

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 ninth meeting of the Nevada Legislature's Technical Advisory Committee to Develop a Plan to Reorganize the Clark County School District was held on Friday, June 17, 2016, at 2 p.m. in Room 4401, Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 3137, Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. A copy of this set of "Summary Minutes and Action Report," including the "Meeting Notice and Agenda" and other substantive exhibits, is available 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. 775/684-6835) and may be available online at http://www.leg.state. nv.us; telephone: nv.us/Granicus/.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Senator Becky Harris, Chair
Senator Michael Roberson
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
Brian Knudsen
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

John Vellardita

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

COMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE:

Marsha Irvin, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Stavan Corbett
Brent Husson (Excused)
Duncan R. Lee (Excused)
Allison Serafin
Daniel Stewart (Excused)

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Kelly S. Richard, Principal 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 Adam Drost, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division Christina Harper, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division

AGENDA ITEM I—CALL TO ORDER

Chair Harris called the meeting to order.

AGENDA ITEM II—OPENING REMARKS

Chair Harris welcomed members and the public to the ninth meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee to Develop a Plan to Reorganize the Clark County School District (TAC). She expressed appreciation for the input in the development of recommendations towards reorganization. Chair Harris reviewed the process for discussion and action on the proposed findings and recommendations.

AGENDA ITEM III—PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Harris called for public comment.

Courtney Sweetin, Break Free Clark County School District (CCSD), testified in support for empowerment, local school control for parents and students, and creation of a mechanism to disallow the central office the ability to take back local empowerment (Agenda Item III).

Adam Berger, teacher, Desert Oasis High School, Las Vegas, Nevada, expressed support for the reorganization of the CCSD. He requested the TAC keep English Language Learners (ELL) and special needs students in mind during this reorganization process.

Annalyn James, Member, Moapa Valley Community Education Advisory Board, expressed support for the proposals that give parents and communities a greater voice and influence in public education. She requested the TAC consider a proposal for local communities to have a voice in the selection of school administrators.

Bill Garis, Deputy Executive Director, Clark County Association of School Administrators and Professional-Technical Employees (CCASAPE), on behalf of Stephen Augspuger, Executive Director, CCASAPE, stated it is the opinion of CCASAPE that the current legislative process to reorganize the CCSD will lead to increased student achievement and parental engagement. He stated CCASAPE supports the steps taken to decentralize the CCSD and the core recommendations submitted by Mr. Vellardita. Mr. Garis stated CCASAPE looks forward to working with stakeholders to refine this process.

Chair Harris called for the roll call.

AGENDA ITEM IV—APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON MARCH 28, APRIL 13, AND MAY 10, 2016, IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

MOTION: Dr. Moses moved to approve the minutes of the March 28, April 13, and May 10, 2016, meetings held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The motion was seconded by Superintendent Skorkowsky and passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM V—DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON PROPOSED FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO THE REORGANIZATION OF THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Chair Harris referred to the *Proposed Findings and Recommendations Submitted by Members of the Technical Advisory Committee to Develop a Plan to Reorganize the Clark County School District, for Consideration by the Committee, in Developing Findings and Recommendations for Inclusion in Its Report (Agenda Item V).*

II. Proposed Findings for Inclusion in the Report of the Technical Advisory Committee

Chair Harris stated Section II addresses the proposed findings based on the testimony received during the TAC meetings from stakeholders relating to the CCSD and translate the common threads discussed during the three public hearings.

MOTION: Superintendent Skorkowsky moved to approve Section II, Proposed Findings for Inclusion in the Report of the Technical Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Assemblyman Gardner and passed unanimously.

III. Proposed Recommendations for Inclusion in the Report of the Technical Advisory Committee

Chair Harris stated Section III includes proposed recommendations based on the solicitation of comments and recommendations. She specified that each recommendation will be discussed and voted on individually.

A. Decentralization

Each recommendation was introduced by the author and discussed.

Properly vet highly qualified school principals before they are placed in each school and provided with greater control and latitude in developing the budgets and curricula of their schools. Provide appropriate technical business training and assistance. Give schools flexibility in responding to the unique needs and circumstances of their students with regard to additional funding, curriculum, course and extracurricular offerings, and staff development and training, especially as age/divisional matriculation warrants (elementary, junior high, high school). (Submitted by Carolyn G. Goodman, Mayor, City of Las Vegas)

Following discussion, Mayor Goodman stated there would be no changes to her recommendation, but requested the following comments be noted for the record:

- Provide a system of training for assistant principals and support staff, essential to the success of principals;
- Maintain a framework for curriculum to ensure continuity;
- Provide training and professional development for central administrative staff; and
- For- and non-profit organizations to work with principals, rather than the central office.

