



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

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The third meeting of the Nevada Legislature's Committee on Education was held on Wednesday, March 30, 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 Nelson Araujo
Assemblyman Randy Kirner
Assemblyman Lynn D. Stewart

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

Senator Scott T. Hammond

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Todd M. Butterworth, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division

Kristin Rossiter, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division

Karly O’Krent, Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division

Jaimarie Dagdagan, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division

Adam Drost, 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 third meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education (LCE). Chair Woodbury provided opening remarks and testimony guidelines.

AGENDA ITEM II—PUBLIC COMMENT

Chrystal Blessing, Director, K.I.D.S. Academy, stressed the importance of early childhood education, educators, and that all children need to enter school ready to learn. She specified the need to invest in both the educators and children for future success.

Gail Storch, retired early childhood consultant, Las Vegas, Nevada, provided written comments ([Exhibit B](#)) regarding research showing the critical importance of brain development in the early years and the academic and social benefits of quality pre-kindergarten.

Angela Rose, Senior Director, Education, Community Development, United Way of Southern Nevada, discussed the United Way's early childhood initiatives along with the importance of kindergarten readiness and family engagement. She indicated the United Way ensures low to moderate-income families have access to quality preschools, and it provides professional development and curriculum training to enhance educators' skills. Ms. Rose stated the \$6 million federal Nevada Ready Preschool Grant with Nevada's Department of Education (NDE) will expand high quality preschool to children in the State's most at-risk zip codes.

Michael Maxwell, Ed.D., President-Elect, Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children (NevAEYC), and Senior Vice President, Agency Innovation, Las Vegas Urban League, expressed support for the recommendations contained in the P-20W Advisory Council's annual report. He stressed the importance of beginning education as early as possible in a child's life. Dr. Maxwell encouraged the LCE to make early childhood education a priority during the 2017 Legislature.

Ruben Murrillo Jr., President, Nevada State Education Association, advised of the fee-based budget and staffing challenges of the NDE's teacher licensure office. He stated the only option to add staff and improve office efficiency is to increase the office's budget by raising licensure fees; this may affect educator recruitment efforts.

Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Ph.D., Chief Research Associate, Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), stressed the importance of early childhood education for a student's future success. She stated proper brain development is achieved by children being involved in high-quality activities and childcare facilities.

Dianne Farkas, M.S., N.C.C., Executive Director, Family to Family Connection, and Vice President of Southern Nevada Family to Family Connection, expressed support for the work of the Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA). She said the Family to Family Connection provides programs and activities for families and outlined the importance of family engagement.

Bette Katz, Quality Program Manager, Policy Advisory Committee, The Children's Cabinet, submitted written comments and the 2014 Nevada early education care fact sheet ([Exhibit C](#)). She detailed the mission of The Children's Cabinet, the significance of early childhood education and early brain development, and highlighted the effects of toxic stress on young children. Ms. Katz stated the importance of child care staff having the proper education, experience, and resources to provide high quality programs.

AGENDA ITEM III—APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 2, 2016, IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

MOTION: Senator Woodhouse moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 2, 2016, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The motion was seconded by Assemblyman Stewart and passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM IV—PROPOSED GUIDELINES, PARAMETERS, AND FINANCIAL PLANS FOR MENTORING PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 205 (2015)

Tyrone Thompson, Assembly District No. 17, provided a summary and update of Assembly Bill 205 (Chapter 292, *Statutes of Nevada 2015*) regarding guidelines for mentoring programs ([Exhibit D](#)). He outlined plans for submitting a report to the LCE for consideration during its work session.

Arnold Bell, Ph.D. student, UNLV, expressed his enthusiasm about assisting Assemblyman Thompson on this project. He stated mentoring is a strategic way to create a new and improved workforce environment.

There was discussion among Assemblyman Thompson, Chair Woodbury, and Senator Woodhouse regarding LCE support during the next legislative session.

AGENDA ITEM V—PRESENTATION CONCERNING THE MISSION AND WORK OF THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY ALLIANCE IN NEVADA

Denise Tanata Ashby, J.D., Executive Director, CAA, presented information on early childhood education and school readiness in Nevada ([Exhibit E](#)). She outlined the benefits of quality early childhood education for Nevada businesses and the economy ([Exhibit E-1](#)).

Discussion ensued between Ms. Tanta Ashby and LCE members regarding:

- Whether education funding enhancements made during the 2015 Legislative Session would improve education in Nevada;
- The investment necessary to accommodate early childcare centers; and
- Prioritizing the childcare development fund to serve low income families.

AGENDA ITEM VI—UPDATE REGARDING THE OPENING OF THE UNLV SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Barbara Atkinson, M.D., Dean, School of Medicine, UNLV, provided information regarding the opportunities and challenges in developing a world-class center for education, patient care, and research preparing Nevada's doctors with the most innovative and technologically advanced forms of medical training while serving the health care needs of a diverse population through community partnerships ([Exhibit F](#)).

There was general discussion regarding:

- The current location and future medical school construction plans;
- Inclusion of mental health into the curriculum and overall patient care;
- Collaborations with other Nevada institutions;
- Scholarships and class size;
- Residency programs;
- Graduation and attrition rates; and
- Associated school costs and Nevada's return on investment.

AGENDA ITEM VII—PRESENTATION CONCERNING WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY AND ITS MODEL OF COMPETENCY-BASED HIGHER EDUCATION, WHICH ENABLES STUDENTS TO ADVANCE BASED UPON DEMONSTRATED SKILLS RATHER THAN CLASSROOM TIME

Spencer D. Stewart, Ed.D., Chancellor, Western Governors University (WGU) Nevada, provided an overview of the competency-based university ([Exhibit G](#)).

