

# Agenda of Special Board Meeting

## The Board of Trustees Nye County School District

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A Special Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Nye County School District will be held by remote technology system on Monday, September 11, 2023, beginning at 5:30 PM at the Southern District Office Boardroom, 484 S. West Street, Pahrump, NV 89048.

Disabled members of the public who require reasonable accommodations in order to attend this Meeting are asked to notify District Administration at 775-727-7743, ext. 224, at least 24 hours prior to the Meeting. Questions regarding backup materials may be directed to Board Secretary Kelly Wood, 775-727-7743, ext. 224. A Public Binder will be available for viewing at the scheduled location at the time of the Meeting.

This Meeting will be streamed live online via the link <https://livestream.nyeschools.org/ViewStream> on the Nye County School District website. Public comment may be accepted live via email for the duration of the Meeting and shared during the Public Input time designated on the Agenda. Public comment made by members of the public attending the meeting virtually must be emailed to [publiccomment@nyeschools.org](mailto:publiccomment@nyeschools.org) and must include:

1. The author's first and last name.
2. The author's phone number (phone number will not be read on the official record).
3. Date of the Meeting for which the comment is intended.

All Public Input rules and timelines listed on the Agenda still apply.

This Agenda has been posted on the NCSD Website (<https://www.nye.k12.nv.us>), Nevada's Notice Website (<https://notice.nv.gov/>), at the main physical location of the meeting, and has also been provided to all persons who have made a specific request of a copy of the Agenda by US Mail or electronic mail.

The subjects to be discussed, considered or acted upon are listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the order presented below and the Board may combine two or more agenda items for consideration at any time. The Board may also remove any items on the agenda or delay discussion relating to any item listed on the agenda at any time. Unless removed from the Consent Agenda, items identified within the Consent Agenda will be acted on at one time.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**
4. **PUBLIC INPUT, INFORMATIONAL**

This time is set aside for the public to make comments on items within the authority of this Board. Matters raised cannot be deliberated or acted upon until properly placed on a future agenda. **Comments that are irrelevant, repetitious, slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, willfully disruptive or deemed personal attacks will not be permitted.** A Request to Speak form must be completed and submitted to the Board Secretary before the Public Input is open. A time limit of 3 minutes per person or 5 minutes for the spokesperson for a group will be imposed.

**5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA, FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

**6. CONSENT AGENDA, FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

A. APPROVE, DISAPPROVE, AMEND, OR MODIFY THE AUGUST 17, 2023 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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**7. INTERVIEW OF CANDIDATES TO FILL TRUSTEE AREA VI VACANCY, INFORMATIONAL**

Interviews of:

David Harris

Debra Gaylord-Thomas

Chelsea Silva

Scott Shepston

**8. APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE TO AREA VI VACANCY, FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

**9. PUBLIC INPUT, INFORMATIONAL**

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**10. ADJOURNMENT, FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Recommended Action: That the Board President adjourn the meeting.

**NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 17, 2023**

Present: Bryan Wulfenstein, President; Larry Small, Clerk; Chelsy Fischer, Member; Nathan Gent, Member; Robert White, Member; Leslie Campos, Member via Zoom; Laura Weir, Interim Superintendent; Ray Ritchie, Chief Operating Officer; Brenda Slusser, Executive Director of HR; Rob Williams, Director of Technology; Brian Kunzi, Legal Counsel; Kelly Wood, Executive Secretary

Absent: None

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. at the Southern District Office, located at 484 S. West Street, Pahrump, NV. Mr. White led the Board members, administrators and guests in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called. Mr. Small read the mission statement and goals.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mr. Small made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed all in favor.

**RECOGNITIONS**

None.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Arthur Hodge stated he always comes with a message. These are not easy jobs, you have to be on your toes, and you must be apprised of what is going on in society. He stated a new strand of COVID is on its way and not to sit there in another world. Is this District prepared for a national emergency? How many homeschoolers do we have? Is there enough food and water for everyone in the community? Education is paramount and everyone should be well informed on what goes on in this District. He said he has been here for 3 years and has not heard anything about homeschoolers. He asked why is homeschooling not being talked about? He stated the beast is unleashed and the BOT are the gatekeepers. They need to be alert and stay alert because things are going to get worse before they get better.

