates established for accountability purposes. If established, the Office would take accountability for carrying out the below study and developing recommendations.

If such an Office is created, its duties should include, among others, conducting a study on early childhood concerns. This study should examine funding needs for early childhood programs, including the implementation of a dedicated funding stream to support workforce needs, expansion efforts, and more. Furthermore, such a study should develop a process to review federal funding sources available and report on funding Nevada has received and has not received. The study should also consider the use of a comprehensive data system across the various early childhood programs.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Any questions or comments?

***Senator Dondero Loop:***

I would like to weigh in on this issue. While I will not oppose it, I do have strong ideas and thoughts about this. We spent years creating a pre-K through 12 system that I think is finally seeing successes. We have created more pre-K seats than we have ever had before. It has taken years to do that and to create another office would develop issues. I see it differently, but I will let this go through. I will have a BDR for the same item and will work on it, and we will see what comes out at the end.

***Senator Buck:***

I also agree it is important we have a superintendent that is pre-K through 12, so we have a continuum of services, and it is not disjointed. There are aspects of the bill that I do not necessarily agree with because I do like that, so I will be in opposition today.

***Assemblywoman Hansen:***

There are many things I am encouraged about, but I am not a fan of a cabinet-level position. I think there are structures already, as alluded to by Senator Dondero Loop. I am questioning some of the governance side of this, the structure, and am not comfortable with a cabinet-level position, so I will be in opposition today.

***Assemblywoman Anderson:***

I am voicing the same concerns Senator Dondero Loop brought forward. I will be voting in favor of it, but the concerns voiced earlier, I share as well.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

With that, I would take a motion.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION D-16.

ASSEMBLYMAN D'SILVA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED (SENATOR BUCK AND ASSEMBLY MEMBERS HANSEN AND HARDY VOTED NO).

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***Ms. Drozdoff:***

The next item for the Committee's consideration is Recommendation D-17 relating to early childhood care locations. This recommendation is to propose legislation to remove homeowners association policies that limit the ability to operate a daycare out of a home.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Any questions?

***Senator Dondero Loop:***

I have questions about this and not because I do not want daycare next to me, but because when people purchase homes in 55 plus or certain types of settings, I think this could be an issue. I wish it had more parameters or more information. It is so broad to limit the ability to operate a daycare out of a home, which could be anything. While I recognize the need for daycares and for people to be able to have them, I think the setting and parameters of where you are is ultimately important.

***Assemblywoman Anderson:***

I had been working with the same individuals who brought this forward in March on a bill that is very similar. The parameters would be better defined. I am concerned about us having the two different bills that appear to be similar when there is a possibility of other bills where we do not have enough bills for them. I am comfortable voting for it, but again, it is going to be similar to my bill. I do not know how that would work, how you envision that, or how you would like to handle that?

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

I am going to have Mr. Killian take that one.

***Mr. Killian:***

The joint interim standing committees are limited to ten BDRs, but the material presented on the WSD is not necessarily one BDR for each item. The WSD presents concepts that could be included in legislation. Not each of them necessarily needs to be its own separate

piece of legislation. Based on our review of the document, even if the Committee were to approve every concept included in the WSD for legislation, they would be able to be combined in a way that would result in the use of ten or fewer BDRs. The Committee would not be limited from approving any of these concepts based on that total limitation on the number of measures.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Assemblywoman Anderson, I appreciate you having the bill, and I am sure yours will be wonderful as well but moving this forward as a Committee is saying we think this is important as a Committee. Obviously, I agree with Senator Dondero Loop that there needs to be some guardrails, so it is not a free for all. I would love if we could fold the bills together, once we get there, and you could take the lead on it. I think it is important to come forward as a Committee and say this is important to us because it is needed.

***Assemblywoman Anderson:***

Thank you for the legal clarification and the comments at the end. It makes more sense to me.

***Assemblywoman Hansen:***

I love this idea. I wanted to address the concerns stated by Senator Dondero Loop in the over 55 communities. It is my understanding—and I am sure we could visit this more specifically and maybe why it is not specific in the bill—there are already existing prohibitions in over 55 communities about how often grandchildren or children can be there on a permanent basis. With existing limitations, I would think the idea of a daycare would already exempt that. I am interested in this. I believe in respecting the governing documents of the over 55 community, people bought in there knowing that. For the other communities, I would love to see this bill be applied in those jurisdictions. I am glad to support it.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

This BDR was written in the broadest way possible. Obviously, we are going to need some tweaks.

