

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT (PIFE)
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2017, 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

DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

(Video Conferenced)

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Denette Suddeth
Ben Salkowe
Kelcey West
Sylvia Espinoza

In Carson City:

Jennifer Hoy
Stacie Wilke

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Julie Williams
Stavan Corbett
Patricia Farley
John Hambrick

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Cynthia Santos Cooke
Chantel Wakefield

In Carson City:

None

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

In Carson City:

Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Las Vegas:

Anna Antolick, HOPE
Katie Decker, Bracken, Long, Hollingsworth

In Carson City:

Laura Malkovich, NWRPDP

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

Chair Suddeth called the meeting to order at 9:32 am.

Roll call was taken and is reflected above. It was determined that quorum was met.

Chair Suddeth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item # 2 – Public Comment #1

No public comment in Las Vegas or Carson City.

Agenda Item # 3 – Flexible Agenda Approval

Motion: Member West made a motion to approve a flexible agenda. Motion was seconded by Member Wilke.

Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 4 – Approval of August Minutes

The December 14, 2016 minutes were reviewed by the Council.

Motion: Member Salkowe made motion to approve the December 14, 2016 minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Member Espinoza. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Agenda Item # 5 – Election of Officers of the Advisory Council for Parent Involvement and Family Engagement

Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott presented this item for election of the new Chair and Vice Chair PIFE Advisory Council positions. Deputy Attorney General Ott stated that we will open the nominations for Chair first. For clarification, a nomination does not need a second nomination, you can just say a name, and once everyone has had a chance to nominate, we will close nominations and proceed to a vote. We will vote on the names in the order in which they were nominated until any nominee has more than half of the votes. At that time, the person will become elected. The process will repeat for the Vice Chair position. Deputy Attorney General Ott gave Chair Suddeth the opportunity to speak to the demands and responsibilities of the Chair position.

Chair Suddeth stated she is not running, and hopes to not be nominated for Chair again. She furthered by saying it has been extremely rewarding. The position has become much simpler with Cynthia in the office; she does a fantastic job of organizing the agenda, and ensuring the Council stays on track with meetings. She sees the position's primary functions are to comply with statute, to ensure we are moving the Council work forward, and at the end of the day, all of that is to improve the student outcomes in Nevada. The successor to this role will bring their own unique personality and expertise. Chair Suddeth stated Member Jennifer Hoy has done a fantastic job as Vice Chair, and she nominated Member Hoy to move into the Chair position.

Deputy Attorney General Ott officially opened Chair nominations, and accepted the nomination of Member Hoy. He asked for any additional nominations of the Council members. Hearing no further nominations, he closed the Chair nominations and moved to the voting phase.

Chair Vote: All were in favor of Member Hoy. **Vote carried unanimously.**

Newly-appointed Member Hoy thanked everyone, and accepted the position.

Deputy Attorney General Ott opened Vice Chair nominations. Member Hoy nominated Member Stavan Corbett for Vice Chair. Member Corbett was not present; Deputy Attorney General Ott said it was acceptable to nominate Member Corbett without being present. The only risk would be if Member Corbett would decline the nomination. Hearing no further nominations, he closed the Vice Chair nominations and moved to the voting phase.

Vice Chair Vote: All were in favor of Member Corbett. **Vote carried unanimously.**

Agenda Item # 6 – Nevada Department of Education and Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Updates

Cynthia Santos Cooke presented the following updates:

