

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT (PIFE)
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 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

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

(Video Conferenced)

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Denette Suddeth
Julie Williams
Stavan Corbett
Ben Salkowe

In Carson City:

Jennifer Hoy
Stacie Wilke
Malena Raymond

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Sylvia Espinoza
Kelcey West
John Hambrick
Patricia Farley

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Dena Durish
Kim Bennett

In Carson City:

None

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

In Carson City:

Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Las Vegas:

Rebecca Feiden, Deputy Director, Nevada Achievement School District
Patsi Saas, Director, Family Engagement Centers, Family and Community Engagement Services, Clark County School District
Cheryl Adler Davis, Director, Family Engagement Centers, Family and Community Engagement Services, Clark County School District
Christine Cisneros, Boys Town
Nathalie Brugman, RPDP

In Carson City:

Rommy Cronin, Douglas County School District
Hollie Harvey, Douglas County School District
Laura Malkovich, NWRPDP
Alberto Quintero

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

Chair Hoy called the meeting to order at 9:23 am.

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

Chair Hoy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

New Council member Malena Raymond was introduced. Member Raymond represents the large size school boards.

Agenda Item # 2 – Public Comment #1

No public comment in Las Vegas or Carson City.

Agenda Item # 3 – Flexible Agenda Approval

Motion: Member Suddeth made a motion to approve a flexible agenda. Motion was seconded by Member Corbett.

Motion carried unanimously.

Flexible Agenda Imposed – Agenda Item # 8 was heard after Agenda Item # 3

Agenda Item # 4 – Approval of February 8, 2017 Minutes

The February 8, 2017 minutes were reviewed by the Council members.

Motion: Member Suddeth made a motion to approve the February 8, 2017 minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Member Corbett.

Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 5 – Approval of 2017 – 2018 Meeting Schedule

Dena Durish presented the 2017-2018 meeting dates from the Doodle poll the members participated in. She asks the members to let the Chair and NDE know of any dates that do not work in advance.

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

Dena Durish presented the following updates:

- **PIFE Position Update:**
Dena stated that interviews have been done and that Member Corbett participated in the interview process. A candidate has been selected and submitted to Human Resources. Once the position status has been finalized, information will be distributed.
- **District PIFE Policies:**
There was only one district we have not yet heard from that is Storey County. We will continue to reach out to their liaison and will update this group once it is received. The new PIFE Education Programs Professional will be following up with the counties.

Member Wilke states they just got a new superintendent and it should come in next month. Dena was glad to hear this.

Member Salkow asked if the Charter schools will be submitting. Dena will check into this and follow up, as each Charter has a governing board and, as with ASD's, will be considered their own LEA.

Member Suddeth asked about number 2 on the statute. When Rebecca Feiden gave her presentation earlier, she didn't have this on her plan; Dena noted that she will be checking into that.

- **Legislative Session:**
Lauren Hulse is preparing a comprehensive spreadsheet to be presented to State Board of Education next week on June 15th. Karen Johansen is the State Board secretary; please contact her at kjohansen@doe.nv.gov if you

want to be on the agenda distribution list. The Commission on Professional Standards in Education (COPS) contact is Paul Partida; please contact him at ppartida@doe.nv.gov to be on the COPS agenda distribution list.

Dena stated we have an absolute moral imparity to continue on our path to stay the course per Superintendent Canavero and Governor Sandoval; equity is the focus. Our goal is to be the fastest improving state in the nation. Our state improvement plan is available on line. There is a monthly Stocktake meeting to meet our internal benchmarks.

Dena provided brief updates on the current Legislative Session. This Council will be doing branding changes. SB301 changed the name of this council to the Family Engagement Council effective July 1. Funding sources for teachers to engage in councils is being discussed.

Member Suddeth thanked Dena for representing all the districts.

Member Corbett thanked Dena for sharing all the updates. He proposes an ongoing agenda item on communication of legislative items.

Member Salkowe also appreciates the updates. He asked about the work done around protections and oversights the public schools get at private schools. Dena reviewed the funding details listen. The schools are all licensed. The transition plan and next steps updates to come soon.

Chair Hoy was excited to hear the updates. Dena encourages all to review the Legislative website; go to the [NELIS](#) main page, Bills section, Overview tab, where you can view videos of meetings and actions. The Text tab shows bills as introduced, etc.

- **Promising Practices:**

Prior to Cynthia Santos Cooke leaving, we did receive 44 submissions. The review process has started, they met on May 24th, and they used a rubric and did some reviewing and determinations that will be published. Dena stated there will be an update and next steps regarding publishing on the website at the next meeting.