Eddie Jim stated that the PVHS principal reported to the media that this was the 50<sup>th</sup> graduating class of PVHS. He stated that is incorrect. He said that the graduating class of 1973 graduated from Death Valley High School, and the first class to graduate from Pahrump Valley High School was the class of 1974. He requested that this be corrected.

Keith Hall stated he is a lifelong student, which came from how he was raised. He said he is vested as a property owner here and in Tonopah, and he is working on establishing community centers here to provide structure for the kids. His business is called Within Arm's Reach, and he stated he does neurofeedback and biofeedback, and can now accept Medicaid and insurance. He wanted to let everyone know that the community needs doers, not talkers, and he is here to help the kids in the community.

Sylvia DeMasi, principal at J.G. Johnson ES, welcomed the new Board members. She wanted to give a shout out to the Maintenance/Operations Department, and their summer workers for the huge impact they had on the J.G. Johnson building. She said they were all phenomenal. She reported on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of school, the west side classrooms and front office lost their air conditioning. She called Nate Cardinal and he was there and had the air conditioning running right away. She also wanted to give a shout out to her staff. She stated she had the most amazing staff in Nye County. She then thanked Mr. Small for always representing J.G. Johnson, and thanked Mrs. Fischer for attending events and appreciated the shout out she gave to her school. Mrs. DeMasi noted there is a growing disconnect between the schools and the BOT, but she will continue to invite them to visit, especially when they are in session so the BOT can see the students and staff in action.

### **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Small made a motion to approve. Mrs. Fischer seconded, and the motion passed all in favor.

### **SCHOOL SPOTLIGHTS**

None.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

None.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mrs. Weir thanked everyone for a great first day of school. She saw a lot of teamwork from Transportation to Maintenance, and it was awesome to hear positive feedback from everyone.

Mrs. Weir then asked the BOT about school reports. She said in the past the school reports would be informational, and then it moved into School Spotlights. She said before she schedules anything, she would like to know what the Board would be interested in hearing or seeing. Mr. Wulfenstein stated they would table this topic until Agenda Item No. 22.

### **BOARD REPORTS**

Mr. Small acknowledged the Maintenance Department. He was invited to do a walk-through with Joe Schmidt at RCMS, and they did a great job fixing all the issues.

Mrs. Fischer stated she has been working with Desiree Veloz and the new director at GBC about enhancing the dual enrollment trade school programs, bringing more opportunities to the kids and the communities.

### **APPROVAL OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD INNOVATIVE LITERACY PROGRAM (ECILP) GRANT**

Karen Holley, Coordinator of State and Federal Programs, could not attend the meeting, so Mrs. Weir explained the grant to the BOT. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Fischer made a motion to approve the grant. Mr. Gent seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor.

## **PORTRAIT OF A LEARNER PRESENTATION**

NCSD teacher, Wendy Weeks, stated she attended a conference and brought back this information so the District knows what is going on with the State. She stated she is excited to present positive things that are coming our way. She then showed the Portrait of a Nevada Learner PowerPoint, talked about the graduate-level competencies, and showed the BOT the brochure for the program.

## **APPROVAL OF THE SY 22-23 REPORT ON THE USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINTS, MECHANICAL RESTRAINTS, AND AVERSIVE INTERVENTION ON STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Mrs. Weir stated that Shanda Roderick is the newly appointed Interim Director of SESS, and she will be giving the report. Ms. Roderick explained the differences between the different restraints, and gave examples of permissible and non-permissible restraints. She then explained the report to the BOT. Mr. Small congratulated the team for having a low number of restraints. Discussion ensued about training. Mr. Small asked how often does staff have to do a refresh training. Ms. Roderick replied every 2 years they are required to renew a 6-hour training. Mrs. Fischer asked if a non-permissible restraint occurs, what is the process. Ms. Roderick replied that they follow Policy 7561R, and the incident would be directly reviewed. Mr. Wulfenstein asked if the non-permissible restraints get forwarded to Mr. Kunzi. Mrs. Weir replied no, they would be reported to the BOT and the State, but unless there has to be legal action taken, it would not be forwarded to Mr. Kunzi. Discussion ensued. Mr. White made a motion to approve. Mr. Gent seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor.