- **Upcoming Events:** Cynthia will be attending the Title I Conference in Long Beach, February 22-24, 2017. There will be 11 sessions on Family Engagement. One principal from the Clark County School District will be presenting a family engagement strategy. Cynthia will share event highlights and information at the April 12, 2017 meeting.
- **Southern Nevada Educator Leadership Symposium Event:** Cynthia attended the event on a Saturday because FACES and HOPE for Nevada was there training parents; she wanted to see what kind of information parents were getting. They had sessions for parents on school performance plans, reaching consensus, budgets, college, and collaborating with the school organizational teams. The sessions were attended by more teachers and administrators than parents, but it was great to hear the types of questions the parents had. The teachers in attendance stated they would be providing information back to the families.
- **State Education Agencies (SEA) Phone Calls:** Cynthia participates in monthly phone calls with other SEA's. The talk continues to be around ESSA, how are other states getting stakeholders involved, and how is Family Engagement included in the ESSA plans. Texas is showcasing their new Parent Handbook that's tied with ESSA; it will be shared at the Title I Conference; she will share that at the April meeting as well.
- **January Liaison Webinar:** Each district contact for Family Engagement participates; they did not have a guest speaker for January but held a work session and discussed PIFE policies. They talked about Friday Café's that Connecticut does; monthly get-togethers where family engagement practitioners can come together to network. Connecticut held a webinar a few weeks ago showcasing their statewide chapter and the two new districtwide chapters in San Diego and San Mateo. Cynthia shared the information with district liaisons to let them know about Friday Café model and is interested in collaborating with Connecticut to see if any school districts would like to create a chapter here in Nevada.
- **Climate Surveys:** Cynthia heard back from Elko, Lander, and Washoe regarding Climate Surveys; Elko uses a survey called Reality Check to discuss goals and objectives of school leadership, so they are using family climate survey data. Lander County does a climate survey every few years; they just completed one in the spring. They use summary findings to look at what needs to be improved, what families think need to be improved, and they use that moving forward. Washoe County also does a climate survey; they collect it at the district level, and they send the information down to the school level. They also have a 16 hour Family Engagement PD for their teachers and they look at the climate data again. Washoe shares the findings with the families as well. Chair Suddeth asked if we could have one of the schools come talk about the climate survey and potentially have some families join; Cynthia said that the Washoe Family-School Partnership Office would be presenting in the Fall of 2017 and that she would ask for this to be included.
- **ESSA Stakeholder Engagement and Feedback:** Cynthia showed the Council where the Stakeholder Survey link is located on the ESSA page. The plan is available for review, thoughts, and feedback. Cynthia asks the members to share this out to as many stakeholders as they can to get as much feedback as possible. The department will look at this after the March 1st deadline.
- **Promising Practices:** Cynthia mentioned that the Department of Education in Colorado has a Promising Partnership Practices booklet they publish annually. They send an application to all programs, from ECE to Higher Education and everything in between. It asks what their effective family engagement strategies and practices are, with a 3-4 month collection and application review period. It is organized into 6 various standards, which aligns well with the Nevada policy. This is a good way to not only highlight schools for the great work they are doing, but to also to lend ideas to other schools or programs. The PIFE Council is charged with looking at best practices within the state and the feasibility of using those practices in other districts. We have created our application in paper and Google form. A final due date has not yet been determined; may be mid-May or early June to get as many practices in. The Office will create a narrative over the summer and publish it for the school year. Chair Suddeth asked how this will be communicated and distributed; she will send them to the liaisons to share out with schools they work with or email blasts. She spoke with Clark County School District; they have news blasts that go out to the teachers, not just at the district level. Cynthia will send the link out to the members for review. Member Wilke mentioned she just finished up with her strategic plan and asked if she could send Cynthia email addresses. Cynthia would be happy to have them and will ensure the website is up and running. Member Salkow asked about the ESSA survey feedback, and asked if people can participate in updating the plan. Cynthia said the various groups will work with the staff that put the plan together; she can get the information out to the members once the information has been collected. Cynthia asked the Council what they recommend a task force to review the Promising Practices submissions look like in terms of composition.

Member Hoy feels there should be at least 1 public school teacher and at least 1 parent, a representative from each workgroup, and no more than 15 altogether. Member Wilke suggests that if submission deadline is in May, it may be tough to get a group together during the summer months. Member Suddeth feels a smaller task force may be easier, and as broad of a group as possible be involved. She also mentioned PTA's and PTO's as well as HOPE. She also feels 15 is likely a good number. Chair Suddeth stated that under statute they are tasked with surveying best practices nationally as well as locally. This would fulfill local best practices that are part of our statute that this addresses. She agrees with the suggestion that the representation needs to be broad across the state, and if submissions are received from other districts, they should be included on the task force. Member West asks if each district would have parent/teacher representation; Cynthia states this is the first time we are doing this, and having 3 from each district would be difficult. We are thinking of something on a smaller scale, but there would be representation from each district that wants to participate. Chair Suddeth states it's important to have as many stake holders as possible at the table but may need to work with who shows up at times. She also suggests inviting the liaisons to participate and have the work be done via teleconference.

