



NEVADA LEGISLATURE
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A PLAN
TO REORGANIZE THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
(Section 26 of Assembly Bill 394 [Chapter 543, *Statutes of Nevada* 2015])

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The sixth meeting of the Nevada Legislature’s Technical Advisory Committee to Develop a Plan to Reorganize the Clark County School District was held on Monday, March 28, 2016, at 8 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:

Senator Becky Harris, Chair
Marsha Irvin, Vice Chair
Assemblyman David M. Gardner
Hannah Brown
Vikki Courtney
Carolyn G. Goodman, Mayor, Las Vegas
Andy Hafen, Mayor, City of Henderson
Kraig Hafen, Council Member, Mesquite City Council
Brent Husson
Brian Knudsen
Duncan R. Lee
John J. Lee, Mayor, City of North Las Vegas
Ashok “Ash” Mirchandani
Larry Moses, Ed.D.
Tom Rodriguez
Mary Beth Scow, Commissioner, Board of Clark County Commissioners

Rich Shuman, Council Member, Boulder City Council
Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent, Clark County School District
Daniel Stewart
John Vellardita
Linda E. Young, Ed.D., President, Board of Trustees, Clark County School District

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Michael Roberson (Excused)
Stavan Corbett
Allison Serafin

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Kelly S. Richard, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division
Karly O’Krent, Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Jaimarie Dagdagan, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division
Janet Coons, Principal Administrative Assistant, Research Division

Items taken out of sequence during the meeting have been placed in agenda order.

AGENDA ITEM I—CALL TO ORDER

Chair Harris called the meeting to order.

AGENDA ITEM II—OPENING REMARKS

Chair Harris stated each group has 45 minutes to speak with 15 minutes for questions at the end of the presentation.

AGENDA ITEM III—PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Harris called for public comment.

Annette Dawson Owens, representing Break Free Clark County School District (CCSD), thanked the Committee for its work with the CCSD. As a teacher, she expressed how valuable parental involvement is to a child's education.

Diane Fearon, Chief Executive Officer, Communities in Schools of Nevada (CIS), presented written testimony that discussed the membership of CIS and the services it provides ([Exhibit B](#)). She also provided a CIS informational pamphlet ([Exhibit B-1](#)).

AGENDA ITEM IV—APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON JANUARY 27, JANUARY 29, AND FEBRUARY 17, 2016, IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

MOTION: Mr. Husson moved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on January 27, January 29, and February 17, 2016, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The motion was seconded by Dr. Young and passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM V—PRESENTATIONS BY COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER GROUPS ON PARENTAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT IN SCHOOLS

A. City of Henderson

Andy Hafen, previously identified, shared information gathered from five focus groups (open-ended questions) and 708 participants of an online survey (multiple-choice questions) regarding parental involvement and community engagement in the CCSD ([Exhibit C](#)).

He identified five suggestions from parents who took the online survey that would make it easier and more meaningful for them to be involved in their children's education: (1) more effective and frequent communication from the school and teachers; (2) timely updates of the

online grading system; (3) timely updates of the online systems for assignments; (4) better use of technology and social media; and (5) accommodations for working parents.

Mayor Hafen said the focus groups consisted of parents with children in Henderson Public Schools, and a majority of the participants were women. He identified six suggestions from the focus groups: (1) offer a variety of options for meeting times, locations, and events; (2) offer morning and evening options for CCSD and school-specific meetings and events at a Henderson location; (3) provide adequate notice of upcoming events; (4) provide access to computers for families who do not have one; (5) ensure communication is accessible for families whose first language is not English; and (6) consider providing childcare for siblings during school activities.

In conclusion, Mayor Hafen said parents want: (1) to be an active part of their children's success in school; (2) to be part of the decision-making process, including budget decisions and evaluating principals and teachers; and (3) to be active in improving their schools.

Addressing a question from Commissioner Scow, Richard A. Derrick, Chief Financial Officer, City of Henderson, said the members of the focus groups were invited to take the online survey. He explained the themes of the survey and the focus groups were similar, but the focus group questions offered more feedback.

