

MINUTES
of the meeting of the
Advisory Council for Parental Involvement and Family Engagement

April 16, 2015

The Advisory Council for Parental Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE) held a public meeting on April 16, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. The sites were connected by video conference at the locations below.

Meeting Locations: Department of Education
9890 South Maryland Pkwy
Board Room
Las Vegas, NV 89183

and

Department of Education
700 East Fifth Street
Board Room
Carson City, NV 89701

Members Present:

Denette Corrales
Stacie Wilke
Jennifer Hoy
Rev. Kelcey West
Jeffrey Hinton
Nick Smith
Stavan Corbett

Members Not Present:

Billiejo Hogan
Teresa Benitez-Thompson
Patricia Farley

Department Staff Present:

Dena Durish, Director, Division of Educator Effectiveness & Family Engagement
Becky-Joe Puente, Assistant to the Commission

Audience in Attendance:

Chelli Smith, Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program
Eva Melendez, Clark County School District, Family and Community Engagement Services
Robin Kincaid, Nevada PEP
Kirsten Gleissner, Director, Northwest Regional Professional Development Program

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order; Roll Call; Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Denette Corrales called the meeting to order at 9:21 a.m. with attendance as reflected above and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. It was determined there was quorum.

Agenda Item #2 - Public Comment #1

There were no public comments in the north or south.

Agenda Item #3 - Approval of Flexible Agenda (For Possible Action)

Motion Member Corbett made a motion to approve a flexible agenda. Member Wilke seconded. Motion was approved. It was noted that Member Wilke will need to depart at 1:30 p.m.

Agenda Item #4 Council Budget Updates/Review

Rose Avila shared the [Budget Estimates](#) provided have been updated with the figures for April travel reimbursements. She reminded Council members the numbers presented were encumbered (estimates) until they have actually been paid.

Agenda Item #5 – Approval PIFE Council Meeting Minutes for February 5, 2015 and March 13, 2015

The Council reviewed the [minutes presented](#).

Motion Member Corbett made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 5 and March 13, 2015 meetings. Member Smith seconded. Motion was approved.

Agenda Item #6 – Nevada Department of Education Updates

Director Dena Durish provided a legislative overview to the Council. April 10 was the first house committee passage deadline. If a bill did not have a work session prior to April 10, it did not proceed through the session. There are some exceptions. Money Bills get referred to the Senate Finance and the Assembly Ways and Means Committee to address funding sources. They have different deadlines. Policy bills began in the Education Committee of either house, are then heard in that full house. Once that occurs, it goes to the second house Education Committee then proceeds to that full floor. The first house passage was April 21st. Any bills that did not pass from the originating house did not proceed through the session. Once a bill was heard on the floor the bill moved to the second house which will be heard by May 22nd in the second house passage.

- Director Durish encouraged members to visit the [NDE website for legislative 2015-2017 updates and shared the following information](#).
 - [SB25](#) which impacts this council headed to the Assembly Committee. It would allow an 11th person to serve on the Council.
 - The Zoom schools have been rich conversations and the Achievement School Districts recommendations have passed so far. There is a bill that is not a Department of Education bill which proposes if children cannot read by grade 3, they would not be able to advance to the next grade level.
 - There is a STEM Council that is moving forward and conversations on how to continue to recognize work in the fields of science, technology, and math.
 - The most impactful hearing to date has been the conversation about safe and respectful schools. Because there have been such emotional testimonies about incidents of bullying, the committee chairs decided to hold a joint committee which is somewhat rare. They heard a bill which would create an office of safe and respectful learning, a 24-hour hotline, and other requirements for school districts related to bullying.
 - The Great Teaching and Leading bill will afford block grants which provide professional development to existing teachers. There is also a bill that changes what teachers are accountable for. This is a conversation that is happening nationally.
- Nevada has been working on the Nevada State Literacy Plan, which is part of the Federal Striving Readers grant. It is currently in the finishing stages. Dena or Rose are hoping to share the finalized plan with the Council soon. It will be driving document in everything Nevada does as it will impact all literacy across the state.
- The past few weeks was the gradual roll out of the new Criterion Reference Test (CRT) which is taken by the state's 3rd-8th graders. The new Smarter Balance Consortium testing (SBAC) run by Measured Progress experienced capacity issues. Testing was stopped in rural areas. The Department is working with the vendor to resolve issues to resume testing throughout the state.