MOTION: Mr. Vellardita moved to approve the recommendation by Mayor Goodman as submitted. The motion was seconded by Dr. Moses and passed unanimously.

Give each school its own precinct for purposes of the reorganization plan. (Submitted by Kraig Hafen, City Council Member, City of Mesquite)

MOTION: Assemblyman Gardner moved to approve the recommendation by City Council Member Hafen as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brown and passed unanimously.

Provide significantly more budgetary and instructional autonomy to local schools, and transition the district to a model that enables individual schools to control at least 85 percent of their budgets at the school level. (Submitted by John Vellardita, Clark County Education Association [CCEA])

Following discussion, Mr. Vellardita amended his recommendation.

MOTION: Mr. Mirchandani moved to approve the amended recommendation by Mr. Vellardita to provide significantly more budgetary and instructional autonomy to local schools, and transition the district to a model that enables individual schools to control at least 85 percent of their budgets at the school level, with the available unrestricted federal funds to be determined by the consultant to the Advisory Committee to develop the plan to reorganize the school district, in part by defining what a central service agency will be, the services to be provided, and associated costs. The motion was seconded by Mayor Goodman and passed unanimously.

Implement the "precinct" concept with a maximum of 15 schools per precinct. This enables a supervisory ratio of 15 schools per leader. The supervisors provide support, coaching, and mentoring, while principals make decisions for their own schools with meaningful input from staff and their school community. (Submitted by Marsha Irvin)

Following discussion and concerns expressed, Vice Chair Irvin withdrew her recommendation.

Reinstate the empowerment model of governance, organizing all schools under the existing empowerment statutes. (Submitted by Dr. Larry Moses on behalf of Moapa Valley)

Following discussion and concerns expressed, Dr. Moses withdrew his recommendation.

Mandate and formalize site-based management (empowerment teams) at all schools, including the duties of the team, membership of the team, designation of the team chair, development of an appeal process for team decisions, and required meetings to review the school's plan and budget and share achievement and attitudinal results. (Submitted by Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent, CCSD)

MOTION: Ms. Brown moved to approve the amended recommendation by Superintendent Skorkowsky to mandate and formalize an autonomous, site-based decision making team at all schools, including the duties of the team, membership of the team, designation of the team chair, development of an appeal process for team decisions, required meetings to review the school's plan and budget, and share achievement and attitudinal results. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Irvin and passed unanimously.

B. Educational Professionals

Increase teachers' salaries across the board. Establish educational and training requirements, along with competitive salaries, to attract and retain the best and brightest teachers for CCSD. Require CCSD to staff each classroom with a certified, licensed full-time teacher except at the high school level, in which case, specialists with high-level academic degrees may be certified because of their educational specialty and education. (Submitted by Carolyn G. Goodman, Mayor, City of Las Vegas)

MOTION: Dr. Moses moved to approve the recommendation by Mayor Goodman as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brown and passed unanimously.

Transition the district office to a central services agency, charged with providing essential noninstructional services to schools, and create a leadership academy with CCSD to give school leaders the relevant skills they need to effectively and accountably manage an empowered local school. (Submitted by John Vellardita, CCEA)

MOTION: Assemblyman Gardner moved to approve the amended recommendation by Mr. Vellardita to transition the district office to a central service agency, charged with providing essential noninstructional services to schools, and create a leadership system within CCSD to give school leaders the relevant skills they need to effectively and accountably manage a site-based decision making team. The motion was seconded by Mayor Goodman and passed unanimously.

Include in the reorganization plan new principal training and skills development that incorporate the competencies needed to operate an empowered system. This will require access and collaboration with the available resources in higher education, nonprofit think tanks, and the business community to design a training and evaluation system that adequately reflects the attainment of the required core competencies. (Submitted by Brent Husson)

MOTION: Mr. Vellardita moved to approve the amended recommendation by Mr. Husson to include in the reorganization plan new principal training and skills development that incorporate the competencies needed to operate a site-based decision making system. This will require access and collaboration with the available resources in higher education, nonprofit think tanks, and the business community to design a training and evaluation system that adequately reflects the attainment of the required core competencies. The motion was seconded by Mr. Knudsen and passed unanimously.