Flexible agenda imposed, moved to agenda item # 8.

Agenda Item # 7 – Presentation from Clark County School District's Franchise School Principal

Katie Decker, a franchise Principal at Walter Bracken, Walter Long, and Howard Hollingsworth Elementary Schools came to discuss family engagement. Her flagship school was Walter Bracken (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Math) STEAM Academy, which was the lowest performing school in the district, and likely the state. Over the years, with the assistance of the AMFAB Grant for Magnet schools, and the Empowerment Grant the district did as a pilot study, she was able to transform the way they teach children. Their focus is on career education, and the theme was STEAM and financial literacy initiative. The education they provide now is a well-rounded education that gets them prepared and focused on their future, a future job, and understanding of financial literacy before leaving the school. Because of their successes, Ms. Decker moved to Walter Long to implement the same practices, and gained student achievement success there as well. Every teacher is on the same plan and program at every STEAM school. Bracken has been recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School, and this year they earned National Title I School distinction under the category of Excellence. Some practices that helped get them there is engaging parents. Parents need to understand what they need to do to help their child be successful; it needs to be simple. They tell the parents the truth on report cards with a data table in the comments section; they tell them what grade level they read at, and where they are now, for example. The data is shared from kindergarten through 5th grade, so they know what to look for and where the gaps are, where they should be, and how to get them there. They give a 1 minute test with the parent and child; the child reads out loud for 1 minute, they multiply that by 20. They must read 20 minutes every night. They try to get the kids excited about reading. Research has shown children exceed in algebra if they know their math facts. They use a lot of online programs such as Study Island, I Excel, etc., and have computer labs open for the children after school before they go home. Failure is not an option. They expect every child to keep pace, do the work, and put the time in.

Ms. Decker's new school, Hollingsworth, beat Bracken and Long schools last month in Accelerated Reader points, and saw an increase in the number of books being read by the children. Hollingsworth, as part of a Reinvent Project with the City of Las Vegas, added a Social Worker; Bracken and Long got a social worker added 1 day per week. That is a critical resource for them. A lot of families that have needs that exceed their capacity to support as a school, and the social workers are a huge support. They also have Truancy Court for accountability, and to ensure the child's problem gets fixed in elementary. They also have a Communities and Schools Coordinator. If a child needs shoes, clothes or food for example, the coordinator gets the referral to do the follow up with the parents. They have classroom behavioral referral tickets the parent must sign off on, and they also have behavior contracts that are designed to fix the problems. They work as a team with the parents, and also have positive reinforcement programs. Systems like this help support the whole school. Parents have a Parent and Volunteer Coordinator that is designed to ensure there are daily opportunities to engage parents, and support the classroom teachers so they can focus on the children. Their alumni will even return to the school to work in the school centers.

They provide Boys Town classes for the parents using their Victory dollars. They also do in-home services for some families with extreme situations to teach parents strategies. They have really seen success with this and they do the classes in English and Spanish at Long and Hollingsworth; Bracken parents are invited to Long and Hollingsworth to participate. The kids go on 3 field trips every year and every grade, and the parents get to be the chaperones. They welcome parents openly; it's an inclusive environment. They do parent-teacher conferences early in the year using

Title I funds, 100% of parents come in to discuss their child's progress. Homework is done all online on their website. Their budget is not high; they do stories and snack every other month in the morning with the parents. They try get these things donated, but they cap spending on these types of events is \$3,000.00 per year. They also have STEAM night with parents and children with activities. They also have a school gardening program, and have a farmers market along with a Junior Chef event, among other gardening program activities. They have sustainability, work with a lot of community partners, and have a consistent, open and welcome environment the parents like and are engaged in. They are on Facebook and Twitter for all 3 schools, and have their websites.

Chair Suddeth told Ms. Decker she is a huge fan.

