



NEVADA LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
(Nevada Revised Statutes 218E.605)

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The first meeting of the Nevada Legislature's Committee on Education was held on Wednesday, February 10, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 4401, Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 3138, Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. A copy of this set of "Summary Minutes and Action Report," including the "Meeting Notice and Agenda" ([Exhibit A](#)) and other substantive exhibits, is available on the Nevada Legislature's website at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/interim/78th2015/committee/>. In addition, copies of the audio or video record are available through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (e-mail: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775/684-6835) and may be available online at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Granicus/>.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Assemblywoman Melissa Woodbury, Chair
Senator Becky Harris, Vice Chair
Senator Michael Roberson
Senator Joyce Woodhouse
Assemblyman Randy Kirner
Assemblyman Lynn D. Stewart

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Scott T. Hammond
Assemblyman Nelson Araujo

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Todd M. Butterworth, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division
Kristin Rossiter, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division
Risa B. Lang, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Karly O’Krent, Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Julie Waller, Senior Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division
Cathy Crockett, 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 Woodbury called the meeting to order. She welcomed members, presenters, and the public to the first meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education (LCE). Chair Woodbury reviewed Committee goals, rules, and testimony guidelines.

AGENDA ITEM II—PUBLIC COMMENT

Gerald (Jay) Schuler, Nevada Parents for Online Education, expressed appreciation for the Legislature embracing the benefits of online public schools and the positive contributions to our children's education ([Exhibit B](#)).

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

Todd M. Butterworth, previously identified, reviewed the history and duties of the LCE as outlined in *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 218E.600 through 218E.620 ([Exhibit C](#)).

Kristin Rossiter, previously identified, provided an overview of the following information:

- Staff and stakeholder contact list ([Exhibit C-1](#));
- List of statutory reports ([Exhibit C-2](#)); and
- *Nevada State Highlights 2016* from a special supplement to *Education Week's Quality Counts* ([Exhibit C-3](#)).

In a discussion regarding Nevada's educational ranking in the *Quality Counts* report, it was clarified that Nevada ranks 38th in student achievement factors.

AGENDA ITEM IV—OVERVIEW OF THE EDUCATION POLICY HOT TOPICS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR NEVADA

Brian A. Sponsler, Ed.D., Director, Postsecondary and Workforce Development Institute, Education Commission of the States (ECS), provided an overview of the national education policy landscape ([Exhibit D](#)).

Micah Ann Wixom, Policy Analyst, ECS, continued the presentation outlining career and technical education (CTE) issues.

There was discussion regarding the CTE council created in Indiana aligning K–12 and business and industry efforts.

Mr. Sponsler added he would provide information regarding Colorado's revised student financial aid program.

AGENDA ITEM V—PRESENTATION ON THE IN\$ITE EDUCATION FINANCIAL DATA SYSTEM USED TO REPORT SCHOOL FINANCIAL DATA TO THE LEGISLATURE

Rick Wells, CPA, Vice President-Chief Financial Officer, EDmin, shared information on the SchoolNomics data accounting system ([Exhibit E](#)). He stressed the fact that they do not see any student records.

AGENDA ITEM VI—PRESENTATION ON THE STATEWIDE ROLLOUT OF THE INFINITE CAMPUS SCHOOL AND STUDENT DATA SYSTEM

(This agenda item was taken out of order.)

Eric Creighton, Chief Operations Officer, Infinite Campus, provided an overview of the statewide rollout of Infinite Campus ([Exhibit F](#)).

Discussion ensued regarding the following issues:

- Measures in place for student data privacy;
- Data collection in urban and rural school districts;
- Reorganization of the Clark County School District (CCSD) and this system;
- Audit processes and certificates; and
- Potential uses of the Infinite Campus program.

AGENDA ITEM VII—CELEBRATING SUCCESS: PRESENTATIONS RECOGNIZING ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXCELLENCE IN NEVADA'S SCHOOL SYSTEM

(This agenda item was taken out of order.)

Karl Wilson, Education Programs Supervisor, introduced the Zoom School Collaborative.

Danielle Miller, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Design and Professional Learning Division, CCSD, reported on the CCSD's Zoom School initiative ([Exhibit G](#)).

Eric Finney, Zoom Coordinator, Washoe County School District (WCSD), provided an overview of the WCSD's Zoom School program ([Exhibit H](#)).

There was discussion on the following Zoom initiatives:

- Addressing the needs of English Language Learner (ELL) students;
- Number of ELL students served;
- Number of Zoom schools in CCSD and WCSD;
- National Assessment of Educational Progress scores for Zoom schools;
- Ability to track a student's progress from a Zoom school to a nonZoom school;
- Collaborative model to overlay Zoom and Victory schools with a focus on early literacy.

