

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT (PIFE)
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 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

Ben Salkowe (*via telephone at 9:29 am, arrived in person at 10:00 am*)

In Carson City:

Jennifer Hoy

Stacie Wilke

Malena Raymond

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Kelcey West

Stavan Corbett

Sylvia Espinoza

John Hambrick

Patricia Farley

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Alberto Quintero

Dena Durish

Kim Bennett

In Carson City:

Katherine Fuselier, ADAM Accountability

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

In Carson City:

None

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Las Vegas:

Nathalie Brugman, RPDP

In Carson City:

Tiffany Young, Washoe County School District, Equity and Diversity
Chelsey Solemsaas, Washoe County School District, Equity and Diversity
Tony Montgomery, Washoe County School District, Equity and Diversity
Siobhan Mulreany, Washoe County School District, Equity and Diversity

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

Chair Hoy called the meeting to order at 9:29 am.

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

Chair Hoy 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 Wilke made a motion to approve a flexible agenda. Motion was seconded by Member Suddeth.

Motion carried unanimously.

Flexible agenda imposed, moved to agenda item #8

Agenda Item # 4 – Approval of June 7, 2017 Minutes

The June 7, 2017 minutes were reviewed by the Council members.

Motion: Member Raymond made a motion to approve the June 7, 2017 minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Member Suddeth.

Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 5 – Nevada Department of Education and Office of Family Engagement Updates

Dena Durish, Deputy Superintendent, and Alberto Quintero, Education Programs Professional, presented the following updates.

Dena:

- **Introduction of Alberto Quintero, new NDE Family Engagement Education Programs Professional**
Dena officially welcomed Alberto into the role of the Family Engagement Education Programs Professional for the Department. He was a middle school Language Arts teacher in Clark County, and was a LEE Fellow for the Office of the Governor focusing on education policy. He worked with Cynthia Santos Cooke focusing on educational policy for about a year, and was also the lead on the ESSA plan. He is passionate about his work, and we are excited and lucky to have him in our office and working with this group.
- **ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) Update**
Dena discussed the process for submitting the Nevada ESSA plan. Nevada is the second state to have their ESSA plan accepted by the US Department of Education. We have a strategic plan and look forward to being the fastest improving State, and seeing what the other states are submitting, and will continue with our workgroups and advisory groups throughout the implementation.
- **Committee Member Updates**
There are two Legislative appointments on this body. Prior to the legislative session, we reached out to the Speaker of the Assembly, and to the Senate, and asked for those appointments to be reconfirmed, and they were. However, it has been difficult to have participation from those legislatures during the session. The terms of the

two individuals have expired, and Dena is working with the Legislative Council Bureau and Superintendent Steve Canavero, following up with them, and we are committed to getting new appointments made quickly.

Chair Hoy is grateful, and is hoping that we will have attendance on a more regular basis.

Alberto:

- **Statewide Training Program on Family Engagement**
On September 28, 2017, the RPDP will host a council meeting. More information on the training program content, consisting of seven modules, is forthcoming, Alberto will distribute.
- **Promising Practices Publication**
It was scheduled to be released in August but has not happened yet. Alberto will be keeping this on his radar and will have an update at the next meeting.
- **Learning Lab**
On October 29th and 30th, there is going to be a learning lab which Alberto will be attending. Moving forward, the Council members will be able to attend.

Member Wilke asked for information on the October learning lab event; Alberto will forward the link.

Agenda Item # 6 – 2017 Legislative Updates

Dena shared the following updates that concern this Council.

- **Clark County School District (CCSD) Reorganization**
The CCSD reorganization process was pulled out of regulatory guidance and put into law during the session. The school organizational teams will have a minimum number of parents who must serve and there is an election process for that. They will be obliged to help with the management of the school including up to 80% of the non-restricted budget process. There will be taskforces and advisory committees that the Department will be facilitating; we have asked that the Family Engagement Council be included. If you are interested, AB 124 is the Nevada Model Code of Educator Ethics sponsored by Assemblywoman Olivia Diaz. The taskforce will look at adopting a statewide code of ethics that will have a PTA member; Dena will work with Member Julie Williams in getting the appointments made. The second group is for SB 497, the School Leader Taskforce, is a group based on recommendation made by Senator Joyce Woodhouse on behalf of the Interim Education Committee of 13 members, one of which will be a family member. They will look at the role of the school leaders and make recommendations for possible regulatory or statutory changes.
- **AB 362 and SB 287**
They both relate to backgrounds and the safety of children. Assemblywoman Jill Tolles sponsored SB 362. The Department is releasing two forms this week; a new employment history verification form to all applicants to agree for employers to disclose any sexual misconduct, allegations or occurrences. The district will send out a second form to all previous employers requesting that information. It closes the loophole within the State to ensure sharing of the information for the safety and wellbeing of the students.
- **SB 287**
This bill is sponsored by Senator Heidi Gansert and other cosponsors. Anyone who held a license needed to be re-fingerprinted effective 2011. However, it was not in place for any other district support personnel. This bill requires fingerprinting and background checking of these types of personnel every 5 years. It also sets up a process that requires background checking by each district. It is specifically an employment bill, and is very important moving forward to ensure the safety of the students.

