

Nevada Department of Education

Advisory Council for Family Engagement (PIFE)

Wednesday, December 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

DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

(Video Conferenced)

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Kelcey West
Ben Salkowe
Julie Williams
Duana Malone

In Carson City:

Jennifer Hoy
Stacie Wilke

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Sylvia Espinoza
Malena Raymond
Senator Yvanna Cancela
Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Alberto Quintero, Education Programs Professional
Kim Bennett, Administrative Assistant

In Carson City:

None

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

In Carson City:

None

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Las Vegas:

Denise Biben, Boys Town Nevada

Sarah Popek, Myrtle Tate Elementary School/Boys Town Nevada
Christine Cisneros, Boys Town Nevada
Robbi Foust, Clark County School District Title 1
Nathalie Brugman, SNRPDP
Patsi Saas, FACES
Cheryl Davis, FACES
Christina Caber, CCEA
Renisha O'Donnell, CCEA

In Carson City:

Kirsten Gleissner, NWRPDP

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

Chair Hoy called the meeting to order at 9:10 am.

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

Chair Hoy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Hoy welcomed new member Duana Malone to the Council.

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.

Flexible agenda imposed, moved to Agenda Item # 6.

Agenda Item # 4 – Approval of September 6, 2017 Minutes

The September 6, 2017 minutes were reviewed by the Council members.

Motion: Member Wilke made a motion to approve the September 6, 2017 minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Member West.

Motion carried unanimously.

Flexible agenda imposed, moved to Agenda Item # 9.

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

Alberto Quintero, Education Programs Professional, presented the following updates.

- **Advisory Council for Family Engagement Member Update:**

We have several new members to welcome; Duana Malone, Senator Yvanna Cancela, and Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson. Member Stavan Corbett will no longer be serving on the Council. Member Sylvia Espinoza's term ends December 31, 2017. Alberto is looking for replacements and welcomes any recommendations from the Council.

Chair Hoy suggests continuing with a balance of members in the north and the south. She suggested the new Teacher of the Year, Pilar Biller, as a potential candidate. Alberto will reach out to her.

- **Family Engagement State Leaders Call:**

Lacey Wood with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) conducts the call with district and state leaders from across the country to share what their states and districts are doing in regards to Family Engagement. Nevada was invited to present their ESSA plan in relation to Family Engagement. One thing shared was the Family Engagement 3 credit hour license provision. Others are looking at Nevada to see how we progress and move forward.

- **Family Engagement Summit Update:**

We are required to hold a summit bi-annually; the date set is Saturday, September 22, 2018. The vision, mission theme and tagline are about engaging all families, educators and stakeholders, as partners to ensure every child receives and equitable education from cradle to career. The mission is to build the capacity of educators, families and communities to effectively partner together on behalf of every child. The theme is connections; the dual capacity of framework of family engagement. The tag line is connections, relationships and partnerships. Workshops will be focused on the theme and tagline.

- **Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) Release Date:**

The date is December 15, 2017 to see school ratings. All information is already available online. School star ratings will be determined December 15th. High schools will not get a rating due to end of course exams no longer being a high stakes exam.

- **Parental Involvement Policies:**

We need to relook at a lot of the Parent Involvement policies as a Council and an Office to ensure they align with ESSA. This will be on a future agenda for collaboration.

- **Promising Practices Publication:**

There was a delay of the release date of August due to the transition of NDE staff from Cynthia to Alberto. Alberto states the publish date will be early 2018.

- **Statewide Training Program on Family Engagement:**

Per NRS, the Family Engagement Office is required to work with the statewide council for the coordination of the regional training programs in carrying out the duties of the Office, including establishing statewide training program of Family Engagement. The December RPDP meeting has been rescheduled for January, 2018; Alberto will have a full update at the February, 2018 meeting.

Member Salkowe has strong concerns with reporting NSPF data to families. As a school leader, he wants to be held accountable; if communicating data is not done well, it is dangerous. Another concern is that if they are taken seriously, family engagement means nothing unless they have the long term vision around family engagement, especially with high school ratings being removed. He feels there are some mistakes in the way it is being rolled out that could create tension between school leaders and NDE. Alberto wants everyone to know that all feedback is appreciated, urges all to not hold back, and that voices are heard. As a department we need to communicate better.