***Senator Dondero Loop:***

I was going to point that out, that is not what this says. This says that a homeowners association would be able to not limit the ability. It does not matter if it is a 55 plus or next to a rolling river, nobody could limit that. I think that is a dangerous place to go. I do not discount that we need daycares. I do not discount that people should be able to have a daycare in their home and make a living. But I do think there needs to be parameters and not just for 55 plus, for many areas, like I said. I think this bill will be a work in progress.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

We have Senator Dondero Loop making the motion.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION D-17.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANSEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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#### **E. VISAS**

##### ***Ms. Drozdoff:***

The next item for the Committee's consideration is Recommendation E-19 relating to J-1 and H-1B visas. This is a recommendation to propose legislation outlining conditions for school districts and charter schools that employ J-1 visa and H-1B visa holders as teachers, including:

- a. Requiring the school districts and charter schools to hold an orientation for visa holders to aid their transition to employment within the district and life within the community;
- b. Prohibiting the school districts and charter schools from contracting or partnering with certain persons or entities who charge more than a certain amount of fees and costs related to the employment of certain visa holders;
- c. Requiring the school districts and charter schools to offer a system of professional learning for educational personnel employed through certain visa programs, including offering quarterly meetings, networking opportunities, and considering arrival time for onboarding and professional learning programs and to ease the transition into the country;
- d. Outlining standard operating procedures, including the timing of arrival and departure and housing and transportation costs, for school districts and charter schools that employ J-1 and H-1B visa holders as teachers; and
- e. Requesting stipend funding to cover related agency and administrative fees.

##### ***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Any questions?

##### ***Assemblywoman Anderson:***

Under (d) when it says outlining standard operating procedures, I would like to add this; would be to verify it would not impact possible job openings for current Nevada licensed personnel. After the difficult hearing a month ago, I had people reach out to me and say they did not know there were openings in some counties that have been using the J-1 program. I would like to make sure that is clearly stated as well. If that is something I need to amend in when the language is making its way through the Legislature, I am happy to do so, but I would like that to be considered as well for today's language.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

We always want to look out for our residents of Nevada first and foremost, that is our job. If you would like to make the motion and read that in.

Thank you for the amendment. I think that is a good one.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN ANDERSON MOVED TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION E-19 WITH THE ADDITION OF LANGUAGE TO (d) TO VERIFY THAT THIS WOULD NOT IMPACT POSSIBLE JOB OPENINGS FOR CURRENT NEVADA LICENSED PERSONNEL.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANSEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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***F. TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS***

***Ms. Drozdoff:***

The next item for the Committee's consideration is Recommendation F-23 relating to surveys. This is a recommendation to propose legislation to require each school district to administer the school staff climate survey and teacher exit/transfer survey within each school during the school year and submit a report containing a summary of answers to NDE and require NDE to submit a summary report of all school district responses to the Legislature.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Any questions? [There were none.]

ASSEMBLYWOMAN ANDERSON MOVED TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION F-23.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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***G. PUPIL WELL-BEING AND SUPPORTS***

***Ms. Drozdoff:***

The next item for the Committee's consideration is Recommendation G-33 relating to the school psychologist compact. This is a recommendation to propose legislation enacting the Interstate Compact for School Psychologists.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Senator Dondero Loop.

***Senator Dondero Loop:***

I would move that we move this one. This last weekend, Nevada State University's first inauguration psychologist program class had their kickoff. They are in full swing to become school psychologists, and I think this is an important piece to work on.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION G-33.

ASSEMBLYMAN D'SILVA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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***Ms. Drozdoff:***

The next item is Recommendation G-34 relating to school counselors. This is a recommendation to propose legislation amending NRS 388.055 to remove the phrasing, "to the extent that money is available for that purpose," thus instead requiring each public school to employ a school counselor on a full-time basis and provide for a comprehensive program for school counseling.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Members, any questions?

***Assemblywoman Hansen:***

I am not comfortable with "required." It is funds available. I think this is dialing it in too tight. I absolutely want schools to have counselors and psychologists, but I think we are getting too much into micromanaging the districts. While I support the idea, hope schools can do this, and there is money available, I do not like putting that specific of language to require them and compel them actually. I am going to be a no on this one.