Member Hoy thanked Ms. Decker, and shared that she is impressed with their work and will be following them on Twitter. She particularly liked the parent volunteer position as a paid position to help staff the school full of volunteers. She loves that they coordinate field trips by curriculum. She did ask Ms. Decker how field trips are funded; Ms. Decker states she is good at creatively funding. She stated that as a Magnet program, they did not get additional funding as they are not a Prime 6 School. The only way to fund the program was to cash in the Assistant Principal and do the job herself. They used the dollars from that position to fund technology increases, field trips, and online learning programs, which have annual fees associated with them. Being at 3 schools, each school only pays a third of her salary, which allows for more programs and resources. The goal is to build up sustainability. She will retire in 3 years and her AP's will take over; they are being trained to keep the sustainability of the programs they have built. They hold fundraisers and received a gracious donation from a private family foundation. The Victory Grant has also been amazing; she was able to buy books for their series program.

Member Hoy liked the idea of the STEAM activity nights and gardens, and how it all ties back to their curriculum. She told Cynthia that if the Council gets to tour schools, they would like to tour Ms. Decker's schools.

Member Wilke thanked Ms. Decker for helping the Council understand the franchise school concept, and hopes to expand it statewide.

Chair Suddeth asked for Ms. Decker's school demographics; Ms. Decker stated Bracken is about 65% free and reduced lunch, and about 3% ELL. Long and Hollingsworth are at 100% free and reduced lunch, and their ELL's are in the 40% ranges. Hollingsworth has the highest homeless population in the district.

Member West was also impressed, and would like to have Ms. Decker at the church where he is a pastor. He asked about the population and estimated student-to-teacher ratios; Ms. Decker states at Bracken it is 22 to 1 in the first grade, 20 to 1 in 2nd grade, 24 to 1 in 3rd grade, and 28 to 1 in 5th grade. At Hollingsworth it's 18 to 1 in 1st grade, 18 to 1 in 2nd grade, 20 to 1 in 3rd grade, and 28 to 1 in 4th & 5th grade. Long would be about the same. Bracken is her least funded school and has to work twice as hard to make it work.

Chair Suddeth asked Ms. Decker if she has been asked to testify in this session; Ms. Decker states she has been asked in the past but would be happily do so again.

Member Espinoza thanked Ms. Decker and also would love to see her schools to feel the climate and experience what the teachers and students are experiencing. She asked Ms. Decker about the structure of their Pre-K program; Ms. Decker stated at Long, they have a co-teach model along with traditional Pre-K and they bring in the parents for engagement. At Bracken they have a full day, 5 days a week model. The teachers don't have time for curriculum planning and it is quite challenging. Next year Bracken's model will change; they will have 2 early childhood specialists for the co-teach model, but will add 10 typical peers each session and will go back to a half day model 4 days a week. At Hollingsworth, they are making it 4 days and adding a co-teach model with it. She doesn't believe there should be an early childhood special education unit due to language delays. Member Espinoza asked if their early childhood teachers follow a set program that is across all 3 schools; Ms. Decker stated yes, they have done STEAM parent training and worked with the Early Childhood Department, which is separate from the rest of the school. She feels that more parents would go to a just Pre-K center focused on parent education.

Member Salkowe thanked Ms. Decker for the incredible work. He asked Ms. Decker what did the last 3 years look like for her. Ms. Decker states she feels many schools are underachieving; they don't know where the bar should be. She says that they have treated the at-risk schools differently due to being at-risk. Being pushed to the high level of

achievement is achievable if the bar is set in the right place; if the goal isn't being #1, that's sad for the children. Schools need to have the mentality of we may be underdogs, but we should perform as though they are not. Her mission is to fix elementary and wishes other schools would learn from their example.

Chair Suddeth thanked Ms. Decker for sharing her information with the Council.

Agenda Item # 8 – Council Work Group

District PIFE Policies:

Member Hoy discussed the school district PIFE policy updates. She is concerned about Eureka, Lander, Pershing, Story and White Pine counties; we need to figure out what we can do to help those counties and have them bring things into compliance and consistent with our policies.

Member Wilke stated there was a Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) meeting in January; this was brought up to all the directors of each district. White Pine has 3 new board members, but everyone is aware of where they are in this process, and they are supposed to get back with her on February 27, 2017 so she will know when it will be on their agenda's for review. Carson City is on the agenda for February 28, 2017.