## **UPDATE ON THE AMARGOSA VALLEY SCHOOLS WATER PROJECT**

Mr. Ritchie stated that Joe Schmidt, Director of Maintenance/Operations, Safety/Security, was out sick and the update is given as backup. He stated they are still using bottled water for everything at the school, and still supplying bottled water to the students. Discussion ensued.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AWARD OF KNIT'S ADDITIONAL SERVICE REQUEST TO ADD A MODULAR BUILDING DESIGNER, SPECIALTY MODULAR, INC. ON THE NEW TONOPAH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT**

Mr. Ritchie stated that Mark McGinty from KNIT was there to explain the request. Mr. McGinty explained the need for a modular to be added to the new school plans. He said the net increase would be \$15,000 for legal and administrative fees to take on the architecture project. Mr. Wulfenstein abstained from the item as a contractor and potential bidder for the project. Jorge Alarcon from CORE then explained that this item was just for them to go forward with creating the design of the modular. When it is time for electrical and other finishes they will come back to the BOT for approval. Mr. Wulfenstein stated that since this was for strictly design work, he would remove his abstention. Discussion ensued regarding the type of modular and the project timeline. Mrs. Fischer asked how long a modular building can last, and Mr. McGinty stated about 50 years. Mr. Gent made a motion to approve the additional service request. Mr. Wulfenstein seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor.

## **2022-2023 NEVADA EDUCATOR PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (NEPF) REPORT**

Mrs. Weir noted that Chelle Wright will be the new Interim HR Director starting September 1<sup>st</sup> and will be presenting the report today. Mrs. Wright read through and explained the report to the BOT. Mrs. Fischer asked if they could get feedback from the teachers regarding this process. Mrs. Wright replied that the state does a survey in September to the staff. Dr. Slusser noted that she went through the results of the survey with the administrators last year. Mrs. Weir asked Mrs. Fischer if she would like the results

the next time the state sends them, and Mrs. Fischer replied yes. Discussion ensued about different support options.

### **APPROVAL OF WARRANTS**

Mr. Gent made a motion to approve check vouchers: No. 1004 for \$18,054.00; No. 1005 for \$150,820.97; No. 1008 for \$40,170.38; No. 1010 for \$672.00; No. 1012 for \$72,150.78; No. 1014 for \$14,001.63; No. 1015 for \$120,610.28; No. 1018 for \$116,736.90; No. 1019 for \$64,802.53; No. 1020 for \$161,392.88; No. 1021 for \$199,084.27; No. 1022 for \$62,329.98; No. 1029 for \$171,976.52; No. 1030 for \$367,975.12; No. 1031 for \$943,567.00; No. 1032 for \$152,912.20; No. 1035 for \$98,856.99; No. 1036 for \$70,902.41; No. 1439 for \$17,141.72; No. 1440 for \$89,051.56; No. 1445 for \$234,055.07; No. 1447 for \$62,088.24; No. 1451 for \$43,774.14; No. 1452 for \$17,394.74; No. 1463 for \$7,913.15; No. 1459 for \$5,899.13; No. 1460 for \$9,954.46; No. 1461 for \$74,000.00; No. 1462 for \$33,695.65; No. 1463 for \$7,707.05; No. 1465 for \$7,250.00; No. 1473 for \$11,057.64; No. 1474 for \$1,388.27; No. 1475 for \$63,185.09; No. 1476 for \$32,591.06; No. 1479 for \$54,107.72; and No. 1480 for \$1,312.20. Mr. Small seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor.