- Once this Council has awareness of the bills that have passed, the Council can review to see what work can be done around them.

Agenda Item #7 – Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Updates

Rose Avila encouraged members to attend the PTA conference in Las Vegas. Member Hinton shared that he is scheduled to attend the conference as well. Rose will be attending the National Family Engagement conference in Chicago, June 20-23rd with other councils similar to this Council across the nation.

The [PIFE website](#) is going through the process of being updated. The goal is to have the new website launched by the first week in July. An on-screen display of the proposed mockup was presented to Council members. Member Wilke offered to assist the Department in the updating process. Director Durish shared the Department is migrating the website to the www.doe.nv URL to bring consistency to all of its websites and to eliminate paying for external URL addresses. Member Corrales inquired how districts would update their information on the PIFE website. Rose replied that updates and changes would have to be submitted directly to her. Dena added the Department could provide an external link to the district's websites instead of the districts having to update multiple sources.

Rose shared she will be teaming with Judy Osgood attending events in the rural areas in the fall. They are working on different materials to distribute to parents on Department initiatives.

Rose attended the Nevada Association of School Administrators (NASA) conference in Sparks. Attendees were deans, assistant principals, administrators or potential candidates. They spoke on bills that would potentially affect their positions. They did have a family engagement portion in their presentation.

Rose proposed to the Council transitioning to electronic meetings documents. She reminded the Council that meeting materials are available for review and download at the Council's [website](#) prior to meetings. There was no opposition about transitioning to electronic documents beginning May 22nd. Rose shared the future possibility of having prepaid envelopes for members to submit travel reimbursement paperwork. Director Durish reiterated the [Budget Estimates](#) provided earlier are encumbered amounts, partially because the required documentation to process reimbursements was not received. The Department has a 30-day window to which travel reimbursements are to be submitted to the Fiscal Department. She requested the continued cooperation from members to submit their receipts in a timely manner. Members who have access to the Clark County School District can utilize their interoffice mail system. Rose added if Members' preference is to not be reimbursed for travel, they can inform Becky-Joe by email.

Director Durish asked if anyone would be interested in attending the national conference in June with Rose. Member Hoy responded she would be interested in attending. Member Wilke volunteered to serve as an alternate. Member Corrales requested to have a brief presentation from those attending the June conference be added to the July agenda.

Agenda Item #8 – Regional Professional Development Program (RPDP)

Kirsten Gleissner, Director from the Northwest Regional Professional Development Program presented a [handout](#) of what the Northwest and Northeastern divisions have been doing to support family engagement through their charge in the NRS. She shared RPDP is connected to the Council in statute and through the statewide coordinating council. They are funded through the state, divided into three regions. They serve several districts within their regions and function through a fiscal agent that supports them. Their charge is to provide information and support to teachers and to provide resources on how they can support families and parents. They also provide some direct involvement to parents on state standards information and initiatives that are coming out throughout the state.

Denette asked for clarification from Kirsten of how RPDP works with PIFE for the collaboration on the family engagement policy statewide. Kirsten responded that they have been in transition the last few months. They are looking forward to building a more of a cohesive relationship with the Council through their coordinating council. Denette shared she was not aware that they had direct parent involvement. Kirsten replied that mainly it is direct teacher support but they have had requests for additional support to help cover classes. This is done through Parent University, schools and districts providing literacy and hands on activities. RPDP is charged in statute to provide professional development to teachers in subject areas that need support. Areas include Math, literacy, social studies, science, and STEM. Parent Involvement and Family Engagement came on board 2 years ago.

Member Corbett inquired if opportunities existed for council members to participate in their workshops as it may help with the collaboration on policy. Kirsten replied yes. Stavan asked how they evaluated their workshops and the impact the workshops may have. Kirsten responded each region generates a yearly report which is required by NRS. The report is public information and she could provide the report to the Council. All regions use the same tracking system for evaluation. They track participant satisfaction and allow participants the opportunity to provide feedback. The information gathered is used by the trainers to help them adjust their content, activities, and to answer questions. Information is collected at 15 hour intervals if it is a long-term training or as they go if it is a short-term training.