- **Parent Teacher Home Visits - Nevada Hub:**

Dena will be reviewing more information; due to the focus on the current Legislative session, time ran short. The Parent Teacher Home Visit Organization is looking at opening a Nevada hub. They were going to put a part or full time position in place in Nevada. We should be able to expand and build capacity of school leaders and teachers over the next year or two. Dena will be happy to receive feedback.

- **School Leaders Family Engagement Pilot:**

This is budget shore-up time of the school year. They have been looking at the new flexibility with Title IIA and other budget funding. Rhonda Hutchins has been working with US Department of Education for permissible usage of funds for NEPF implementation. We have invited some principals from lowest performing schools to attend. The event will be held in Las Vegas; an update will come out at the next meeting.

- **PIFE Office and RPDP Collaboration:**

There is a requirement for Family Engagement statewide; RPDP has in their statute to work with each of the RPDP organizations and to look at the collaboration. Each of the 3 directors that were designated to collaborate with PIFE and RPDP to ensure alignment with Family Engagement policies presented to the State Board. The next meeting will have an update on the process.

Agenda Item # 7 – Nevada Achievement School District (ASD)

Rebecca Feiden, Deputy Director of the Nevada ASD, presented an overview, updates, and proposed changes for the Nevada ASD. She brought Monica Love with her from the Parent Steering Committee to share some of their work. The Nevada ASD helps improve struggling and underperforming schools to be sustainable 3 star schools by moving the 1 and 2 star schools to 3 stars. They can execute an annual process in partnership with the State Board to select up to 6 schools per year. They can pair a traditional public school with a neighborhood public charter school operator to transform the school, or they can provide kids zoned to underperforming schools with high quality public choice options in their neighborhood. They also participate in the State's work to ensure every child attends a great school by strategizing and action planning with districts, local partners, and community representatives to ensure improving the quality of the schools across the state and integrating well with all the other initiatives. There are 2 methods; a conversion or a pairing. Updates and proposed changes include, in partnership with Opportunity 180, doing a survey in the fall of approximately 1,000 families. They also held meetings in community with schools on the Rising Star list to hear from parents and families, and sent over 4,000 mailings to families at schools that may be affected. They wanted to ensure families are at the center, and also ensure they elevate the voice of the parents so they are part of the process. They also ensured clear accountability across the board with the interventions with the ESSA plan integrated. They used parent input to identify schools that made sense for this conversion into the ASD. They offered performance compacts to the schools that were not selected. If these schools meet their targets, they cannot be considered by the ASD for conversion the next year to not disrupt what is working. In order to elevate the voices of the parents, they used community input and have been working with a group of parents that would allow for parents and schools to petition for an ASD conversion, or some other type of improvement plan through one of the performance compacts. This was all proposed through SB430 with Senator Moises Denis. This included an option for an A Plus School, a non-charter school with full autonomy, but that did not make it through this session. The parent petition has been discussed with about 50 families over 15 meetings, the majority being in southern Nevada. There is a core group of about 7 parents who are deeply engaged in helping with what the petition process should look like. Key highlights of partnering with parents and families include what a petition should look like, how should a petition work, what supporters and protections do people need order to petition, and what information and training should be available for parents and community members.

Parent Monica Love, who is mother to 2 daughters, and is a member of her school's organizational team, came to help speak to this subject with Rebecca. They will ensure proper protections are in place, and include proper training. They want a declaration form in the petition packet for lead petitioners that include state and local regulation compliance, keeping accurate records, and insuring privacy of those who sign the petition. How to handle harassing or threatening behavior in the petition process is also to be included. They also want to support mentoring the next group. They struggled for training at first as training wasn't geared towards parents, but rather the school staff. They want to ensure all the information needed is there for the parents.

Member Salkowe asked how the program is set up to be respectful to schools, as well as empowering to families. Rebecca says there are various ways a petition can come to be, and the intention is that it's a level playing field for both groups. Pulling together examples of resources is in the works. Member Salkowe also asked how they are explaining the ASD processes to families. Rebecca says the star ratings will help create more transparency about which schools are lower performing, and working with the data team at the state to communicate the information to the families, and they are also thinking of effective communication means including school performance and background information. Monica feels a lot of families just didn't realize the school failings that were going on as there isn't a school report card; they are working with the schools to help bring their scores up.