***Assemblywoman Anderson:***

I greatly appreciate this being added in. Our school counselors currently are looking at numbers where they are not able to provide the services. When you are looking at 350 to 450 people, they are expected to be able to meet with at many of our high schools and middle schools. I understand what the Assembly Member is saying about the school districts, but unless we start making this a priority, we will never be able to have enough counselors in our schools. I think this is the first step in doing so. I appreciate this being brought forward.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN ANDERSON MOVED TO APPROVE  
RECOMMENDATION G-34.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP SECONDED THE MOTION.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Any discussion on the motion?

***Assemblywoman Hansen:***

In deference to my colleague, I do not know that we have gotten the answer, are we not hiring counselors because we do not have enough versus districts are not hiring them? Is there a pool of them to be had, and they are not putting that money resource there? If that is the case, I want to see counselors hired. I do not know whether that has been proven to me to be the case and so compelling the districts, again— I want to put that out there. I do not know if that is why we do not have enough counselors in schools. I thought it was because we do not have enough counselors, like we do not have enough teachers.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

I think you will have robust discussions on this. I think it is important that we send, as a Committee, that we are prioritizing this. It is something we all realize is necessary—that every school has a counselor.

THE MOTION PASSED (SENATOR BUCK AND ASSEMBLYWOMAN HANSEN VOTED NO).

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***H. SCHOOL OPERATIONS***

***Ms. Drozdoff:***

The next item for the Committee's consideration is Recommendation H-43 relating to artificial intelligence (AI). This is a recommendation to propose legislation outlining the development of a study committee on AI in education within NDE, in consultation with other organizations. This committee will be tasked with exploring the uses and applications of artificial intelligence and considering the development of policies related to cyber-bullying, pupil data collection, curriculum development, and academic honesty.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Any questions? [There were none.]

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION H-43.

ASSEMBLYMAN D'SILVA SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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***Ms. Drozdoff:***

The next item for the Committee's consideration is Recommendation H-44 related to work-based learning. This is a recommendation to propose legislation making the following changes to work-based learning:

- a. Directing NDE to create a comprehensive list of employers exempted from background check requirements, such as nurses, doctors, and lawyers who already require a background check to be employed;

- b. Allowing for reimbursement of costs associated with a background check;
- c. Allowing an employer to sign a letter confirming its employees have cleared background checks;
- d. Allowing background checks to be valid for greater than five years; and
- e. Revising minimum age requirement to participate at 16 rather than 18 years of age.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Do we have any questions, Committee? [There were none.]

ASSEMBLYWOMAN ANDERSON MOVED TO APPROVE  
RECOMMENDATION H-44.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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***Ms. Drozdoff:***

The next item for the Committee's consideration is Recommendation H-45 related to the Holocaust Subcommittee reporting. This is a recommendation to propose legislation to require Nevada's State Board of Education's Holocaust and other Genocides Subcommittee to report on its findings and recommendations to the Joint Interim Standing Committee of Education by August 1 of each even-numbered year, rather than by October 1.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

This is pretty straightforward, so we can have it and make our determinations.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION H-45.

SENATOR BUCK SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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**AGENDA ITEM V—PUBLIC COMMENT**

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

With that, we will move to our final agenda item, which is public comment. If we have anyone who wishes to make public comment, please fill in the chairs. Please go ahead when you are ready.

***Holly Welborn, Executive Director, Children's Advocacy Alliance:***

Thank you for advancing our recommendations. We appreciate it, and we appreciate the comments. Of course, all those things we can work on as we move through the drafting

process. I want to clarify a few things for the public's benefit and the folks involved in our early childhood coalitions and have a few things for our drafters to keep in mind as we proceed with the office of early childhood.

I want to clarify the term *study*. I think there are a lot of helpful reports. Specifically, the Guinn Center will be issuing a report later this fall that, I think, will be illuminating on recommendations for the establishment of a governance structure. I want to make sure we are focused not on redoing work but focused on creating an early childhood governance structure for the alignment of systems, not just pre-K and early learning—but health, nutritional programs, and all those different programs that encompass that system. The structure should address the funding pathways to meet needs, the development of integrated cross sector early childhood data systems, universal application systems for applying for these different benefits and programs, and to address the system's workforce needs—that is the intent. I want to make sure that is clear and, on the record, as we proceed with drafting.