Member Corbett asked how current legislation affects their program. Kirsten raised concern over the passage of SB474as the RPDP's believe it has the potential of negative implications on the RPDP program. If it moves towards a grant process for providing money, then many entities can apply for the grants. Although the intention is to support RPDP's, the money will not be guaranteed. RPDP's are concerned that it would greatly reduce their workforce and the responsibilities they are charged with such as support of standards and parent involvement. The recruitment, selection and retention of teachers would also be affected. The professional development can support teachers but it would be co-mingling programs districts have control over. Though it is an important and huge financial initiative, it could potentially remove funding and support for true professional development which is working with teachers imbedded in the classrooms and the schools. The professional development that they provide is based on the needs of the students in the schools.

Member Corrales asked what their best practices are and if the results are available. Kirsten responded the results are provided in the evaluation reports. Results are mainly teacher satisfaction of their workshops. Parent involvement is new to them. They are able to capture their names and track duplicate services with teachers and other educators. It is different for families. They are beginning to see over time families that are affected by family engagement. They have two years of family case studies in their report.

Member Smith asked if there was a trend in the number of workshops being requested. Kirsten replied this is a new area they have been developing. They have been supporting family involvement through the workshops so educators have the content knowledge. Tracking parent involvement separately has been a challenge. They have received district requests for separate workshops such as a STEM summit that took place in Lyon County that had 1,000 participants. Schools request activities on a smaller scale. Their program provides books to educators to implement strategies that help support the current standards.

Member Smith asked if there has been an increase in workshops this year from the previous. Kirsten replied yes through Parent University and Striving Readers. Member Smith asked for clarification on the tissue paper project as stated in the [handout](#). Kirsten clarified their program worked with teachers how to develop activities with students. Teachers, students and parents were in attendance for this project. This activity evolved into the High Hopes Project.

Member Hoyt stated that she visited the RPDP website. Kirsten mentioned that the website was recently developed in collaboration with students of Reno High School Career & Technology education courses. It is still being edited and has only been live for a few weeks.

Director Durish reminded the Council they are scheduled to report to the Legislative building. Member Corrales asked if Chelli Smith could present after the break. She replied that she could do her presentation at the next meeting date. The flexible agenda option was utilized at 10:44 a.m.

Session break at 10:44 a.m.

Agenda Item #9 – PIFE Council Members Attended Legislative Session

Meeting reconvened at 1:45 p.m.

Agenda Item #10 – PIFE Council Legislative Debrief

Flexible agenda utilized and this item was moved to later in the agenda.

Agenda Item #11 – National Parent Engagement Update

Flexible agenda utilized and this item was moved to later in the agenda.

Agenda Item #12 – National Landscape of Family Engagement

Cory Hunt shared that their team has been working with Rose and with the Department to see how Nevada fits into parent and family engagement in a national context. They looked at what other states are doing across the board. The research they have been doing assists the Department to understand where Nevada stands from State Legislative priorities and polices that have been set and determining how they are filtered down to school districts. The final draft document of their findings will be ready within the next week. They reviewed Nevada demographics and performed a fiscal review of how other states are funding similar programs identifying non-profit, foundation, and federal funding sources. They looked for examples of leveraging health and human services funding to identify possible opportunities for the state to consider leveraging in their parent and family engagement strategies. They worked with a number of non-profits looking at the latest trends in states' policies. They did identify potential pitfalls to avoid in the process. They have a summary draft of general parent and family engagement strategies of all 50 states. They are working on updating a table that reflects all state legislative activities. They are hoping the research they have done will serve as a resource to potential victory schools as they are creating family engagement programs. They will be conducting interviews with leaders in the next weeks to compile in an executive summary that people are able to relate to. They will be reaching out to Council members and schools in the state to identify and highlight best practices and stories that are consistent with the literature. The project will be wrapping up in early May. They are committed beyond the end of their class to provide any updates and answer any questions.

Member Corrales thanked Cory and his team for the resources they have provided and work they have put into the project. She asked Cory to share any pivotal moments he may have experienced while working on the project that may not be capture in the report. Cory noted that many of the proposals that have been written are in line with the leading states. He shared how we define success in parent and family engagement practices may not always look like it is successful. Test scores is not always the most important metric. His team found that as they tailor these programs it can be effective in early childhood programs and will have the same results in a high school setting as well as different community settings. They will put together an executive summary. A final note was made that community organizations in some states do not have a formal mandated office like PIFE but are targeted at Family Engagement.

Member Hoyt resonated with Corey's statement that family engagement is beyond test scores. Member West asked Corey for a list of two or three leading states in Family Engagement. Corey replied it depends what they are targeting. Corey did not want to misspeak but would be happy to follow up by email. Member West thanked Corey for exploring how we define success. Members Corbett and Wilke thanked Corey for his work.