Member Suddeth asked if the schools do or do not have plans that Rebecca shared on her presentation. Rebecca states that by state law, all schools are required to submit a plan on an annual basis. The performance compacts are new this year; the goal of the compact is to align the targets to getting to 3 stars in 3 years. This year, there were 47 schools on the Rising Stars list, which did not include all 1 and 2 star schools. There were about 12 schools that did sign on to performance compacts; the goal is to have all schools sign the compact in the future.

Member Suddeth asked what changes we will be seeing through the ASD moving forward. Rebecca states they have been working closely with legislature and parents. The parent petition and performance compacts are the two biggest changes.

Dena states there is a statutory process, as well as a regulatory process, and gave a brief overview of current outcomes. The NDE held a workshop and a hearing; the information will be posted as to when the Legislative

Commission will review the information. We do not have meeting dates yet, but it will be posted. Dena can work with Chair Hoy to ensure this is a standing update on this agenda.

Chair Hoy thanked Rebecca for her high energy and passion in this area.

Agenda Item # 8 – School District Presentations

- **Clark County School District (CCSD):**

Patsi Saas and Cheryl Adler Davis, Directors at FACES in Clark County School District, attended to give a presentation. This is a new department for the school district; they are two-thirds free and reduced lunch and over 70 languages are spoken. They have a great partnership with Title III. Engaging parents is primary focus; communication is key, as well as helping the families advocate for themselves. Their main initiatives are the University of Family Learning with 96 courses and 20 community partners, and are offered bilingually. They work with ELL and RPDP. They offer family financial guidance. Each school has parent ambassador that is nominated by the school. They have partnered with Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APTT) through WestEd. They have family outreach specialists to get community support for their program. They are looking at going into the casinos to work with the families that work there, and offer them support with Infinite Campus among other things. They offer workshops at school sites. They offer 12 location centers supporting families on ESL, on Early Learning Opportunities, and technology, all funded through Title I funding. They have an RV technology lab they call “CCSD on the Move”, that has Infinite Campus training for parents, and can be used for many other purposes. Four times a year they offer the Family Learning Resource Academy, also funded through Title I, which helps families understand the Academic Accord, as well as getting their input. They host the Family Enrichment Day in partnership with University of Nevada, Las Vegas, each year, which will be on April 28th next year, including family focus workshops that help parents understand how important graduation is. They have great information on their Facebook page.

Member Suddeth thanked the ladies for their important work in the district. She asked how many schools are using the program. Cheryl said this year it’s 9 schools, next year will be 6 schools. There will no longer be any year round schools. They do have partnership with College of Southern Nevada, working to incorporate into more centers. They are vetting for partnerships currently.

Member Corbett states the impact is tremendous, and he knows the families appreciate it.

Member Salkowe asked what the biggest focus areas are at the secondary level. Patsi states they have been to secondary schools but have encountered challenges. They have hired a project facilitator to work with the challenges of reaching families and staff at secondary schools. They have a specific catalog just for secondary schools.

Member Wilke asked if there is a tracking mechanism for parent involvement on Infinite Campus in Las Vegas; Cheryl states they are working on it as they have not yet been able to work on it. They do have the records from the last 2 years; once they are able to track the hours and courses in Infinite Campus. Member Wilke says they have staff that captures the data, but not on Infinite Campus. Patsi states having the CCSD on the Move vehicle has been invaluable to their final goals.

Member Suddeth asks how the performance framework is captured at the school level. Member Wilke states in Carson City, one of the departments captures the data, but it is not on Infinite Campus, and everyone captures the data differently.

Chair Hoy thanked the ladies for their passion and commitment, and asked if there are any initiatives to move into middle and high schools. Patsi stated they work in conjunction with United Way and were at four high schools, but that funding has gone away. Looking forward, if funding allows, they will offer to the high schools.

Chair Hoy asked about the impact due to the CCSD reorganization; Cheryl says it’s their job to ensure the needs are met, and they are restructuring the program.

Chair Hoy asked if the parents who receive the certificates have an impact on their children's achievement; Patsi states there are many variables involved, but they do want to track the students of the parents and will be looking into it. They could possibly utilize Infinite Campus.

- **Douglas County School District (DCSD):**

Rommy Cronin, Executive Director of Education Services with DCSD, and Hollie Harvey, Learning Strategist with Scarselli Elementary School, a Title I school in the DCSD, attended to give a presentation on the district and the school. The Advisory Council found that, among other topics, homework was a challenging conversation to have with parents, due to varying opinions. The Board policies on homework, and the regulations, were reviewed and recommendations were made; as a result, they are working with the principals to make changes based on the recommendations. They are going into their third year of funding, and all elementary school sites have reading specialists in place due to funding from the general fund.