Establish a district training program, including both internal and external experts, to identify training topics and develop recommendations for methods of implementation. This delivery of professional development by district staff may include a readiness assessment, blended learning, face-to-face learning sessions, differentiated support, and onboarding of site-based management team members. (Submitted by Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent, CCSD)

MOTION: Trustee Young moved to approve the amended recommendation by Superintendent Skorkowsky to establish a district training program, including both internal and external experts, to identify training topics and develop recommendations for methods of implementation. This delivery of professional development by district staff may include a readiness assessment, blended learning, face-to-face learning sessions, differentiated support, and onboarding of site-based decision making team members. The motion was seconded by Mr. Knudsen and passed unanimously.

C. Local Control and Governance

Establish optional (permissive) education councils that give parents and the community a greater voice in public education. The councils:

- Can be established voluntarily by a local governing body, such as a city or township;
- Exist independently from the site-based councils required under the existing empowerment statute in Nevada Revised Statutes that will be a part of each precinct school site; and
- Would be comprised of a combination of parents with a child or children attending CCSD and members of the community.

Encourage education councils to provide or augment training for principals and parents and community members who will be involved in site councils at the individual school precinct level. (Submitted by Andy A. Hafen, Mayor, City of Henderson)

MOTION: City Council Member Hafen moved to approve the amended recommendation by Mayor Hafen to establish optional (permissive) education councils that give parents and the community a greater voice in public education. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hafen and Vice Chair Irvin and passed unanimously.

Mayor Goodman noted for the record that she would be absent for the remainder of the meeting immediately following this vote.

Create precinct committees to govern school precincts and make critical decisions regarding the education of students. Include the principal of a school, staff members, and both elected members and members appointed by the governing bodies where the student come from (specifically, either the city council, township board, or both.) (Submitted by Kraig Hafen, City Council Member, City of Mesquite)

MOTION: Trustee Young moved to approve the amended recommendation by City Council Member Hafen to create site-based decision making teams for school precincts that make decisions regarding the education of students, including the principal, teachers, and support staff of a school; parents; and both elected members and members appointed by the governing bodies where the students come from (specifically, either the city council, township board, or both.) The motion was seconded by Mayor Hafen and passed. Mayor Goodman was absent for the vote.

Create a system of board governance at local schools made up of a team of parents, teachers, and school leaders with shared decision making. Transition CCSD's current top-down administrative framework to an accreditation system. (Submitted by John Vellardita, CCEA)

MOTION: Superintendent Skorkowsky moved to approve the amended recommendation by Mr. Vellardita to create site-based decision making teams at local schools made up of parents, teachers, support staff, and school leaders with shared decision making. Transition CCSD's current top-down administrative framework to a standard-based system for the site-based decision making model around student outcomes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Courtney and passed. Mayor Goodman was absent for the vote.

Provide stipends for parents and family members of students who serve on local school site governance boards and engage in new models of family engagement to boost parental involvement in local schools, especially in urban areas. (Submitted by John Vellardita, CCEA)

MOTION: Vice Chair Irvin moved to approve the amended recommendation by Mr. Vellardita, at the discretion of the site-based decision making team, to provide stipends for parents and family members of students who serve on local school site governance boards and

engage in new models of family engagement to boost parental involvement in local schools, especially in urban areas. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hafen and Assemblyman Gardner and passed. Mayor Goodman was absent for the vote.

Allow local school precinct boards to make all budget, curriculum, and policy decisions. (Submitted by Dr. Larry Moses)

Dr. Moses withdrew this recommendation, as this issue was covered in City Council Member Hafen's previously approved recommendation.

Divide CCSD into precincts with individually elected boards that hire the superintendent and appoint a member to serve on the central school board. (Submitted by Dr. Larry Moses)

Following discussion and concerns, Dr. Moses withdrew this recommendation.

Establish a single precinct for Moapa Valley with a locally-elected, five-member precinct board that hires an at-will precinct administrator to assist the board in setting policy and regulations, controlling finances, and managing these and other duties outside of the schools. Vest the authority to hire school principals in the precinct administration to assure loyalty to the schools and community and not central administration. (Submitted by Dr. Larry Moses on behalf of Moapa Valley)

MOTION: Assemblyman Gardner moved to approve the recommendation by Dr. Moses on behalf of Moapa Valley as submitted. The motion was seconded by City Council Member Hafen. Commissioner Scow, Superintendent Skorkowsky, Mr. Vellardita, Ms. Brown, Trustee Young, Mr. Knudsen, Ms. Courtney, Chair Harris, and Mayor Hafen voted no. Mayor Goodman was absent for the vote. The motion failed.