Chair Suddeth asked if Member Wilke can follow up with Pershing County and have them provide their information on the county website as they were missing the English language version. Cynthia stated that the information has changed from January version. Elko is waiting on a new web designer. Some review dates may not be updated online to show they have reviewed it in the last year.

Chair Suddeth appreciates this was discussed at Member Wilke's board meeting, and will help with this process moving forward. Member Wilke states she can call the Pershing director for follow up.

Member Hoy is concerned with whether the counties are updating their policies and not letting anyone know, and asked the Council if this should be tabled until the April meeting to see what changes have been made. Member Wilke noted that would give us two more meetings with NASB if that helps. Chair Suddeth thinks that would work, and hopes they understand that the Council is looking for a current, publically accessible version. She thinks that dialog will get this taken care of the way it needs to be. She very much appreciates Member Wilke's leadership within the school boards, and would support tabling this until the next PIFE meeting to give NASB time to get everything updated and communicated back to the PIFE Office for Cynthia's verification.

Member Salkowe stated his school falls under the state authority for assessment and reporting. He thinks that family engagement is a challenge for them, especially when deciding on opening and closing schools. He is curious if the same is expected of his school district. Cynthia stated we used to have SPCSA as a liaison for the 18th District. Due to office turnover, we haven't found a replacement, but this is a good reminder to follow up with them. The law calls out the school districts specifically; the Board of Education will approve a PIFE policy and the school districts will approve a policy that is consistent with the Nevada policy, and will be reviewed and amended as needed by the Board of Trustees.

Member Hoy asked where charter schools would fall, and if we would need separate information from them; Cynthia said the charter authority collects all the information from their charters. When it's time for the annual report, Cynthia gets one report from each school district. Then the charter authority sends Cynthia the reports from each school. For now, if their charters are within the district, the district PIFE policy covers them.

Chair Suddeth states our statute under NRS 385.620 states "review the policy of parental involvement adopted by the State Board and the policy of parental involvement and family engagement adopted by the Board of Trustees of each school district pursuant to NRS 392.457". That is the statute that this is in compliance with that we are tracking under our work plan. Our specific charter authority and Achievement School District requirements for review is under our item # 2, which is to review the information relating to communication with, and participation, involvement, and engagement of parents and families that is included in the annual report. This is # 1 under our statute; to review the policies of each of the Board of Trustees of each school district. However the districts are laid out, that's what this chart will reflect.

Member Hoy asked if this should be tabled until April for further information; Chair Suddeth didn't feel it was necessary.

Cynthia stated that in a previous meeting Chair Suddeth mentioned having each district present every two years. Clark and Lyon counties are due for presentation in April. Washoe County requested waiting until fall meeting dates for presentation. Elko County wanted a little more information on giving a presentation. Lander County asked to be on the April agenda. We will have a call-in number activated for them. Member Hoy asked about video link availability for those in rural areas; Cynthia will find out about videoconferencing options with LifeSize equipment. Chair Suddeth suggests targeting Nye County to have them come to the Las Vegas boardroom in person. Member Hoy mentioned having Carson City, Churchill, Douglas and Storey Counties present at the June Council meeting.

Member Salkowe suggested visiting schools, or attending a family engagement function. Member Hoy feels this is an excellent idea, but would rather have an overview first before going in blind. Member West agreed that we should get an overview first before attending in person.

Chair Suddeth suggested utilizing technology, as their presentations could be a video rather than a PowerPoint presentation. We should encourage them to share their stories in a media or format that they think best tells their story. Member Hoy liked this idea, and noted it is not only for the Council's benefit, but also for the stakeholders benefit to show what is done regarding engaging families in their districts.

Member Wilke would like to see Carson's presentation, and feels June would be a good month. She would be glad to help Cynthia with coordination as needed.