Hollie is in her third year at Scarselli Elementary School, and has taken on the cause to help the families. She states they host many different family engagement events, combining with other family events, which include the parents as well as the kids, while working with the PTO. They are continuing their work on getting parents together with teachers by offering many different successful family events in partnership with the PTO. They have a school wide positive behavior and support program, which is based on the principle of teaching expected behaviors rather than disciplining bad behaviors, along with class competitions and certificates. They also have spirit sticks the kids can earn and purchase to help keep their student store funded. They host a Food for Thought Nights and provide dinner for parents at no cost, and provide an educational piece on the school for the parents so they understand what's happening in the school as well as building relationships. Title I funds has provided some free books for the kids. Parents are invited to the monthly assemblies when student recognitions are given. There are 13 schools, 7 elementary, 2 middle schools and 4 high schools in DCSD.

Member Suddeth appreciates their hard work, their high graduation rate, and likes their ideas for family engagement; the Food for Thought Program resonated with her. Rommy said this is their fourth year for Food for Thought Program, and it is innovative and welcoming for families. They also find high school groups to be involving and a challenge.

Member Wilke is glad to see how the programs are working, and really likes the spirit sticks. Rommy said this is the first year they move to the high school level and are looking forward to that opportunity.

Chair Hoy thanked the ladies, and said they have been discussing this Food for Thought Program idea at her school, and asked what recommendations they are looking to make regarding their homework policy. Rommy said some parents are concerned about the amount of homework. Their recommendations have been around the language of the regulation, quality and consistency.

The Council took a 7 minute break from 10:33 am to 10:40 am, then moved to Agenda Item #7.

Agenda Item # 9 – ESSA Update

Dena introduced Alberto Quintero, Public Policy Fellow Alum formerly of the Governor's office, who came to present a summary of the Nevada Plan and the Consolidated State Plan. Alberto states the State's goal is to create a plan that would focus on ensuring principals have the support they need to become great school leaders, using data to inform decisions impacting our schools, and identifying and improving our lowest performing schools. Also to be informed by the input of Nevada parents, teachers, school and district leaders, business and industry leaders, and other Nevada stakeholders. Additionally, to set Nevada on a path to become the fastest improving state in the nation. Superintendent Canavero created an Advisory Group and 6 focus area workgroups to develop and recommend strategies to ensure all students are college, career, and community ready. Over 200 Nevadans signed up to participate in the Advisory Group and workgroups. Beginning March 2016, each workgroup met at least 3 times for at least 2 hours and the Advisory group met 13 times for at least 2 hours. There are two plans; the new Nevada Plan and Nevada Consolidated State Plan. Once it was released for public comment, there was a survey distributed, over 100 responded, and the questions were reviewed. The feedback was valuable. The Department has 120 days to make a decision and we are waiting for a template. He worked with Cynthia Santos Cooke on the process. This is a great opportunity to leverage the plan and work with the Council. Family engagement is becoming a huge subject.

Member Corbett says this is good work, and asked what the communication tools for the administrators and school organization teams in Clark County may be. Alberto says that several workgroups put forth a recommendation to create a communication group, and it is a team effort. The new Nevada Plan was a user friendly version of the Consolidated Plan; it has evolved into a more narrative piece. The plan will be released soon, and Sylvia Lazos has offered to translate the plan into Spanish.

Member Wilke was involved in the process and thinks this is very collaborative. Input was taken, and it was nice to have all the stakeholders and their efforts taken into consideration.

Chair Hoy agrees with Member Wilke, she was also a part of the process, and there was a diverse cross-section when making recommendations. She thanked Alberto for all the hard work.

Agenda Item # 10 – Review of Draft for July Report to Legislative Committee on Education

Dena states this report was similar to what Cynthia presented. The Council took some time to review the information.

Member Suddeth suggested Douglas in June, take out Carson City and enter Washoe.

Motion: Member Corbett moved to adopt the Leg Cmte Report with changes Member Suddeth made. Member Wilke seconded. **Motion carries unanimously.**

Agenda Item # 11 – Council Work Group

- Top Family Engagement Strategies Recommendations
- NRS 392.4575 (Educational Involvement Accords) Review and Possible Recommendations

Motion: Member Salkowe made a motion to table this item until the next meeting in August. Motion was seconded by Member Corbett. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Agenda Item # 12 – Public Comment #2

No public comment in Carson City or Las Vegas.

Agenda Item # 13 – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:06 pm