

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
(PIFE)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2016 – 9:00 AM

Meeting Locations:

Office	Address	City	Meeting Room
Department of Education	9890 S. Maryland Pkwy	Las Vegas	Board Room (2 nd Floor)
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St	Carson City	Board Room

MINUTES

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Stavan Corbett Jennifer Hoy Denette Suddeth
Kelcey West Stacie Wilke Julie Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sylvia Espinoza Assemblyman John Hambrick
Billie Jo Hogan Senator Patricia Farley

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (NDE) STAFF MEMBERS

Cynthia Santos Tricia Cook

PUBLIC COMMENT #1

No public comment.

FLEXIBLE AGENDA APPROVAL

Member Corbett made a motion to approve a flexible agenda.

Member West seconded the motion.

Chair Suddeth called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF JUNE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Council reviewed the minutes (Item 4A) from the June 8th meeting.

Member West made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Member Wilke seconded the motion.

Chair Suddeth called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

NEVADA ACHIEVEMENT SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESENTATION

Rebecca Feiden, Deputy Director, Nevada Achievement School District gave a presentation (Item 6A) from the Nevada Achievement School District (NV ASD) and facilitated discussion regarding outreach and communication best practices.

NV ASD summary sheet (Item 6A) was provided and Feiden made the following highlights: what is NV ASD's mission, how NV ASD will achieve the mission and a description of Transformation Teams. Feiden explained the role of authentic community engagement in NV ASD's work moving forward. Feiden wrapped up her presentation and asked members for questions regarding NV ASD and its role.

Member Hoy: How many schools are in the ASD?

Feiden: Currently there are no ASD schools. They can transform up to six schools per school year, depending on the supply of transformation teams.

Member Hoy: Are the six schools elementary, middle, high schools or based on population?

Feiden: Any six schools from the underperforming list.

Member Hoy clarified that any six schools can mean an elementary school of 300 or a high school of 2,000 students. Feiden confirmed this.

Member Wilke asked if the schools have been selected and Feiden responded that the schools have not been selected as of yet. Feiden gave the following timeline for school selection: by October 1, a list of eligible schools will be published, by October 31 the ASD will recommend at least 20% of the schools on that list to the State Board of Education, the SBE will have 30 days to approve at least 50% of the list provided by ASD. The ASD will select up to six schools from that list by January 15.

Member West asked Feiden what community engagement look like and sound like from her point of view. Feiden referred to ASD's Theory of Change which views it as empowering parents as authentic partners to serve as the best advocate for each student. Community voice is very important to determining the best way of turning around a school. This means engaging a broad group of parents and community members from those communities with underperforming schools. Feiden shared the following strategies currently being used: focus groups, partnering with local community organizations, determining parents' needs, community forums to answer questions and address concerns.

Member Corbett asked Feiden about her previous experience and interests in NV work. Member Corbett followed up with a question regarding information that has been gathered and collaboration with school districts and the SPCSA. The ASD has met with district personnel to find common goals, intersections in their work moving forward, and a cohesive approach for a common message. The ASD and SPCSA can authorize charters and they view each other as two mechanisms rather than competition. Member Corbett believes collaboration opportunities are always worth exploring.

Chair Suddeth asked how parents will know students are now a part of the ASD rather than the school district and how long schools will be in the ASD and is the goal to get them out of the ASD. Feiden explained parents will have opportunities to interact with ASD to learn about the transformation process. Once schools are selected, operators and Transformation Teams will work with families to open a school in the fall of 2017 with a shared vision. Selected schools will still be neighborhood schools and students will automatically be enrolled in the school unless parents opt out and want to be in a district school. Transformation schools will still be listed as students' school but the school will just be their own Local Education Authority (LEA). Schools will be reviewed in year 6, with a soft review in year 4 to determine next steps. Schools' performance targets will be determined by State frameworks, will be written into their contracts, and set to individual schools' growth. Member West asked what would happen if a school does not meet its expected growth. Feiden explained at the end of the six year term, the school could go back to the district or given to an operator with proven results. The ASD will not authorize failing schools to continue to fail children, and in collaboration with the community and district, ASD would find a better solution. Member West asked a clarifying question regarding the difference between a charter school and a neighborhood

school. Feiden explained neighborhood school means students who live in the community can attend that school and charter would be how the school is authorized to function.

Chair Suddeth asked if schools would be using Infinite Campus to which Feiden responded yes, ASD will meet all State requirements. Chair Suddeth shared connotations about community schools, zoned schools, and how enrollment looks different, as she advised that the ASD move forward with common language.

