

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

May 22, 2015

The Advisory Council for Parental Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE) held a public meeting on May 22, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. The sites were connected by video conference at the locations below.

**Meeting Locations:**                      Department of Education                      Department of Education  
9890 South Maryland Pkwy                      700 East Fifth Street  
Board Room    *and*                      Board Room  
Las Vegas, NV 89183    Carson City, NV 89701

**Members Present:**

Denette Corrales  
Stacie Wilke  
Jennifer Hoy  
Nick Smith  
Billiejo Hogan

**Members Not Present:**

Teresa Benitez-Thompson  
Patricia Farley  
Rev. Kelcey West  
Jeffrey Hinton  
Stavan Corbett

**Department Staff Present:**

Dena Durish, Director, Division of Educator Effectiveness & Family Engagement  
Rose Avila, Education Program Professional, Office of Parental Involvement & Family Engagement  
Becky-Joe Puente, Assistant to the Commission

**Audience in Attendance:**

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

Chair Denette Corrales called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with attendance as reflected above and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. It was determined quorum was not met. Therefore, Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott stated that this is not an "official" meeting pursuant to Open Meeting Law. No motions that can be taken and items can be taken out of order.

**Agenda Item #2 - Public Comment #1**

There were no public comments in the north or south.

**Agenda Item #3 - Approval of Flexible Agenda**

No action was taken or needed. Open Meeting Law does not apply since this is not an official meeting.

**Agenda Item #4 – Council Budget Updates/Review** (This item was moved to later in the Agenda.)

**Agenda Item #5 - Approval of Council Meeting Minutes (April 16, 2015)**

No action was taken due to the lack of quorum

**Agenda Item # 6 - Nevada Department of Education Updates**

Director Durish stated the Department's final budget hearing was this past Saturday. Nearly all of the Department's initiatives were approved. Although approved, the initiatives still need a revenue source and are pending passage of a tax package and appropriations bills. The Department requested 24 new positions across different offices, and 22 of them were approved. In the first year of the biennium, the positions are not funded until October. As previously shared, the only major bill that directly impacts this Council is SB25 which adds an additional member to the Council. At the next meeting the Department will share a final list of bills and initiatives that have passed for discussion about possible Council recommendations.

In response to Member Smith's inquiry, Director Durish clarified that the Council's budget was reduced by approximately for the new fiscal year. Member Corrales clarified that the ability for the Council to meet in one location will be reduced after July 1, 2015. Member Smith asked if the Council would be able to get an outside group to subsidize this Council. Director Durish replied the Council could have Deputy Attorney Greg Ott research the inquiry. The Department will provide the Council with updates on the funds the Council has been allocated.

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

Rose Avila shared the [Dual Capacity Framework information](#) that was sent out to the members. She encouraged members to keep in mind the definition of moving from Parental Involvement to Family Engagement as they go through today's work session. There currently is no framework for capacity building between community, schools and parents. The federal government is starting to look at that. We want to think about how to authentically engage families when drafting a new policy.

Rose stated she recently attended the [Nevada PTA](#) conference. She shared the most beneficial sessions were on engaging fathers and multi-cultural engagement sessions. Member Hoy and Rose will be traveling to Chicago to the [National Family Engagement Conference](#). They will be networking with other state representatives who do similar work.

Rose added the federal government will be scheduling quarterly meetings with all state representatives in the area of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement to solicit feedback in areas that need development. Rose ending by sharing that she will be traveling to Harvard in July to participate in Family Engagement training with experts.

Member Corrales requested that in the dialogue with the federal government that there be out of the box templates for websites or apps that are more accessible.

**Agenda Item #4 – Council Budget Updates/Review** (Item taken out of order.)

Rose referenced the [budget handout](#) that was distributed. The numbers provided are high estimates, since not all funds have been expended yet. The budget from the PIFE office may transfer funds to cover any overages, if necessary. At this point in time, the Council is out of money for the remainder of this fiscal year.

**Agenda Item #8 – National Landscape of Family Engagement**

(This item was moved to later in the Agenda.)

**Agenda Item #9 – HOPE Presentation** (This item was moved to later in the Agenda.)

**Agenda Item #10 – Nevada PEP Presentation** (Item taken out of order.)

Robin Kincaid representing [Nevada PEP](#) gave a presentation on their organization. They help families with children with disabilities navigate systems, find resources, and provide support and encouragement. PEP is funded through the U.S. Department of Education, D Funds and other projects. Their goal is to improve the graduation rate for children and adults with disabilities (ages 0-26 years old). They offer services as a peer to peer support model. Lately they have had many calls from families concerned about bullying. They work with families on how issues can be resolved at the lowest level. They employ parents with children with disabilities because they are able to understand the clientele they are servicing.

Member Hogan inquired about how they train their staff. Ms. Kincaid responded their staff has been through intensive and extensive training for a duration of 90 days or longer. Their goal is to assist families to agree and reconcile, but acknowledges there are times where they will agree to disagree. Member Hogan commented that it would be nice to build a bridge between the school and the parents. Ms. Kinkaid added they want to inform parents about what the definition of bullying is. Many times parents do not recognize the importance of documentation.

Session Break: 10:09 a.m.

Reconvene: 10:25 a.m.

**Agenda Item #11 – Parental Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE) State Policy Work Session**

(This item was moved to later in the Agenda.)

**Agenda Item #9 – HOPE Presentation** (Item taken out of order.)

Caryne Shea provided background on [Honoring Our Public Education \(HOPE\)](#), a parent advocacy group. They currently have 600 families. She shared that seventy percent of Nevada voters do not have children. They send out a weekly update to families and hold monthly lunch and learn gatherings. They are providing unbiased information to their membership and community so they can form their own opinion. Their organization has served on the Teacher Pipeline Consortium and the full day Kindergarten steering committee.

**Agenda Item #8 – National Landscape of Family Engagement Presentation** (Item taken out of order.)

Corey Hunt was unable to attend the meeting. So, Member Corrales referenced his [Report](#). She reminded the Council that the State Policy needs to be revised/updated and this can information can be used as a reference. She directed the Council members to review [the existing Policy](#) and to provide feedback during the upcoming work session item.

**Agenda Item #11 – Parental Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE) State Policy Work Session**  
(Item taken out of order.)

The Council as a whole reviewed the policies of other states, then broke out into two separate groups to construct an updated draft of a Parent Involvement and Family Engagement Policy to present to the Nevada State Board of Education.

**Agenda Item #12 – Future Agenda Items**

Next meeting scheduled is Thursday, July 9, 2015

- National Landscape of Family Engagement Presentation
- District Policy
- Chicago Conference
- Storey County District
- RPDP

DAG Ott responded to Member Smith's inquiry about whether the Council could accept outside donations, and confirmed that this Council does not have statutory language currently included to provide for outside donations. Member Corrales asked how the Council could have the language changed to accept outside donations for travel. DAG Ott and Director Durish replied that they would do further research and provide an update at future meeting.

**Agenda Item #13 - Public Comment #2**

There was no public comment in the north or south

**Agenda Item #14 - Meeting Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.