- **IHL Conference:**

Alberto stated he wants a couple of members to attend the National Family Engagement IHL Conference on July 11 through 13, 2018 in Cleveland, Ohio, as there are funds available. Chair Hoy said it was a great conference, and she suggests having some of the newer members attend.

Flexible agenda imposed, moved to Agenda Item # 2.

Agenda Item # 6 – Presentation from Boys Town Nevada

Denise Biben, Boys Town, joined by Sarah Popek, Principal of Myrtle Tate Elementary School, came to give the Council a presentation on Boys Town Nevada.

Denise and Sarah gave an overview of the program. They hired a full time facilitator that is housed at one of the four schools in the program. The program is currently available in over 5 Clark County Schools. It is a 100 year old national organization, with 26 years in Nevada. They believe every child should have the same opportunities in life regardless of their situation. Their expertise is in behavioral issues; they work in partnership with the parents for

success now and later in life. They serve over 17,000 children in our community alone, and work closely with the Latin Chamber of Commerce. They are also nearly a 100% free/reduced lunch receiver. They want to work with the students when they are young, and their families from an early age. They want to be a beacon of hope for the families, and offer a variety of services.

Boys Town offers the following five programs that meet ESSA standards of evidence requirements:

1. Parent Connectors: A 3 month phone intervention parent-to-parent mentoring service, utilizing parents who have been through this program that mentor these parents who have been in their situation.
2. Common Sense Parenting: A skill-based parent education program that provides parenting techniques to build stronger family relationships, prevent and correct misbehavior, and improve the child's positive behavior. It is a 6 week program of 2 hours per week with weekly follow up.
3. Care Coordination Services: A 6 month family centered case management program of services. It links families to resources and supports, teaches them how to utilize services, monitors ongoing progress, and advocates for the family's needs.
4. In Home Family Services: A 10 to 12 week program of services provided in the family's home that works with parents to improve parenting skills, access community resources, and building support systems so they can solve problems on their own.
5. Well Managed Schools: A teacher education program that includes ongoing consultation support and evaluation. It is a school-based intervention strategy that focuses on managing behavior, building relationships and teaching social skills.

They are now doing data tracking on outcomes. In the 2016-2017 school year, they served 254 families and 715 youths, and 70% of families successfully completed the services. They are establishing a data collection process to evaluate office referrals and attendance, as well as a tool to measure parent engagement.

They are funded privately by the Englestad Foundation. Boys Town raised \$5 million in matching funds, which should last through 2020.

Member West thanked the ladies for their commitment to serving an easily overlooked population, and asked if there is a partnership when they transition to high school. Denise stated they do work with high school kids and offer a vast array of services; however, they have not identified a partnership high school at this time. Sarah stated their services do not stop once they reach high school.

Member Salkowe asked about the direction of the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) with the organization. Sarah stated the data does not take into account the challenges the students have, mentioned it is a transiency, and that there is more to a school than test scores, but they are working on it. Member Salkowe asked if there are any indicators that would balance out the test score data; Sarah stated they provide 250 students with 2 hours of after school enrichment and tutoring, among other activities that are difficult to put a number on. Denise added that some of the data they are tracking is reduced absenteeism, tardiness, and referrals.

Member Malone asked if the in-home service is optional or mandatory; Denise stated all their services are voluntary. They do assessments at both pre and post program. They also do a Family Advocacy Support Tool (FAST) that looks at family functioning, caregiver functioning, youth functioning, and overall functioning. Denise added that they showed an 88% improvement in overall functioning. The families that have been through the program are functioning better, and behavioral referrals have decreased. Denise added that the biggest success point is that the relationship transfers; they know Boys Town is coming and there is credibility at the beginning.

Chair Hoy asked if they are in Northern Nevada; Denise said they would love to be in Northern Nevada, but all their services are located in Clark County at this time. They are looking for the right opportunity. Chair Hoy also asked about longitudinal studies and graduation rate data; Denise stated that at the time they are primarily working with elementary schools; enough time has not yet passed to track graduation rates as the program began in 2014. Denise believes they are a piece of the solution to some of the challenges in Nevada, but funding is the biggest challenge. If funding could be identified, they could reach many more children.