Discussion ensued between Dr. Stewart and LCE members on the following items:

- WGU Nevada's application process;
- Tuition costs;
- Testing process to prove competency to advance in a course;

- Faculty mentors and mentoring programs;
- Early intervention strategies to help struggling students; and
- WGU Nevada's Board structure and responsibilities.

AGENDA ITEM VIII—PRESENTATION CONCERNING CAREER PATHWAYS LINKING NEVADA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITH THE STATE'S WORKFORCE NEEDS

William Anderson, Chief Economist, Research and Analysis Bureau, Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation (DETR), gave an overview of the new tools to assess labor market demand and outcomes ([Exhibit H](#)). He provided information on real time labor market data and the top occupations in demand.

Bob Potts, Research Director, Office of Economic Development, Office of the Governor (GOED), reviewed materials using data and information to align economic and workforce development ([Exhibit I](#)). He identified the underlying objective of economic development as growing citizens' wealth and well-being, and his office is focused on using information and data to drive economic policy decisions for the State.

Discussion ensued between Assemblyman Stewart and Mr. Potts regarding the distribution of career and desired job skill information to high school counselors and students to assist with career choices.

Mike Raponi, Education Programs Director, Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning, and Education Options, NDE, added they are working with DETR and GOED to direct funding toward skill areas deficient in career and technical education (CTE) coursework. He presented information regarding Nevada's changing CTE landscape to include the various types of diplomas ([Exhibit J](#)). He submitted the Accountability Bulletin ([Exhibit J-1](#)) and 2014–2015 CTE Secondary and Postsecondary Education in Nevada publications ([Exhibit J-2](#)).

The discussion continued regarding direct outreach from NDE staff and businesses to school counselors and students about careers available and desired skills.

Assemblyman Stewart requested an update on career outreach at the next LCE meeting.

Diane Mugford, Education Programs Professional, Accountability Management, Assessment, Data, and Accountability Management, NDE, and Marilyn Jentzen, Principal, Innovative Impact Consulting, provided an update of Nevada's Career Readiness Program to develop and create career pathways for all students ([Exhibit K](#)). Ms. Jentzen advised that a career pathway is a series of connected education and training programs and support services that enable individuals to secure a job or advance in a high demand industry or occupation.

Responding to questions by Chair Woodbury, Ms. Jentzen clarified Nevada's career readiness task force would be reviewing and recommending changes to career readiness policies and proposing bill draft requests for the next legislative session.

AGENDA ITEM IX—STATUS UPDATE CONCERNING NEVADA'S P-20W ADVISORY COUNCIL AND A DEMONSTRATION OF THE [HTTP://NPWR.NV.GOV/](http://npwr.nv.gov/) WEBSITE, NEVADA'S P-20 TO WORKFORCE RESEARCH DATA SYSTEM

Linda Heiss, Director, Institutional Research and Data Partnerships, Nevada System of Higher Education, performed a live website demonstration of the Nevada P-20 to Workforce Research Data System (NPWR). She reviewed the information and reports available on the NPWR website. Ms. Heiss reassured the LCE that individual student data is not identifiable within the system. She showed a short video on the privacy of data, located on the website.

Brian Mitchell, Director, Office of Science, Innovation and Technology, Office of the Governor, provided background on Nevada's P-20W Advisory Council and a summary of activities ([Exhibit L](#)). He reviewed the recommendations of the P-20W Advisory Council related to career readiness, NPWR, and early learning ([Exhibit L-1](#)).

AGENDA ITEM X—PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Woodbury called for public comment; however, no testimony was presented.

AGENDA ITEM XI—ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:37 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
Exhibit A	Todd M. Butterworth and Kristin Rossiter, Senior Research Analysts, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau	Agenda
Exhibit B	Gail Storch, retired early childhood consultant, Las Vegas, Nevada	Written comments
Exhibit C	Bette Katz, Quality Program Manager, Policy Advisory Committee, The Children's Cabinet	Written comments and 2014 Nevada early child education care fact sheet
Exhibit D	Tyrone Thompson, Assembly District No. 17	Assembly Bill 205 update
Exhibit E	Denise Tanata Ashby, J.D., Executive Director, Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA)	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
Exhibit E-1	Denise Tanata Ashby, J.D., Executive Director, CAA	Fact sheet - benefits of quality early childhood education on Nevada businesses and the economy
Exhibit F	Barbara Atkinson, M.D., Dean, School of Medicine, University of Nevada, Las Vegas	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
Exhibit G	Spencer D. Stewart, Ed.D., Chancellor, Western Governors University Nevada	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
Exhibit H	William Anderson, Chief Economist, Research and Analysis Bureau, Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
Exhibit I	Bob Potts, Research Director, Office of Economic Development, Office of the Governor	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
Exhibit J	Mike Raponi, Education Programs Director, Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning, and Education Options, Nevada's Department of Education (NDE)	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
Exhibit J-1	Mike Raponi, Education Programs Director, Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning, and Education Options, NDE	Accountability Bulletin

Exhibit J-2	Mike Raponi, Education Programs Director, Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning, and Education Options, NDE	Pamphlet of 2014-2015 Career and Technical Education Secondary and Postsecondary Education in Nevada
Exhibit K	Diane Mugford, Education Programs Professional, Accountability Management, Assessment, Data, and Accountability Management, NDE, and Marilyn Jentzen, Principal, Innovative Impact Consulting	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
Exhibit L	Brian Mitchell, Director, Office of Science, Innovation and Technology, Office of the Governor	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
Exhibit L-1	Brian Mitchell, Director, Office of Science, Innovation and Technology, Office of the Governor	Report and Recommendations

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.