### **APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL TO END THE HIRING FREEZE OF DISTRICT-LEVEL POSITIONS, AND ALLOW THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT TO CONTINUE THE HIRING PROCESS FOR OPEN POSITIONS**

Mr. Wulfenstein explained that we have interims that have been appointed but there is a need to fill the positions permanently, and the hiring of a superintendent could take longer than expected. Mr. Gent stated he felt they should stick to the freeze until they have a new superintendent. Mrs. Fischer stated the new interims are doing well, so there doesn't seem to be a need to hire until the new superintendent starts. Mrs. Weir explained that the issue it poses is the departments with interims are now short-staffed because the interim person is doing two jobs – their regular position, and the interim position. Mr. Wulfenstein agreed and suggested to keep the freeze in place, but asked the BOT to remember that time is of the essence. Mr. Kunzi suggested that the application process move forward while the positions are open. Discussion ensued regarding the application process. Mr. Wulfenstein stated the freeze is no hiring of district-level positions but you can advertise for any position needed. Mr. Wulfenstein made a motion to continue the hiring freeze of district level positions, until the hiring of the superintendent, and to allow all vacancies to be advertised. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor.

### **CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NRS 288.220 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONFERRING WITH MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

The BOT went into Closed Session at 7:18 p.m.

The BOT went back into Open Session at 8:50 p.m.

### **RATIFICATION OF NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT BETWEEN NYE COUNTY CLASSROOM TEACHER ASSOCIATION (NCCTA)**

Dr. Slusser goes through the contract pointing out the significant changes. Mr. Gent made a motion to ratify the negotiated agreement. Mr. Small seconded, and the motion passed all in favor.

**RATIFICATION OF NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT BETWEEN NYE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS (NCASA)**

Dr. Slusser goes through the contract pointing out the significant changes. Mr. Gent made a motion to ratify the negotiated agreement. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed all in favor.

**DECLARATION OF AREA VI TRUSTEE VACANCY**

Mr. Wulfenstein stated that Mark Hansen had resigned as Area VI Trustee. Mr. Gent asked if the display ad should state that the letters of interest and resumes could be sent in via email. Mr. Wulfenstein suggested to change the ad to state “received by” instead of “must mail” and add Ms. Wood’s email address. Ms. Wood stated she would make the changes after the meeting so Mr. Small could sign the revised ad. Mr. Small agreed. Mr. Gent made a motion to declare the vacancy of Area VI. Mrs. Fischer seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE BOARD MEETING TOPICS**

Mr. Gent asked for updates on all the projects that were voted on in past meetings, including where we are with the Hope Squad.

Mrs. Fischer stated she spoke with Mr. Ritchie about 1700 more homes coming into Mountain Falls, and there should be a master contract that states that they are responsible for building a new school to accommodate new students that will move into the area. Mr. Kunzi stated he will look into that to see if that exists.

Mr. Wulfenstein stated they need to appoint the new trustee, then hire a new superintendent.

Mrs. Weir asked for feedback from the BOT regarding what they want to see for school reports. Mr. Wulfenstein stated to continue sending them the weekly update for now, and then let the new superintendent make the decision on future school reports.

**CHANGE OF DATE/ATTENDANCE AREA OF FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS**

Discussion took place regarding trustee interviews and appointment, and superintendent interviews and hiring. Mr. Gent made a motion to set a special meeting for September 11, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. to interview and appoint the Area VI trustee. Mr. Small seconded, and the motion carried with a vote all in favor.

Mr. Wulfenstein made a motion to set a special meeting for September 13, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. to interview the superintendent candidates. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a majority vote in favor. Mr. Gent abstained.

Mr. Small made a motion to reschedule the September 21, 2023 regular board meeting to take place in Pahrump, and move the November 16, 2023 regular board meeting to Gabbs. Mr. Wulfenstein seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Scott Shepston spoke about his interest in being appointed as the Area VI trustee. He said he has been active in the community, and has been in real estate for most of his life. He stated he has been in Pahrump for seven years, and he believes in serving his community.

Jessica Hargis wanted to thank her administrator Meagan Hoffmann, Mr. Ritchie, and Mrs. Weir for getting another 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Floyd ES. She said having less kids in her classroom now has been great in helping her teach her kids. She also thanked the BOT for approving the raise in salary, and that qualified teachers are the way to increase student achievement, not PA systems and gym floors. She then spoke about the hiring freeze. She stated that no matter who the superintendent is she hopes it is a good leader, but the current open positions need to be filled.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Wulfenstein adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Small, Clerk