Steve Canavero, Ph.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nevada's Department of Education (NDE), presented a 2015 education update ([Exhibit I](#)). He submitted information regarding success stories of Zoom and Victory schools, the Read by Grade Three program, and the turnaround of underperforming schools ([Exhibit J](#)). Dr. Canavero briefly reviewed the *Nevada State Literacy Plan, A Pathway to Possibilities* ([Exhibit K](#)) and a paper authored by Kevin Marie Laxalt titled, "Through Nevada's Literacy Looking Glass" ([Exhibit K-1](#)). He concluded by announcing the Senate Youth Scholar awardees, Miranda Cross and Katherine Krolicki.

Dena Durish, Deputy Superintendent, Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement, NDE, provided information regarding the Teach Nevada Scholarships ([Exhibit I](#)). Ms. Durish expressed gratitude to the Nevada Legislature for supporting educator recognition programs.

Dr. Canavero announced John Tierney, Adobe Middle School located in Elko, Nevada, as the Nevada Teacher of the Year.

There was discussion between Assemblyman Stewart and Dr. Canavero regarding workforce development programs for career readiness.

Patrick Gavin, Director, State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA), provided an overview of SPCSA's growth, diversity, and recent developments ([Exhibit L](#)). He submitted the following documents:

- State policy analysis ([Exhibit L-1](#));
- News article regarding the United States Department of Education contributing to an improving charter schools sector ([Exhibit L-2](#));
- Nevada demographic profile ([Exhibit L-3](#)); and
- Nevada charter school report card ([Exhibit L-4](#)).

Mary Pierczynski, Legislative representative, Nevada Association of School Superintendents, recognized successful programs in the rural school districts. She introduced rural school district representatives to present their programs.

Dale A. Norton, Superintendent, Nye County School District, shared information on the Read by Grade Three Consortium of rural school districts working together to pool resources. The next meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2016, to discuss the shared literacy plan and vision for rural students.

Steven Pradere, Ed.D., Transformation Office Director, Carson City School District, presented information regarding the learner-centered model ([Exhibit M](#)) and a preliminary progress report on the Race to the Top project ([Exhibit M-1](#)). He noted the Carson City School District was selected as the nation's top application in the Race to the Top District Grant Program.

Will Jensen, Program Director, Special Services, Churchill County School District, provided a brief overview of their early childhood education program and preschool development grant. He pointed out that early exposure to an educational program has a positive impact on students. Mr. Jensen shared information on the braided early childhood education funding to include as many students as possible regardless of socio-economic designation.

Adam Young, incoming Superintendent, Principal, White Pine High School, White Pine County School District (WPCSD), presented information on WPCSD's goals and college and career preparation ([Exhibit N](#)). He encouraged investing in Nevada's educators for the success of students.

Ms. Pierczynski shared information regarding assistance from the local Regional Professional Development Program to the school district. She said the Humboldt County School District anticipates being ready for full implementation of the Nevada Educator Performance Framework in all five standards. Ms. Pierczynski testified that the 19.5 percent increase in the district's 2015 graduation rate is attributed to student tracking and parental involvement.

Ms. Pierczynski conveyed that the Douglas County School District (DCSD) has implemented a positive behavior support and interventions program, which is having a positive impact on students and in the effort to end bullying. She stated the DCSD's Read by Grade Three grant is doing well. Ms. Pierczynski concluded by stating the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) teachers are working together to develop programs to promote STEM.

Kristen McNeil, Deputy Superintendent, WCSD, shared information and highlighted the district's graduation rate ([Exhibit O](#)).

Ben Hayes, Chief Accountability Officer, WCSD, continued the presentation outlining the use of data to best support students along the pathway to graduation.

Ms. McNeil concluded reviewing the areas of student engagement with high expectations. She also provided information regarding efforts to promote parental involvement.

Mike Barton, Ed.D., Chief Student Achievement Officer, CCSD, outlined CCSD's strategic imperatives for achievement ([Exhibit P](#)).

Kristy Dee Keller, Assistant Chief Student Achievement Officer, CCSD, discussed the CCSD's nationally distinguished schools and successes in reducing achievement gaps.

Dr. Barton recognized the CCSD's three national blue ribbon schools: 1) Glen Taylor Elementary School; 2) Sig Rogich Middle School; and 3) Sue H. Morrow Elementary School.

Michelle R. Adams, Principal, Sue H. Morrow Elementary School, CCSD, stated the school implements best practices with a shared vision to improve teaching and learning. She emphasized the focus on academic and social student growth. Ms. Adams indicated that teachers are the core of the school. She added the key to student success is parental involvement and engagement.

Dr. Barton indicated that with a focus on goals and talent to ensure student success, they have created the "Franchise Principal Program" recognizing successful principals.