Rising Star Schools Family Engagement:

Cynthia noted that when the fellows were here, they looked at underperforming schools. It was decided to shift attention to the 47 Rising Star schools the Department of Education has identified. All elementary and middle schools performing at the bottom 5%, as well as high schools that has a 60% or lower graduation rate, are Rising Star schools. Rising Star schools' School Performance Plans were reviewed to determine use of family engagement strategies; it was noted that this review may not be inclusive of all strategies used by schools, and that it included strategies may not have actually been implemented. It was determined that 5 out of 42 schools included strategies in all 6 standards from our Nevada policy in their School Performance Plans. 4 out of 42 plans provided professional development on engaging families for their teachers. A great surprise was that all 42 schools included strategies for Standard 3: Supporting Learning at Home. Also, all schools were included strategies in at least 2 of the 6 standards. There are 5 schools that are implementing all 6 standards, 13 schools included 5 standards, 10 schools included 4 standards, 10 schools included 3 standards, and 4 schools included 2 standards. This data was shared with Superintendent Canavero. Superintendent Canavero asked the Council to decide which 3 or 4 strategies are the ones they recommend schools focus on.

Chair Suddeth thinks that once we have a place that we know where to start, it's really important to acknowledge our successes and not lose sight of our opportunities. She asks who are the 4 schools are that have only 2 strategies, and has their family engagement office liaison been directed to work with them. Cynthia states that when she shared this information with the liaisons in January, they only knew which schools were on the Rising Star list, but did not know which of their schools fell under that category. Furthermore, she explained that the Office does not have the authority to mandate the district liaisons to work with the schools. We are looking at what we can do at the state level with state funds. Cynthia shared a pilot idea of getting the area superintendents and principals onboard and provide extra training; discussions on options are ongoing. FACES have had conversations with their supervisors as well. We will work in collaboration and partnership with them. Chair Suddeth thinks just helping identify where those resources are most needed, and where they should focus their energies. A quick phone call with direction and guidance would be good.

Member Hoy asked Cynthia if most of the Rising Star schools are Title I schools; Cynthia said a large chunk of them are, there may be 4 to 5 that are not out of the 47. Member Hoy asked about only 3 of the 42 have family advocates; Cynthia stated that in Washoe County School District administrators of Title I schools have the flexibility to have a full time or part time parent coordinator but that this was not the case in other school districts.

Chair Suddeth asked if the Title I office could be at the next or June meeting to discuss how this information is being used within the Title I schools to improve their family engagement as mandated.

Member Salkowe added that his school does have a part time family coordinator and were allowed to use Title I funding, but it was not required.

Member Hoy asked about the welcoming environment data; she sees that only 10 schools offering translators during events and conferences, and only 10 offer their staff professional development on race culture, equity diversity, and cultural competencies. She feels those numbers are low, and asked if we have any context for this. Cynthia stated the data was collected from their School Performance Plans; it could be that there are schools that are doing it but did not include it in their School Performance Plan. We are hoping that by following up with the administrators, we will have a better sense of what is truly happening.

Member Hoy feels that is a great conversation, and wonders if we need to hear from some of the state Equity and Diversity offices to see about looking at the cultural piece.

Cynthia asked the Council members what they suggest the top 3 strategies are best, what would the Council recommend are their top 3 or 4 strategies and what would the Council like to be the recommendation of the Council to schools to ensure they are on the right track for engaging all families.

Chair Suddeth discussed a pamphlet they produced for the Legislative session a couple of years ago, and asked if it could be sourced. She suggests that we could be consistent with the document we put together and stick to it. It mirrors the Nevada PTA strategies.

Member Hoy doesn't have access to the pamphlet, but would like to see it. Based on the 6 standards we created, she thinks we need to hear from each of the counties, look at what Equity and Diversity offices are doing in regards to language and competencies, and what the schools are they doing with Title I funds to increase family engagement.

Cynthia said that there is value in hearing from Title I and other divisions within the school districts. She asks what strategy she would recommend to a principal that falls within the 6 standards. She believes it would be good to look at the strategies with the highest impact.

Member Hoy thinks our communication would create a big umbrella; how we communicate including languages and how we communicate culturally so the message reaches our target audiences is her top priority.

Member Salkowe states that as a principal, he agrees that communication is universally one of the most effective ways to improve family engagement. He would also like to see graduation rates and scores for accountability. He also would like to see press releases to celebrate successes.