Agenda Item # 7 – Presentation from School Organizational Teams (SOT)

Renisha O'Donnell, SOT Project Coordinator, Clark County Education Association (CCEA), and Michael Schwartzman, an SOT parent, presented to the Council. CCEA represents all licensed educators in the Clark County

School District (CCSD). Renisha states AB 469 was written and signed into law to empower large school districts to decentralize the decision making process, which empowers each school to make decisions based on the individual and unique needs of the student being served. Each member of the SOT has been elected, with the exception of the principal, and consists of the principal, 2 to 4 licensed educators, 1 to 2 support professionals, 3 to 6 parents/guardians, 1 secondary student, and one optional community member. The role is to advise and assist the principal with the development of the school plan of operation, to be highly collaborative and involve input from all stakeholders, and to represent a shared vision for student achievement and school improvement. CCEA is responsible for the elections of the licensed educators. They have had 6,412 voters that elected 803 educators to the SOT at 333 schools. Training topics include shared decision making, serving on the SOT, improving school culture and climate, family engagement, understanding of school funding and budgets, and utilizing data to make effective decisions. They partner with CCSD FACES and RPDP to provide training about family engagement versus family involvement, and the importance of the parent perspective on the SOT. They also offer translation services for Spanish speaking SOT attendees. Parents and guardians make up 50% of the whole SOT at each school; there are about 1,160 parents serving at 333 different schools.

Michael Schwartzman, parent on the Bendorf Elementary School SOT, feels he has a voice at the table. He has two children in the school system, and has attended many training sessions offered by CCEA, and feels it is an opportunity to observe his son's progress first hand while lending a hand and helping with homework. He was able to have conversations with the teacher about his son's progress. He feels it was a natural extension of volunteering at the school, and gives him a voice and a better understanding of what happens at school.

Renisha stated CCEA is dedicated to supporting the implementation of the CCSD reorganization, and providing continued resources for all SOT members.

Member Salkowe asked about the budget difficulties this year and if there's a mechanism for how the SOT communicates back to the district so that they are working together when there is a concern. Renisha stated there are a lot of intricacies that happen; this process is specifically for schools and no schools make the same decision. She meets regularly with the districts and the SOT's and the communication is fluid and the Associate Principals are supportive of the discussions.

Member Malone asked about eligibility; Renisha stated 333 schools out of the total number have full strategic budgets. There are some specialty schools that have different types of funding, and they wouldn't be able to participate in this process. Some schools do participate in the process but it is not official.

Member Wilke asked how many schools there are in Clark County. Renisha said there were 357 in the 2016-2017 school year, several schools have been added, but she doesn't have exact number at this time.

Chair Hoy asked why 20 to 30 schools have been excluded from the process. Renisha stated her understanding is that there are certain circumstances, such as a school in a juvenile detention center that may be a factor due to the way the school is funded. Chair Hoy asked if the different schools share their successes with each other so they are not reinventing the wheel in this process. Renisha said yes, they are working on ways at being more fluid in their communications between the SOTs. Clark County School District is also working on a similar method of communication.

Agenda Item # 8 – Presentation from Family and Community Services Department (FACES)

Cheryl Adler Davis, Director, FACES, and Patsi Saas, Director, FACES, presented. They came to give some updates to the CCSD reorganization since their last presentation in June, 2017. Cheryl stated they are determined to serve all stakeholders of the CCSD. There are 6 major goals within the district that they are working hard on; proficiency, family engagement, achievement gaps, student safety, graduation rate, and college and career readiness. Patsi stated that, bottom line, they engage families and that is their focus. They want to engage all community members, families and schools, to ensure the educational success of the children is recognized starting in the home. Cheryl states there have been a lot of changes and challenges in the last year due to the reorganization and budget cuts. They have had less funding in their general fund budget to support family engagement and community services. They are continually changing with the demographics of their population; two-thirds of their students come from homes with free and reduced lunches, an increased refugee population, and a minority-majority school district. They are relying more on Title I funding, up to 80% from 64%, to work on their initiatives. Patsi listed some of the things they have reduced on, such as supplies, mileage reimbursement, strategic use of satellite offices, elimination