On the homeowners association bill, that is the idea. We have been working a lot with Assemblywoman Anderson. There is a broad coalition of bipartisan support and business community support. People know this is what needs to happen and occur in order to address the childcare crisis in our communities. We are so looking forward to working on this legislation with you and thank you once again for your support.

***Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:***

Thank you. Any other public comment in Carson City? [There was none.] No one is coming to the table in Las Vegas either. BPS, do we have anyone on the phone line?

***BPS:***

Chair, the public line is open and working, but we have no callers at this time.

***Assemblywoman Anderson:***

Thank you for all the work you have done as the education Chair. I know this is your last meeting. I greatly appreciated you allowing me so many questions, but more importantly the conversations, the ability to agree, the ability to disagree, and the ability to try to find the right legislation. Thank you for the work you have done last session and during this interim.

***Senator Buck:***

It has been a pleasure working with you. Thank you for being so kind and gracious with time and questions. I appreciate you.

***Assemblywoman Hansen:***

I wanted to take a moment to thank you Chair. We are going to miss you. You have been so fair. You have been fun. We have tackled hard things, and you have given us a voice. Sometimes we do not agree, but there are many things we have agreed on. I have appreciated your leadership. Wish you all the best in your life and with your family. Thank you again for being a good Chair.

**Senator Dondero Loop:**

It has been a pleasure working with you, and I wish you the best moving forward. I appreciate your legacy and know you will do great things, and that is why you were such a great Chair with education and an Assemblywoman.

**Chair Bilbray-Axelrod:**

Thank you, everyone. Yes, this is bittersweet. I was shocked when Speaker Frierson, at the time, told me I was going to be chairing education because I had not served on the Committee previously. It was baptism by fire.

I could not have done it without this amazing Committee staff. I hope that I will be serving on another body soon, but I hear—and I know for a fact—that no one can compare to the work you have done. You make me look good because you are so amazing at what you do.

I am wearing white for women's suffrage, but I am also wearing this little hummingbird pin, which was a gift to me from Assemblywoman Carlton. It is based on this book, *The Little Hummingbird*, which I became aware of because of Assemblywoman Anderson. I am not going to read the whole book, because we are going to keep this meeting short. There is a forest fire, and the hummingbird keeps dropping a drop of water on the forest fire. All the animals are scared and running and worried. They question the little hummingbird on why she is doing it because that drop does not make a difference. The little hummingbird looks at the other animals and says, "I am doing what I can." This is how I approach my job here; I am doing what I can.

I am happy we moved some great legislation in my tenure. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you. This will not be the last— I will probably come in and testify on a couple of bills, so you will see me. Thank you all.

Subsequent to the meeting, the following public comment was received for inclusion in the record:

- Christina Giunchigliani, Nevada Resident ([Agenda Item V A](#));
- Brenda Talley, Nevada Resident ([Agenda Item V B](#));
- Darlene Anderson, Nevada Resident ([Agenda Item V C](#)); and
- Anna Marie Binder, Nevada Resident ([Agenda Item V D](#)).

## **AGENDA ITEM VI—ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Crystal Rowe  
Senior Research Policy Assistant

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Alex Drozdoff  
Senior Policy Analyst

APPROVED BY:

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Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod, Chair

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

## MEETING MATERIALS

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
<a href="#">Agenda Item II A</a>	Brenda Pearson, Ph.D., Director of Strategic Policy Initiatives, Clark County Education Association	Written Public Comment
<a href="#">Agenda Item II B</a>	Kent M. Ervin, Ph.D., Director of Government Relations, Nevada Faculty Alliance	Written Public Comment
<a href="#">Agenda Item IV</a>	Alex Drozdoff, Senior Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau	Work Session Document
<a href="#">Agenda Item V A</a>	Christina Giunchigliani, Nevada Resident	Written Public Comment
<a href="#">Agenda Item V B</a>	Brenda Talley, Nevada Resident	Written Public Comment
<a href="#">Agenda Item V C</a>	Darlene Anderson, Nevada Resident	Written Public Comment
<a href="#">Agenda Item V D</a>	Anna Marie Binder, Nevada Resident	Written Public Comment

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