John S. Haynal, Principal, Dr. C. Owen Roundy and Vegas Verdes Elementary schools, CCSD, stated the key to success is a dedicated staff working together for at-risk students. He retains staff by creating systems to develop leadership, empowerment, and a culture and climate for success. Mr. Haynal sets high expectations for staff, teachers, and students supported by teacher on-site training with monthly goals and assessments.

Jim Kuzma, Ed.D., Principal, Rancho High School, CCSD, described how creating a sense of belonging and providing student-experience opportunities has improved outcomes at his at-risk high school. He emphasized the importance of being creative with funding to address the needs of each individual school.

In closing, Dr. Barton acknowledged there is still a lot of work that needs to be done for students.

Assemblyman Stewart emphasized and challenged the CCSD to publicize these successes. He addressed the pressure on teachers to succeed without proper resources.

AGENDA ITEM VIII—PUBLIC COMMENT

Ray Bacon, Executive Director, Nevada Manufacturer's Association, testified to the ongoing engagement between business and industry and Nevada's educational system. He stated that three years ago, sector councils were established to determine workforce training needs;

they are comprised of private sector industry and public sector executives, including members of the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the Nevada System of Higher Education. Mr. Bacon indicated these sector councils are making progress in looking at credentials and certificates that are national, portable, stackable, and offer a third-party review.

AGENDA ITEM IX—ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Harper
Senior Research Secretary

Todd M. Butterworth
Senior Research Analyst

Kristin Rossiter
Senior Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Melissa Woodbury, Chair

Date: _____

EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT	WITNESS/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
<u>Exhibit A</u>	Todd M. Butterworth and Kristin Rossiter, Senior Research Analysts, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB)	Agenda
<u>Exhibit B</u>	Gerald (Jay) Schuler, Nevada Parents for Online Education	Written testimony
<u>Exhibit C</u>	Todd M. Butterworth and Kristin Rossiter Senior Research Analysts, Research Division, LCB	<i>Nevada Revised Statutes</i> 218E.600 through 281E.620
<u>Exhibit C-1</u>	Todd M. Butterworth and Kristin Rossiter, Senior Research Analysts, Research Division, LCB	Staff and stakeholder contact list
<u>Exhibit C-2</u>	Todd M. Butterworth and Kristin Rossiter, Senior Research Analysts, Research Division, LCB	List of statutory reports
<u>Exhibit C-3</u>	Todd M. Butterworth and Kristin Rossiter, Senior Research Analysts, Research Division, LCB	<i>Education Weeks Quality Counts 2016</i> report
<u>Exhibit D</u>	Brian A. Sponsler, Ed.D., Director, Postsecondary and Workforce Development Institute, Education Commission of the States	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Exhibit E</u>	Rick Wells, CPA, Vice President-Chief Financial Officer, EDmin	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Exhibit F</u>	Eric Creighton, Chief Operations Officer, Infinite Campus	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Exhibit G</u>	Danielle Miller, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Design and Professional Learning Division, Clark County School District (CCSD)	Zoom school initiative report
<u>Exhibit H</u>	Eric Finney, Zoom Coordinator, Washoe County School District (WCSD)	Zoom school program report
<u>Exhibit I</u>	Steve Canavero, Ph.D., Superintendent, Nevada's Department of Education (NDE)	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Exhibit J</u>	Steve Canavero, Ph.D., Superintendent, NDE	Report on success stories
<u>Exhibit K</u>	Steve Canavero, Ph.D., Superintendent, NDE	<i>Nevada State Literacy Plan, A Pathway to Possibilities</i>

Exhibit K-1	Kevin Marie Laxalt, Education Programs Professional, Literacy Programs, NDE	Nevada literacy information
Exhibit L	Patrick Gavin, Director, State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA)	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
Exhibit L-1	Patrick Gavin, Director, SPCSA	State policy analysis
Exhibit L-2	Patrick Gavin, Director, SPCSA	News article
Exhibit L-3	Patrick Gavin, Director, SPCSA	Demographic profile
Exhibit L-4	Patrick Gavin, Director, SPCSA	Nevada charter school report card
Exhibit M	Steven Pradere, Ed.D., Transformation Office Director, Carson City School District	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
Exhibit M-1	Steven Pradere, Ed.D., Transformation Office Director, Carson City School District	Race to the Top Project report
Exhibit N	Adam Young, incoming Superintendent, Principal, White Pine High School, White Pine County School District	Written information
Exhibit O	Kristen McNeil, Deputy Superintendent, WCSD	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
Exhibit P	Mike Barton, Ed.D., Chief Student Achievement Officer, CCSD	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 or telephone: (775) 684-6827.