In response to a question from Mr. Vellardita, Mayor Hafen discussed the roles of parents and the City of Henderson in supporting schools and education. Mayor Hafen suggested parents want to be involved with the curriculum, principals, and teachers, but they understand they have to look to government for funding.

Javier Trujillo, Director of Public Affairs, City of Henderson, stated the responses from the focus groups and the online survey were broken out by demographics, but that information was not identified in the presentation.

B. Asian Chamber of Commerce

Duncan R. Lee, Senior Advisor, Asian Chamber of Commerce, Las Vegas, said the Board of Directors consulted the William "Bill" Endow Scholarship Committee to collect feedback from parents and students regarding their engagement with CCSD, and the final analysis showed that the Asian community does not have much interaction with the administrators, but there are informal social circles among the parents.

Virginia "Holli" Ratliff, Ph.D., Principal, C.T. Sewell Elementary School, CCSD, presented information, which highlighted parent and family involvement initiatives at the school ([Exhibit D](#)). She said when C.T. Sewell became an Empowerment school eight years ago, it embraced the philosophy of bringing the entire community together to make decisions that were in the best interest of the children. Dr. Ratliff discussed in detail how the staff, families, and local organizations worked together to refurbish a donated building to create the

C.T. Sewell Parenting Cottage. She reported that C.T. Sewell is a five-star, high-achieving school.

Ashok “Ash” Mirchandani, Asian Outreach Initiative, thanked Assemblyman Gardner for his assistance with the Asian outreach efforts, and he introduced Alok Pandey, Professor, College of Southern Nevada.

Mr. Pandey shared a presentation titled “How to Increase Parental Involvement and Community Engagement in CCSD.” He explained the focus group method, discussed the types of parents involved, and identified numerous issues and recommended solutions ([Exhibit E](#)).

Mr. Mirchandani summarized four ways to involve Asian parents in their children’s education: (1) engage; (2) entrust; (3) educate; and (4) enforce.

Discussion ensued regarding overcoming cultural challenges. Mr. Mirchandani, Mr. Lee, and Mayor Goodman suggested the following: (1) encourage parental engagement for cultural exchanges; (2) provide Asian liaisons to reach out to communities; (3) keep the lines of communication open; and (4) involve the communities.

Dr. Ratliff shared C.T. Sewell’s internal process for handling challenging students. She stressed the importance of gathering information before having a conference with parents, involving the teacher, and being accessible to the parents.

C. City of Las Vegas

Carolyn G. Goodman, previously identified, introduced Lisa Morris Hibbler, Ph.D., Director, Department of Youth Development and Social Innovation, City of Las Vegas. Dr. Hibbler submitted a presentation regarding parental and community involvement and engagement in schools ([Exhibit F](#)). She discussed student demographics, school performance, and graduation rates; identified various educational support endeavors provided by the City of Las Vegas; and shared results of the parent and community engagement survey. Dr. Hibbler stressed that different outreach and communication is required for the rural, suburban, and urban areas of Las Vegas.

A conversation took place among committee members, Dr. Hibbler, and Mayor Goodman regarding the following: (1) the level of income of the survey takers; (2) the implication of poverty on education; (3) the need and cost of social and wraparound services; (4) church involvement; (5) preschool programs; (6) the creation of PTA and PTO programs; (7) funding following the students; (8) participation of working parents; and (9) the Downtown Achieves and My Brother’s Keeper programs.

D. Sandy Valley

Dawn Haviland, Principal, Sandy-Mesquite Valley Educational Foundation, presented a collection of photographs illustrating the success that community and church involvement has had upon the schools and the students. She emphasized the outstanding leadership of the school district and reported that it has hired its first social worker.

E. Moapa Valley

Larry Moses, Ed.D., retired CCSD teacher and administrator, showed a video depicting life in Moapa Valley ([Exhibit G](#)).