Feiden asked the Council questions to gain information around engagement and communication best practice. Common language, consistent and regular communication in home language, open-ended two-way communication, creating a community and partnering with families, not doing things to parents but with them, community meetings, connecting with district family engagement offices, investing in building the capacity of teachers and educators, home visits, are all among the strategies shared by Council members.

Feiden asked for other recommendations for getting parent feedback and engaging a broader community. Member West encouraged Feiden to be as clear as possible with the message so parents understand what event they will be attending. Member Corbett mentioned collaborating with groups that already have trust and relationships with groups of families in the community. Member Williams suggested the message always be positive and to get parents excited about this new opportunity. Chair Suddeth recommended working with other groups already serving targeted areas and looking into feeder schools that share families. Member West advised that the ASD take into consideration schools' history when making decisions.

2016 NATIONAL LANDSCAPE ON FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PRESENTATION

LEE Fellows Alberto Quintero and Alexis Barnes presented (Item 8A) their research regarding national family engagement practices, policies, and best practice. Fellows updated contact information for PIFE contacts in each state, state demographics, and created a database for resources found on state websites. Fellows identified four priorities found in the Joint Policy Statement on Family Engagement and utilized states' websites to determine what states are implementing best practices. Fellows also worked with the Office to create a survey to capture states' engagement efforts not found on state department websites. Details on survey results will be shared with the Council at a later time.

Member Hoy thanked the Fellows for their work and will use the documents to think about next steps. Member Wilke asked where the information will be housed. Cynthia explained that this was a collaborative effort between the Office and the US Department of Education (DOE). US DOE, NDE and the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement will house the information on their websites. Member West thanked the Fellows for the tool to see what other states are doing. Member Corbett congratulated Fellows in their work. Chair Suddeth asked Fellows what can be done to improve family engagement. Fellow Barnes stated that families and schools should be the foundation for all decisions. Fellow Quintero added that consistency and training are needed to ensure all staff in the district appropriately implements strategies.

2015-2016 FAMILY ENGAGEMENT BASELINE DATA AND STATE GOAL

LEE Fellows Alberto Quintero and Alexis Barnes presented (Item 9A) the Office's new data collection process and findings as it relates to School Performance Plans (SPPs) and family engagement. SPPs of the 73 consistently underperforming schools were reviewed to determine use of effective strategies in each of the six Nevada family engagement standards. Their review found that 13 schools (18%) used strategies in each of the six standards.

Member Wilke pointed out that the Nevada Policy on Parental Involvement and Family Engagement may not have trickled down to schools yet. Chair Suddeth asked Member Wilke how the Council can use information from this presentation and from the National Landscape presentation to inform districts and superintendents. Wilke discussed starting with the Trustees to integrate family engagement professional development in all day staff development days. Chair Suddeth thanked the Fellows and assured them that the Council will do its part to move forward and build off of their work.

Cynthia explained that baseline data was collected in order to create a 2020 family engagement goal for the State Improvement Plan. She asked the Council for their recommendations on what the 2020 goal should be. Chair Suddeth recommended that all 73 schools should be using strategies in each of the six standards. Member Corbett agreed that the 73 schools should be the target but mentioned dialogue needed to take place with the schools around what is needed to reach that goal. Cynthia asked whether the statement should include the term “effective strategies”. Member Hoy shared that effective should be included and Chair Suddeth agreed. Member Corbett discussed considering the fidelity of the standards to know which standards are producing results.

NATIONAL FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

Members Wilke and Corbett and NDE staff Cynthia shared their experiences from the 2016 National Family and Community Engagement Conference (Item 9a). Highlights included updates from ESSA, ParentCamp, Community Schools, conference keynote speakers, and other takeaways from the conference.

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND OFFICE OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT UPDATES

Cynthia provided Office updates that included information on July’s District Liaison webinar, the 2016 Nevada Family Engagement Summit, and the 2016 in person State Family Engagement Leaders meeting.

ANNUAL DISTRICT AND STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY (SPCSA) REPORTS

Council members were provided 2016 Annual School District and SPCSA Family Engagement Reports. These reports will drive the work of the Office and Council moving forward.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

October 14 will be an in person meeting in Las Vegas and members will attend the Summit the following day. Council members will formulate a plan for addressing statute requirements for future meetings and begin to plan presentations for 2017. Chair Suddeth would like to discuss effectively engaging with the Legislature in an upcoming meeting .

PUBLIC COMMENT #2

No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:11 pm.