MOTION: Mayor Hafen moved to approve the recommendation to request the consultant to the Advisory Committee to develop the plan to reorganize the school district to address the challenges and needs unique to the rural areas of CCSD in the reorganization plan. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Irvin and passed. Mayor Goodman was absent for the vote.

Allow existing community educational advisory groups to select teachers, administrators, and curriculum, and make decisions concerning expenditures at local schools. (Submitted by Dr. Larry Moses on behalf of Sandy Valley)

The following discussions ensued:

• Mr. Knudsen would not support noneducation-related individuals advising on curriculum to a school;

- Risa B. Lang, previously identified, stated the preliminary plan's intent is to allow schools to be in a position to control the school's staffing for a group of individuals vetted by the district;
- City Council Member Hafen supports parents having input on the curriculum with the goal to increase parental involvement;
- Superintendent Skorkowsky stated the curriculum is mandated by the State Department of Education; the instructional methodology is up to each individual teacher;
- The site-based decision making team will have input into the selection of the school principal, and individuals that have the power to hire will also have the power to fire; and
- Commissioner Scow is of the opinion there should be input by the site-based decision making team but not the final decision expressing confidentiality concerns.

Chair Harris noted for the record that the consultant is no longer present at the meeting, but will be provided with the information discussed and approved by the TAC.

MOTION: City Council Member Hafen moved to approve the amended recommendation to allow existing community educational advisory groups to have input in the selection of teachers, administrators, and curriculum, and make decisions concerning expenditures at local schools. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Irvin.

Following discussion on curriculum, there was a friendly amendment to the motion for consistency, and the motion was amended.

MOTION: City Council Member Hafen moved to approve the amended recommendation by Dr. Moses to allow site-based decision making teams to have input in the selection of teachers, administrators, and curriculum, and make decisions concerning expenditures at local schools. The motion was seconded by Assemblyman Gardner and passed. Mayor Goodman was absent for the vote.

It was noted that Trustee Young left the meeting.

D. Per-Pupil Funding

Establish an increased per-pupil allocation, including a base figure plus access to additional fund allocations not limited to special needs, gifted, ELL, Title I, and other circumstances as designed by earmarked funding sources. Ensure the per-pupil increased allocation follows each pupil to the school he or she attends, without exception, so that a firm budget is allocated to each school for management. (Submitted by Carolyn G. Goodman, Mayor, City of Las Vegas)

MOTION: Mr. Vellardita moved to approve the recommendation by Mayor Goodman as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Knudsen and passed. Mayor Goodman and Trustee Young were absent for the vote.

Limit spending at the district level in order to make sure that money follows students and precincts are able to execute their objectives without significant financial restraint. (Submitted by Kraig Hafen, City Council Member, City of Mesquite)

MOTION: Mr. Vellardita moved to approve the recommendation by City Council Member Hafen as submitted. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Irvin and passed. Mayor Goodman and Trustee Young were absent for the vote.

Accelerate the transition to a weighted student funding formula to ensure that local schools have the resources they need to adequately educate their student populations, and mandate any new money added due to weights on the funding formula stay with the individual students at schools. (Submitted by John Vellardita, CCEA)

MOTION: Assemblyman Gardner moved to approve the recommendation by Mr. Vellardita as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hafen and passed. Mayor Goodman and Trustee Young were absent for the vote.

Disperse precinct funding on a per student formula in relation to the total net funding of the district, not just the General Operating Budget. (Submitted by Dr. Larry Moses)

Dr. Moses withdrew this recommendation, which was addressed in a previous recommendation.

Tie funding to the student; ensure it follows the student wherever the student is educated. (Submitted by Dr. Larry Moses on behalf of Moapa Valley)

Dr. Moses withdrew this recommendation, which was addressed in a previous recommendation.

E. Other Recommendations

Study changes to be made to attendance zones, assignments to schools, magnet schools, Career and Technical Education schools, select school programs, and federally mandated programs to ensure equitable funding under the Nevada Plan, equitable access and opportunity for all students, and compliance with federal and State law, prior to adoption of a reorganization plan. (Submitted by Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent, CCSD)

MOTION: Ms. Brown moved to approve the recommendation by Superintendent Skorkowsky as submitted. The motion was seconded by Assemblyman Gardner and passed. Mayor Goodman and Trustee Young were absent for the vote.