R. Lindsey Dalley, D.D.S., Chair, Moapa Valley Community Education Advisory Board (CEAB) Task Force, and Chad Leavitt, Member, Moapa Valley CEAB Task Force, discussed how Moapa Valley implements the following six standards of parental involvement and family engagement, pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 385.620: (1) welcome all families into the community; (2) communicate effectively; (3) support student well-being and academic success; (4) speak up for every child; (5) share power; and (6) collaborate with the community ([Exhibit H](#)).

Dr. Dalley identified three valuable principles in a hierarchical order: (1) parental involvement; (2) family engagement; and (3) community commitment to education. He suggested that reorganizing the schools to allow for more parental and community involvement would increase educational effectiveness and resources.

Dr. Moses discussed Moapa Valley's school empowerment team, which was instituted under NRS 386.720 through NRS 386.780, and lasted for three years. He identified five components for a successful education: (1) supportive principals; (2) caring and effective teachers; (3) students who feel they can succeed; (4) parental support; and (5) a supportive community.

Responding to questions from Committee members, further discussion ensued regarding the restoration of two buildings owned by the CCSD, graduation rates, and the status of the Moapa Paiute Educational Support Center.

F. Urban Chamber of Commerce

Hannah Brown, President Emerita, Urban Chamber of Commerce, Las Vegas, provided a presentation highlighting the Chamber's involvement with the CCSD ([Exhibit I](#)). She shared concerns of equity in funding and equal opportunities for all students. Ms. Brown said she does not want the CCSD broken up; rather, it needs to be fixed.

Dr. Sylvester S. Rogers, President, Ministers of Alliance Association of Southern Nevada, and Pastor, The Greater Mount Sinai Missionary Recruiting Ministries, Inc., shared the mission, goals, and history of the Alliance. He cited educational programs adopted by the Alliance and

concerns with funding ([Exhibit I](#)). Dr. Rogers indicated he wants the Westside schools to stay the way they are.

Roxann McCoy, President, Las Vegas Branch 1111, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), submitted a presentation that highlighted the vision, objectives, and history of the NAACP ([Exhibit I](#)). She stated parents could be more involved through interactive workshops.

Yvette Williams, Chair, Clark County Black Caucus, provided survey information regarding community partnerships, outreach, and parent engagement. She offered ten recommendations to improve parental involvement and the education of students ([Exhibit J](#)).

G. City of North Las Vegas

This agenda item was taken out of order.

John J. Lee, previously identified, reported he is a product of the CCSD. As mayor of the City of North Las Vegas (CNLV), he recognizes that the schools need improvement.

Ryann Juden, Assistant City Manager, CNLV, shared the steps taken by CNLV to address its educational challenges and provided data on free and reduced lunches, student performance, and funding ([Exhibit K](#)).

Magdalena Martinez, Ph.D., Director, Education Programs, The Lincy Institute, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, provided an overview of Latino parental involvement and perceived challenges. She shared four policy recommendations: (1) rigorous external research of Latino parental involvement; (2) collaboration with external parental involvement initiatives; (3) greater Spanish-language fluency among staff at schools; and (4) possible measure in statewide accountability framework ([Exhibit L](#)).

Discussion ensued regarding data sources. Mr. Juden offered to provide the committee with data of survey responses from African-American parents and other ethnic groups.

H. City of Mesquite

Robert D. Sweetin, City Attorney, City of Mesquite, shared examples of community engagement in Virgin Valley, the City of Mesquite, and Bunkerville. He cited solutions to the following major issues: (1) unavailability of comparable academic programs and experiences; (2) special education; (3) collective bargaining/teacher needs; and (4) transportation ([Exhibit M](#)).

Kraig Hafen, previously identified, suggested it would be beneficial to have a student teaching contract between CCSD and teaching colleges in Utah.

I. Clark County

Mary Beth Scow, previously identified, explained that Clark County is a jurisdiction made up of unincorporated areas.

Kathleen E. Walpole, M.P.A., Management Analyst II, Department of Administrative Services, Clark County, provided an overview of the web-based parental and community engagement survey ([Exhibit N](#)).