Chair Suddeth wanted to better understand the direction and the timing of the "ask" from Superintendent Canavero; Cynthia states the "ask" is to have the Council identify the top 3 strategies for every school to be using and support. There is no rush, as we are working on plans and have more meetings to come; mid-April would work to identify the top 3 strategies.

Chair Suddeth believes we have done this work before and the meeting materials are archived by date and not topic; it may take some time to find the materials. Member Hoy wants to find the pamphlet for distribution to the Council members.

Educational Involvement Accords:

Member Hoy states the accord is a document the parents sign yearly stating they will support their child, what the student agrees to, and what the school staff agrees to. She asked Cynthia about the Council's involvement with the document. Cynthia states NDE is asking the Council to review the accord against the PIFE policies to see if there are any changes to be made. Cynthia provided the NRS that goes with the educational involvement accord; it almost mirrors what is in statute so any changes in the policy would have to be changed in statute. She also included NRS 392.456 for the Council's review.

Chair Suddeth thinks the Council should look at the verbs being used, as it talks about attending (for example) and it doesn't capture the essence of engagement in the accord, it seems to be more of a bystander approach versus what we have been striving for in terms of engagement. Member Hoy feels "attending" versus "participating" or "engaged in", inclusionary verbs are a good place to make edits. Chair Suddeth feels we could change all "attending" to "engaged". Member Hoy feels using "participating" is better, as the tone is more involved and active on the participant's part.

Member Wilke stated the educational involvement accord was a big topic at the Parental Involvement component of the strategic planning. Parents do not understand why they have to sign it, and asked if there are consequences to their actions if they don't do what's on the document. She asked if there could be something under the title of the document such as an explanation as to why the accord is so important to the child's education. Cynthia noted she sent out the PIFE policy for review as the Council works through the accord. She said language could be included to incorporate the vision of the PIFE Policy. Member Wilke feels this would be helpful.

Member Hoy suggests adding "and primary" to the first line to read as "I understand that as my child's first *and primary* teacher...".

Member West sees this as an opportunity to help parents understand this involvement piece, and thinks we should review each bullet and clarify the language.

Member Hoy suggests changing "or" to "and" in the first bullet to read as "Reading to my child *and* encouraging my child to read".

Member West says we could focus on adding this piece throughout their educational career, and asks about high school students.

Member Salkowe agrees, and sees the potential in this document as a discussion piece at conferences or family meetings. He asks about the timeline for this, and asks if we could involve other stakeholders for input.

Member West feels this document can be used as a partnership with the parents.

Chair Suddeth said that they took each section and divided into teams of two to come up with recommendations. As a Council, they agreed on the wording for the document. She feels we need to put this on the work section at the next meeting.

Member Hoy agrees and feels we should go line by line, and put this on the April agenda for a thorough review.

Chair Suddeth asked if the schools have the ability to do their own accord or if there is only one accord. Cynthia stated they can add to it, but it has been noted that this is the document that gets used. The administrators follow up with teachers and Title I liaisons to ensure these have been received. Cynthia says it is now part of an electronic registration in most districts where parents review and check a box after reviewing the link to the document.

Member Wilke says they are looking at creating their own document in Carson City, and having it on Infinite Campus.

Chair Suddeth tabled this item at this time, as Member Wilke has to leave soon and we would lose quorum.

Flexible agenda imposed, moved to Agenda Item # 7

National Family and Community Engagement Conference:

Chair Suddeth stated the conference is in San Francisco this year. Currently in the budget there is money to send one member to this conference and send a few members from the south to the north for the legislative session; Cynthia will look into what those numbers would look like. Cynthia is also working on a work program to get one additional member to the conference this year. She is hoping that during this time the Council would nominate a person to go and if a second is approved, who that would be.

Member Wilke states she is already attending the conference with her district.

Member Espinoza states she would like to attend the conference.

Member Salkowe stated he would also be interested in attending the conference.

Chair Suddeth suggested keeping both names, and draw names if needed.

Member Hoy states if we are able to send both, then we should. If it's only one, maybe flip a coin to decide who is going.

Chair Suddeth states she can probably be up north for the April meeting and can pay one way there herself.

Agenda Item # 9 – Public Comment #2

No public comment in Carson City or Las Vegas.

Agenda Item # 10 – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.