of Family Enrichment Day at UNLV, among several other areas. They created a plan to strategically look at staffing, looking at how Family Engagement Centers are run, and not impacted by the reduction of funds. Strategic staffing has been their major change. They have created 2 full time Family Learning Advocate positions that receive extensive training from licensed professionals. They offer a lot of family resources at the Family Engagement Centers, focusing on early childhood, and offering ESL classes. The greatest part is that all of their services are still offered for free. Patsi states their Family Engagement Service Centers are in every one of the Trustee districts. They focus on what families need to advocate for their children and to create more stability in their homes. They work together with their district and community partners. Cheryl mentioned that Boys Town is one of their partners and have increased their visibility with the SOTs and at trainings to cultivate parent leaders. Patsi also noted that they offer professional development to the districts, staff at schools, and at the SOT meetings. Cheryl said they have had an outpouring of support, and are partnering with outreach schools. They also offer a quarterly Family Learning Resource Academy to offer an educationally focused learning for the families. Their Ceremony of Achievement is the culminating event at the end of the year; parents can bring their children and entire families to see what they have achieved. The first year, there were 69 participants that received certificates; last year there were 193 graduates. Cheryl says it's all about relationships. They highlights include in the 2016-2017 school year they reached 65,455 families, had 95 courses in the University of Family Learning (UFL), they held 3,430 UFL classes throughout the district, had 39,989 total visits to twelve of the Family Engagement Centers, had 434 registered participants in the UFL, and 193 Certificates of Achievement awarded for 50+ hours of coursework. They are on Facebook and Twitter and would love to hear from people.

Member Malone asked how many CCSD On The Move mobile units are operational in Clark County; there is just one per.

Member West loves how FACES allows the parents to build the agenda, and asks what the most common request is from the parents. Cheryl states they have an exit card they submit after meetings with ideas, questions and suggestions. There have been questions about the budget, the reorganization, curriculum, end of course exams, and school safety. Patsi states ESL is the biggest question at the UFLs.

Member Salkowe asked about how they would compare schools and their family engagement. Cheryl says they have liaisons that go to each school and ask them to bring back what is creative or unique with each school for recognition through emails to their school principal and school associate superintendents, as well as the Board of Trustees. They also have a monthly publication called FACES Focus to learn from each other. Cheryl agrees that there should be a centralized way to recognize how they are all accessing and engaging families. They are starting to get more followers on their social media. Patsi stated Boys Town is very supportive; however there are challenges in secondary education to ensure those schools understand how critical they are.

Member Malone commended FACES for their accomplishments, and asked how she can share with her colleagues with what they need to do. Cheryl states they need support with UFL workshops, ensuring it aligns with their Pledge of Achievement, and gave examples of how to engage with the working parents. Sponsorship for lunch and learns, supplies, resources at the parent center, and mobile workshops are just some of the things they need.

Member West said that, as a community leader within the clergies, he wants to talk with them in 2018 to see about having the mobile unit at his church.

Alberto shared that at the CCSD Board of Trustee's meeting last week, FACES was on the agenda. It was great to see people from the community at that event, and how important family engagement at the schools is, as well as the importance of support for the program and the impact it has had.

Member Wilke congratulated the ladies on their social media work, how successful the program is, and to keep up the good work.

Chair Hoy mentioned that the program is incredible, and that the number of families reached through their initiatives is wonderful. To exclude families would be the worst thing we could do. She encourages them to continue what they are doing. She is following them on Twitter.

Flexible agenda imposed, moved to Agenda Item # 4.

Agenda Item # 9 – Advisory Council for Family Engagement Legislative Report

Alberto stated what is in NRS 385.620. A draft report was done before Cynthia Santos-Cooke left NDE back in May, 2017. There have been 2 meetings since it was first drafted. The Council took a moment to review the report.