Address education inequity by identifying schools where inequities exist and develop a plan for each, including, but not limited to: advanced placement and gifted and talented education programs, curriculum, CTE programs, discipline disparities, facilities, and teacher shortages. (Submitted by Marsha Irvin)

MOTION: City Council Member Hafen moved to approve the amended recommendation by Vice Chair Irvin, site-based decision making teams should address education inequity by identifying schools where inequities exist and develop a plan for each, including, but not limited to: advanced placement and gifted and talented education programs, curriculum, CTE programs, discipline disparities, facilities, and teacher shortages. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hafen and passed. Mayor Goodman and Trustee Young were absent for the vote.

Implement the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act. This new law supports the empowerment of schools with the flexibility to ensure every student succeeds. (Submitted by Marsha Irvin)

MOTION: Assemblyman Gardner moved to approve the recommendation by Vice Chair Irvin as amended to implement the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vellardita and passed. Mayor Goodman and Trustee Young were absent for the vote.

Maintain precincts in a K-12 feeder alignment pattern to support students and their families. (Submitted by Marsha Irvin)

Following clarification of precincts and the alignment of feeder schools, Vice Chair Irvin withdrew the recommendation.

Adopt the community schools model as a preferred reform strategy. (Submitted by Marsha Irvin)

MOTION: Ms. Brown moved to approve the recommendation by Vice Chair Irvin as amended to consider adopting the community schools model as a reform strategy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Knudsen and passed. Mayor Goodman and Trustee Young were absent for the vote.

Provide more access for high-quality preschool programs. (Submitted by Marsha Irvin)

MOTION: Mayor Hafen moved to approve the recommendation by Vice Chair Irvin as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scow and passed. Mayor Goodman and Trustee Young were absent for the vote.

Examine existing CCSD funding and expenditures including operations, capital expenditures, and management-based (central office) budgeting/spending. Make the central administrative budget available for public inspection. The administrative budget must be released and is herein requested—or will be subpoenaed, if need be. Ensure the central budget is transparent and presented in an understandable format. (Submitted by Carolyn G. Goodman, Mayor, City of Las Vegas)

Chair Harris advised that the TAC does not have direct subpoena authority.

Superintendent Skorkowsky stated the district budgeting information is available on the district's website under Open Book and reviewing ways to publish school level data.

MOTION: Mayor Hafen moved to approve the recommendation by Vice Chair Irvin as amended to examine existing CCSD funding and expenditures including operations, capital expenditures, and management-based (central office) budgeting/spending. Make the central administrative budget available for public inspection. Ensure the central budget is transparent and presented in an understandable format. The motion was seconded by Assemblyman Gardner and passed. Mayor Goodman and Trustee Young were absent for the vote.

Expand or restructure the CCSD Board of Trustees to 9 or 11 members and allow at least one board member to represent outlying communities and schools to ensure representation. (Submitted by Dr. Larry Moses)

Chair Harris advised the TAC could make this recommendation, but it would require statutory change.

There was a general consensus to diversify the CCSD Board of Trustees, but concerns were expressed regarding the number and make-up of the Board to include individuals from outlying communities and business.

Mr. Vellardita recommended the consultant consider the creation of an advisory council made up of members from the community recognizing the community's diversity and regional uniqueness to advise the Board of Trustees in the transition period as well as the implementation period during the reorganization.

Dr. Moses stressed the importance for all communities to have representation on the Board.

Dr. Moses will discuss this issue with the consultant to ensure there is diversity within the governance structure of the CCSD Board of Trustees.

AGENDA ITEM VI—PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Harris called for public comment.

Angie Sullivan, second grade teacher, and member, Bipartisan Education Caucus, Clark County, Nevada, expressed appreciation to the TAC for their dedication to this process. She supports the work of the TAC and is encouraged by the work to provide equity for special needs and ELL students.

Commissioner Scow submitted recommendations for the record (Agenda Item VI).

AGENDA ITEM VII—ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06~p.m.

	Respectfully submitted,
	Christina Harper Senior Research Secretary
	Kelly S. Richard Principal Research Analyst
APPROVED BY:	
Senator Becky Harris, Chair	
Date:	

EXHIBITS

AGENDA	WITNESS/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
ITEM		
Agenda Item III	Courtney Sweetin, Break Free Clark	Written testimony
	County School District	
Agenda Item V	Kelly S. Richard, Principal Research	Proposed findings and
	Analyst, Research Division, Legislative	recommendations
	Counsel Bureau	
Agenda Item VI	Mary Beth Scow, Member, Clark County,	Written recommendations
	County Commission	

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