Member Wilke asked if there will be definitions and if there is a deadline; Dena states there is no role for the Department to have the authority to create a definition of “volunteer” per Superintendent Canavero and Deputy Attorney General Ott, so we will not be issuing guidance.

- **SB 369**

This bill relates to large districts, more than 75,000 students, so it is only applicable to Clark County. The training becomes mandatory if 50% of licensed and classified staff want the training.

Member Salkowe asked about AB 7 and the impact on course exams being considered. Dena states there are changes being made. There is a regulatory process that is occurring; there was a regulation workshop on August 12, 2017, and there may be one or two more occurring. She will research and will have Alberto send the information out to the Council.

Agenda Item # 7 – Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) Presentation

Katherine Fuselier, NDE Education Programs Professional, Accountability Department, presented the NSPF. Russ Keglovits was also in attendance in Carson City. Katherine asked Alberto to join in for the Family Engagement piece.

Katherine states NSPF is the school star rating system where they measure the performance of the students and schools, based on values that Nevada has determined to be important. There will be a phase implementation of NSPF 2.0. Star ratings and data will be launched on September 15th on their new website. They are looking for assistance from the Family Engagement Council for the Phase 2 release. Phase 3 star ratings implementation to be released by the end of the year; the last ratings were released in September, 2014. In 2017 will be the new release of new school ratings. All students will be taught to high academic standards that will prepare them to succeed in college and careers. There was indication as to the latitude of the specifics of the indicators and how to measure graduation rates; the process has been long and it is continuing. There is an Accountability Advisory Committee that formed in 2014 that measures college, career readiness, and school climate. Katherine reviewed all of the performance indicators by education level. The idea of the star rating system is to encourage continuous improvement and support the lowest performing schools. Schools earned stars through points earned which equals an index score, which equals a star rating.

Alberto thanked Katherine for setting up the process and components of the star rating system. The star rating system is an informative tool for not only schools, but students, parents, community and state. Continuous improvement is never a negative; this is a tool that all schools can use to identify successes. Not all schools perform the same; each has their own strengths and weaknesses. The information is online and will be available September 15th. He welcomes insight from the Council about the data and how it could be perceived.

Katherine states this information will be on the Nevada Report Card, as well as the Accountability Data Portal and the NDE home page on September 15, 2017. Each school will receive a summary report. Another star rating will begin September 2018. There is an NDE Twitter feed and Facebook page; all are welcome to visit daily.

Member Suddeth thanked Katherine and said there was a lot of information shared. She commented that some acronyms and the not-easily-understood words may not mean anything to the community and parents and suggests scrubbing for these. She asked what communication is expected of the schools that go out to the parents, and how are the building leaders using the information for practical use. Katherine does understand the problem of speaking in acronyms, and understands the importance of simplifying the information for all audiences. They will be working with the Office of Schools and Student Support as part of the next phase of this work.

Member Salkowe stated one of his concerns is communicating the information with families; releasing arbitrary star ratings in the middle of the school year based on old data. Getting the data out there with explanation will help to create a partnership.

Member Suddeth feels it's difficult to have a rating on stale data.

Dena Durish thanks the group for having this discussion and appreciated feedback. The decision to delay the ratings was based on the recommendation of all 17 superintendents. She thinks that we do have obligations in our Federal plan that we do need to meet. Greg Bortolin has been working with Katherine, members of ADAM, Alberto, and Deputy Superintendent Brett Barley to continue this messaging. We need to get this information out to as many members of the community as possible, and would appreciate any assistance.

Member Salkowe added that his school's focus is on college preparation and access. There aren't any significant accountability components for family engagement in the system currently.

Member Wilke states in looking at the school performance indicators, and struggling with Infinite Campus, she asked if the survey was put together by Katherine's team or the school districts. Katherine states the State climate survey is State administered, as well as by the district, they are very similar. Measuring Family Engagement is different for all districts. The climate survey is measured by participation.

Chair Hoy asked about the climate survey participation. They have a staff and parent survey at their school and asks if that is included in the survey. Katherine states it is just the student surveys.

Member Raymond asks if part of the plan includes linking to the information by school, trying to minimize the number of places we are sending families to look at the data, and asks if a link be built into Infinite Campus. Katherine feels this is an excellent idea, and will look into the feasibility of that suggestion.

Chair Hoy thanked Katherine for the presentation.

Flexible agenda imposed, moved to item # 4.