Agenda Item #13 – School District Presentations

Flexible agenda utilized and this item was moved to later in the agenda.

Agenda Item #14 – Future Agenda Items

Next meeting scheduled is May 22, 2015 in Las Vegas

- Presentation Nevada PEP
- Policy Work
- Report from Corey

Agenda Item #13 – School District Presentations – Lyon County

Lise Coudrite referenced the provided [Parent Advisory Council Handout](#). During their parent teacher conference they had parents take a survey in their computer lab. By implementing Connect Ed for parents who were unable to attend parent teacher conferences they received their largest response which was just over 60%. The school district wants parents and families to understand that they wanted to hear what parents and families have to say. At the school site level they ask administration to have representation from all diverse groups. If there is a group that is not represented, administrators go out and promote to individual parents. In the past year they have had an increase of 15 percent on attendance to parent involvement activities. In the areas of Fernley and Silver Springs there has been an increase of 30 percent in parent participation. The district worked collaboratively with the Nevada PTA, parents and community members input to create a district parent involvement policy.

Member Corrales inquired about other community partnerships Lyon County School Districts may have. Lise mentioned multiple rotaries, community chest, food bank, multiple Boys and Girls Clubs, the Chamber of Commerce, and McDonalds.

Member Smith thanked Lyon County on the work they have done. He commended them on strategies shared such as lowering the counter height in offices to make the environment more inviting. Lise credited the principal at Fernley High School. Lise added they utilized students from the construction department of the high school to accomplish the project.

Member Corbett found the 30 percent increase in attendance interesting. He asked if there were any additional outcomes because of the increased attendance. Lise responded there has been an increase in the school and safety surveys also an increase in attendance. Member Corbett requested to see their district policy. Rose Avila added she visited Lyon County and thanked her for including parent voice in their activities.

Agenda Item #11 – National Parent Engagement Update

Member Hinton is involved with Teacher Champions who is run by a group that is in support of Common Core Standards. They help them write blog pieces and articles in support of Common Core. He attended the Teaching and Learning Conference in Washington D.C. in March where he served on the panel. The topic was "Talking about change and communicating to parents about the transitions to standards and assessments." The panel shared best practices and ideas. Something he learned was it is the personal touches that really make the difference. It is about a teacher communicating face to face. Current AB303 is proposed to repeal the common core standards. It comes down to having conversations directly with parents. Under the new assessment models a student may not place as high as on the previous test. Training helps teachers to have the conversation with

parents and families. A webinar he recently attended looked at “buzz” words that are in opposition to the common core that evoke emotional responses.

Nick Smith stated he is able to show parents what their students are doing. Wherever we can have the engagement with the parent directly it’s important because it’s hard to get. He expressed that he appreciates what Member Hinton is doing. Member Hinton said he is proud of what Nevada is doing as many other states do not have the framework as we do.

Member Corrales requested that links to schools districts resources be linked from the PIFE website. Director Durish mentioned the charters are the third largest of the districts in Nevada and she added it would be interesting to tap into that community to see what they have done to reach out to their parents. They serve a different clientele targeting students whose parents are typically more engaged. Rose commented she will contact the Charter School Authority and try to get them on the agenda for May.

Agenda Item #10 – PIFE Council Legislative Debrief

Member Smith shared it was exciting to sit the legislative floor session, to receive a certificate, and for the Council to receive recognition. Member Corrales liked how the council members were seated with their respective constituents. Member Hoy mentioned that as a Nevadan we do not get the opportunity very often. It gives someone a sense of the process. Member Hinton concurred that it was a wonderful experience to visit the floor of the assembly. Member Corbett thanked Rose and Dena for coordinating the visit. Member Corrales also thanked Dena and Rose for the visit. Member West shared the visit was the highlight of the day. He realized he is a part of something that is bigger than he thought. He learned that in developing policies it needs to be precise and tight. Rose thanked members for putting in their time. Director Durish mentioned that she will take a snapshot of the proclamation and distribute it to the members.

Agenda Item #15 Public Comment #2

There was no public comment in the north or south

Director Durish mentioned that in review of the upcoming senate committee agenda at 3:15, they will be hearing AB111 and AB150. She offered the opportunity for members to sit in on the sessions upon adjournment of the council meeting.

Agenda Item #16 Meeting Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.