Member Salkowe feels it accurately captures the presentations, learnings and discussions that he has participated in since he has been on the Council. He would appreciate a discussion of the recommendations component to ensure Family Engagement is a key part of the school and school district activities. He supports the report as-is.

Chair Hoy asked who attended the National Family and Community Engagement Conference earlier this year in San Francisco. Member Salkowe remembers it was discussed, but may have fallen through the cracks with the change in NDE Family Engagement leadership. Alberto mentioned that due to timing, presenting this report was difficult with the transition between him and Cynthia Santos-Cooke. Moving forward, we should keep this on the agenda to continually add to collaboratively.

Chair Hoy asked it to be a standing meeting agenda item; Alberto will ensure it will be on the agenda's moving forward.

Member Wilke asked about adding recommendations of a funding element language to the report; Alberto states we can put in conceptual language of the recommendation and include on the report. Member Wilke feels this would be good, even if conceptual, to make family engagement available to the districts. Member Wilke would also like to add in the Pillars to the policy. Alberto reviewed the statute and said yes, it may be added to NRS 385.620 pursuant to NRS 392.457.

Motion: Member Salkowe made a motion to submit the Legislative report with the discussed changes to the Legislature. Motion was seconded by Member West. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Agenda Item # 10 – Annual District and State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) Reports

Alberto states every year the Family Engagement office is required to review the family engagement practices through the state and districts through the annual report. Alberto reviewed the report with the Council, pointing out strengths and weaknesses. He states there is a need for resources in the schools and districts regarding Family Engagement. As a Council, we can help and hone in on this. It is Alberto's intent to revamp the template next year, as the current template doesn't help to properly assess if certain goals have been met or not. He welcomes any feedback on how to update the form, or any other improvements, to be more strategic and can support schools and districts.

Member Salkowe noted it seemed some schools and districts were specific in goals, while others were not so specific. He talked about how smart goals in what the schools and districts submit would be important. Alberto agreed and hopes to align with State goals as well as district goals.

Chair Hoy likes the report, and asks that if we can share the document with schools when it is sent out again this year, so they can see what other schools are doing and better understand what we are looking at. Alberto feels it makes sense, and there will be a new template for next year and added we might want to show some exemplars. Chair Hoy suggested prefacing this with the Pillars, Alberto agreed.

Member Salkowe asked if the Nevada Report Card site can reflect what goals the principal is doing for family engagement. Alberto is aware of the website and the data that is housed directly informs the NSPF, and it can be part of the dashboard.

Member Wilke asked if there has been any drive to put the information in Infinite Campus for parent engagement. Alberto stated that currently family engagement is Objective 8 in the 5 year Nevada Strategic Plan. We are looking to update some of those metrics, and talks are ongoing to make that a statewide metric.

Agenda Item # 11 – State Board of Education Meeting

Chair Hoy said she was invited to the December 14th State Board of Education meeting, but is unable to attend due to school winter break. She is hopeful we can have a Council representative at the meeting.

Member Wilke will already be at the meeting representing NASB, and says she can represent this Council. Alberto can get her any information she needs for the meeting.

Flexible agenda imposed, moved to Agenda Item # 5.

Agenda Item # 12 – Advisory Council Meeting Schedule

Chair Hoy expressed the purpose of quorum and the importance of attendance to this Council. She asked all members to review the schedule, and to put the dates in their calendars to commit to attendance. She asked if there were any conflicts at this point.

Member Salkowe stated the June 13, 2018 meeting is not possible for him to attend due to graduate activities at his school.

Member Wilke also cannot attend June 13, 2018 meeting due to participation in another meeting.

Chair Hoy asked Alberto about rescheduling the June 13th meeting to a later date, and also asked when the schedule will be created for the 2018-2019 meeting series. Alberto will be glad to work on the schedule; he will send a Doodle poll to the members for input. Chair Hoy also asked to add this to the February, 2018 meeting agenda for follow up and voting. She also suggests that if the Family Engagement Summit is in September, possibly having one of the dates align with that so they can attend the Summit as a Council.

Agenda Item # 13 – Public Comment # 2

None in Las Vegas or Carson City.

Agenda Item # 14 - Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:32 am.