Commissioner Scow shared the demographics of the survey takers and the survey results ([Exhibit N](#)). She stressed the importance of neighborhood identity, which is difficult in unincorporated Clark County, and she discussed the CEAB in Boulder City.

Dr. Moses requested a list of the schools that fall in an unincorporated area.

J. Laughlin

No information was presented.

K. Honoring Our Public Education

Jennifer Blackhurst, President, Honoring Our Public Education (HOPE), and Caryne Shea, Vice President, HOPE, discussed the participants and results of the School Autonomy and Parent Participation Survey (Exhibit O and [Exhibit O-1](#)).

Responding to questions from Committee members, Ms. Blackhurst and Ms. Shea further discussed the following: (1) a breakdown of the zip codes and response rates ([Exhibit O-2](#)); (2) parents' overwhelming feelings of being tapped out; (3) community groups and feeder school alignment; and (4) parental confusion over funding issues and decision making.

AGENDA ITEM VI—PUBLIC COMMENT

After the meeting, Ryann Juden, previously identified, submitted data regarding the performance review of the schools in CNLV ([Exhibit P](#)).

AGENDA ITEM VII—ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Coons
Principal Administrative Assistant

Kelly S. Richard
Principal Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Senator Becky Harris, Chair

Date: _____

EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT	WITNESS/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
<u>Exhibit A</u>	Kelly S. Richard, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau	Agenda
<u>Exhibit B</u>	Diane Fearon, Chief Executive Officer, Communities in Schools of Nevada (CIS)	Written comments
<u>Exhibit B-1</u>	Diane Fearon, Chief Executive Officer, CIS	Pamphlet
<u>Exhibit C</u>	Andy Hafen, Mayor, City of Henderson, Nevada	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Exhibit D</u>	Virginia “Holli” Ratliff, Ph.D., Principal, C.T. Sewell Elementary School, Clark County School District (CCSD)	Written comments
<u>Exhibit E</u>	Alok Pandey, Professor, College of Southern Nevada	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Exhibit F</u>	Carolyn G. Goodman, Mayor, Las Vegas, Nevada	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Exhibit G</u>	Larry Moses, Ed.D., retired CCSD teacher and administrator	Video of Moapa Valley
<u>Exhibit H</u>	R. Lindsey Dalley, D.D.S., Chair, Moapa Valley Community Education Advisory Board (CEAB) Task Force, and Chad Leavitt, Member, Moapa Valley CEAB Task Force	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Exhibit I</u>	Hannah Brown, President Emerita, Urban Chamber of Commerce, Las Vegas; Dr. Sylvester S. Rogers, President, Ministers of Alliance Association of Southern Nevada, and Pastor, The Greater Mount Sinai Missionary Recruiting Ministries, Inc.; and Roxann McCoy, President, Las Vegas Branch 1111, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Exhibit J</u>	Yvette Williams, Chair, Clark County Black Caucus	Information regarding community partnerships, outreach, and parent engagement

<u>Exhibit K</u>	Ryann Juden, Assistant City Manager, City of North Las Vegas (CNLV), Nevada	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Exhibit L</u>	Magdalena Martinez, Ph.D., Director, Education Programs, The Lincy Institute, University of Nevada, Las Vegas	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Exhibit M</u>	Robert D. Sweetin, City Attorney, City of Mesquite, Nevada	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Exhibit N</u>	Mary Beth Scow, Commissioner, Board of Clark County Commissioners	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Exhibit O</u>	Jennifer Blackhurst, President, Honoring Our Public Education (HOPE), and Caryne Shea, Vice President, HOPE	Written comments
<u>Exhibit O-1</u>	Jennifer Blackhurst, President, HOPE, and Caryne Shea, Vice President, HOPE	Survey results
<u>Exhibit O-2</u>	Jennifer Blackhurst, President, HOPE, and Caryne Shea, Vice President, HOPE	Zip code map
<u>Exhibit P</u>	Ryann Juden, Assistant City Manager, CNLV, Nevada	Performance review data of CNLV schools

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.