Agenda Item # 8 – Presentation from Washoe County School District's (WCSD) Equity and Diversity Department

Tiffany Young, WCSD Coordinator of Equity and Diversity, along with specialists Chelsey Solemsaas, Siobhan Mulreany, and Tony Montgomery, provided a presentation on equity and diversity at WCSD.

Tiffany provided an overview of the WCSD Equity and Diversity Department. The program is 5 years old and has 11 staff, 3 of which are Equity and Diversity Specialists. Their focus is on the transformation of their district to systematically address sustainable equitable access and support for all students and their families. They strive to identify any disparities, discrimination, disproportionality practices, and/or inequities by investigating, communicating, collaborating, and building supports among all appropriate parties; and it will bring resolution to such disparities amongst the District's student population, their families, faculty/staff, and the community. They are examining and reducing bias of curriculum and instruction and integrate the experiences and contributions of diverse cultures and races by ensuring that curriculum with high-yield methods and practice of teaching and resources are culturally responsive, inclusive, and represent the diversity of the school community. They are also providing professional learning to address equity and inclusion, cultural competency, disproportionality, and culturally responsive teaching and reflective practices, as they pertain to the achievement gap, unconscious bias, and systemic barriers ongoing and based on changing needs within the District and community. They have 57% students of color, and 88% of teachers are white with 70% being female. They have 7 major languages being spoken in the county. They want to build capacity for students, members and staff. They have over 500 people that have attended equity and diversity learning. The majority populations they serve are African American, Native American, and Pacific Islanders. They want their children to graduate by building the framework around culture, practice and leadership, and building capacity. If students don't feel connected to the learning, then the learning doesn't happen in the classroom; they provide the skills for success. They need to study the climate, practice and culture and the expectations around the families.

Member Suddeth thanked Tiffany for the presentation and detail, and asked why Hispanic students are not included in their mission. Tiffany states they do have Hispanic, Asian and other groups; they target a higher population of the other groups and do not turn any students away. Member Suddeth asked if they have any metrics on student outcomes; Tiffany states they are looking through some data results, and have built a Student Advocate tab in Infinite Campus to capture data. The last 2 years has been the most supported in the area of outreach; other administrators have asked for support in their programs in the last year.

Alberto states in statute NRS 385.1620, "the Council shall review any effective practices carried out in individual school districts to increase parental involvement and family engagement and determine the feasibility of carrying out those practices on a statewide basis". He commends Tiffany and Washoe County for presenting best strategies and reviewing effective practices; it shows effective policy decision making in general. Too often we do not look at this through an equity lens, and suffer the consequences after the fact.

Member Raymond asked about the student graduation advocates, their role, and how they work together. Tiffany states they meet one to two times per year with the student graduation and family advocates to talk about how they are serving, common factors, and to address issues and collaborate around mentoring, guidance and support. They have an “umbrella approach” and no students are turned away from the program.

Member Wilke asked what types of data they are measuring. Tiffany states they measure pre and post assessment around cultural competency, and have collected every assessment completed for all professional development sessions, look at surveys completed, and all professional development across the district to get a clear picture of what is happening and what has taken place. They train all newly hired bus drivers with a minimum of 2 hours on cultural competency as well.

Chair Hoy thanked Tiffany for the presentation and complimented the work they are doing in the district. She says the other side of this story is that she worked together with Tiffany a few years ago on a project around race. She says she will be working with Tiffany’s office again. Chair Hoy asks how we move forward to bring what they are doing into the classroom. Tiffany states that we need to acknowledge families and resources, and utilize the families as resources. They teach to non-traditional learners. We have to have non-traditional practices for their non-traditional learners. They are about all students, all families, and all staff. Chair Hoy hopes great decisions are to come.

Flexible agenda imposed, moved to agenda item #7

Agenda Item # 9 – State Improvement Plan

Alberto states there are 12 Objectives to become the fastest improving State in the nation. Objective 8 has three metrics currently being used. In following up on the metrics, he reached out to the Oakland Unified School District. A public relations campaign ensued, informing families and teachers ways to reduce chronic absenteeism. Cynthia Santos Cooke has looked at school performance plans and reviewing which family engagement strategies were being used. We need to communicate this to schools so everyone knows what they are being measured on. Alberto would appreciate any ideas or input on what metrics works best for your district or school statewide.

Member Suddeth noted that a couple of years ago, DeLisa gave a presentation that developed a scoring rubric that seemed to be robust. FACES in Clark County may be able to help. In looking at the PIFE policies, Storie has not yet provided their PIFE policies and would like to follow up with them. Alberto will add that to his list for follow up.

Member Wilke has a NASBE meeting with them next week; she will follow up with them at that time.

Member Raymond feels this could work into Objective 8. Parental login rates to Infinite Campus may provide a picture of participation.

Member Wilke asked if the Infinite Campus data is shared with the Department; Alberto will follow up with an answer.

Agenda Item # 10 – Public Comment # 2

None in Las Vegas or Carson City

Agenda Item # 10 - Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am