

**NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
May 20, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. White, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Pahrump Valley High School's Softball team led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**WELCOME:**

Mr. White welcomed everyone to the Board of Trustees meeting.

**RECOGNITIONS:**

Mrs. Weir presented the seasonal sports and student achievement update. Key district highlights included Pahrump Valley High School securing the 3A State Softball Championship, regional MVP honors for Jacey Hayes and Tony Whitney, a fourth-place state finish in boys' golf, sixth-place state finishes for both track teams, and four art contest winners. Beatty High School track teams placed 14th (boys) and ninth (girls) at State, featuring several podium finishes. Tonopah High School advanced five golfers to State and earned multiple top-four state track finishes, including four runner-up relay and individual events. Round Mountain High School concluded its softball season third in the state and saw two track athletes place in the state finals.

Mrs. Wright presented retirement recognitions honoring 17 district teachers, secretaries, and support staff members for their years of service.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Robert White, Vice President; David Harris, Clerk; Larry Small, Member; Nathan Gent, Member; Chelsy Fischer, Member; and Marty Daffer, Member.

Mrs. Campos, President, joined the meeting via Zoom at 7:05 pm.

Executive Cabinet/District Office staff in attendance: Joe Gent, Superintendent; Laura Weir, Assistant Superintendent; Genoveva Lopez-Angelo, Assistant Superintendent; Michelle "Chelle" Wright, Human Resources Director; Brian Kunzi, Legal Counsel; Ray Ritchie, Chief Operating Officer; Nate Cardinal, Director of Maintenance, Operations, Safety, and Security; Michael Hush, Director of Transportation; Robert Williams, Director of Technology; Justin Deverse, Coordinator of Technology; and Iliana Garcia, Executive Assistant.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

The School Spotlight report was rescheduled for the June Board meeting.

**GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT**

The public comment period commenced at 6:05 p.m. A total of ninety-two (92) community members, parents, and staff members participated, with forty-two (42) providing public comment in person and fifty (50) via email.

The collective substance of the remarks strongly opposed proposed budget cuts to social workers, campus monitors, and classroom teachers, emphasizing their vital role in student safety and mental health. Participants questioned district fiscal priorities, suggesting that administrative

positions and executive salaries be reduced first. Alternative solutions proposed included solar revenue, grants, a four-day school week, or an administrative pay freeze. Additionally, concerns were raised regarding financial transparency, with requests for comprehensive audits and questions regarding the timeline of layoff communications ahead of Board authorization.

### **AMENDMENT TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Mr. White requested a revision to the agenda in order to consider Agenda Items 10 and 11 prior to Agenda Item 9. President Campos indicated no objection, contingent upon legal counsel's approval. Legal Counsel Kunzi confirmed that the Board has the authority to take agenda items out of order. President Campos then expressed the Board's appreciation to all community members who provided public comment both in person and via email.

*(By consensus, the Board proceeded to Agenda Item 10).*

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2026-2027 TENTATIVE BUDGET**

Mr. Ritchie presented the statutory 2026-2027 district budget, highlighting ongoing state funding under SB 500 for certified and classified salary increases. He summarized specific funds, highlighting the allocation of Secure Rural Schools (SRS) revenues and the new Medicaid funds.

Regarding the capital projects fund, \$200,000 of the \$900,000 is designated for transportation. Mr. Ritchie reviewed statutory revenue sources, including Pahrump's \$1,600 per-roof Residential Construction Tax (less a 1% county fee), Buildings and Sites revenue from facility leases, and Teacherage rental income used to maintain district housing in Gabbs and Round Mountain. He also outlined the \$11.2 million Tonopah school and sports complex bond project, the county-managed Debt Service fund. Highlighting the health insurance and the Workman's Comp Fund. Finally, Mr. Ritchie contrasted the general fund impacts on funds 206 and 208 from the recent budget workshop, detailing Option A versus Option B.

Mr. Small read his comments opposing Option A, rejecting cuts to teachers and social workers, whom he characterized as distinct medical professionals rather than academic staff. He plans to explore insurance-billing options with Mr. Ritchie to fund these positions long-term. While open to Option B, he demanded written assurances regarding specific administrative reductions, proposing a one-year administrative salary freeze, the cancellation of non-essential travel, and a reevaluation of vehicle and fuel card allowances. He also advocated for capping class sizes, prioritizing new teacher hires over higher-salaried retirees, and executing staff reductions based on the inability to fulfill core job descriptions.

To improve oversight, Mr. Small requested quarterly budget reviews and explicit funding source disclosures for all new hires. He raised long-term concerns regarding the impact of a planned 5,000-home development on enrollment safety, and questioned the allocation of state marijuana tax revenues. In closing, he thanked the public and encouraged Area 4 residents to run for his seat when his term limits expire in two years.

Mrs. Fischer expressed concern over the rushed budget timeline and unanswered data requests, noting that the removal of past meeting agendas from the district website hindered her ability to research the sustainability of previous salary increases. She disputed the narrative that state revenues were flat, citing audit data showing Pupil-Centered Funding increased from \$57 million in 2022 to \$75 million in 2025. She questioned why across-the-board raises were approved if

funding was stagnant and stated her opinion that she was poorly advised regarding the long-term impacts of expanding those raises, noting that SB 231 explicitly excluded administrators, and SB 500 was only intended to sustain targeted increases through 2027.

Additionally, Mrs. Fischer pointed out that the district began drawing from reserves in 2024 without warning flags being raised, stating that central office and administrative costs accounted for 73% of that deficit spending. She reiterated her question regarding the funding source utilized to justify the raises, concluding that the current deficit stems from granting salary increases beyond what state revenues allowed. Finally, she noted she had requested a closed session with legal counsel to discuss a specific district employee whose oversight cannot be addressed in open session and acknowledged that counsel had been heavily occupied.

Mrs. Fischer reported contacting the state regarding insurance fluctuations and noted her Friday grant questions went unanswered due to staff absences. She questioned the district's use of an off-payroll CPA and stated she had not received the requested personnel list, including an all-position funding breakdown. When she joined the Board in January 2023, she criticized the previous superintendent's use of temporary ESSER funds for permanent administrative raises under the current CFO's oversight. She concluded that Options A and B are unsustainable temporary patches, urging the Board to reconvene for a better option.

The Board discussed the budget timeline and the implications of missing the Budget deadline.

Mr. Gent agreed with Mr. Small, emphasizing that board members serve without compensation out of deep care for the district's teachers, social workers, and staff. Reflecting on his four years on the board, he noted that recruitment and retention remain a challenge. Mr. Gent strongly warned against delaying decisions, stating that the resulting uncertainty is crippling and will drive teachers to leave Nye County for neighboring areas. He concluded that the impact of these delays will cause a greater loss of personnel than the proposed cuts themselves, emphasizing that the board's immediate priority must be retaining its current educators.

Mr. Harris inquired about the earliest possible date to schedule a budget meeting should both current proposals fail to pass. Dr. Gent suggested a committee meeting could be convened as early as Monday and recommended that the committee request an early public meeting—potentially on Friday or Saturday—to ensure sufficient opportunity for public comment. Responding to Mrs. Fischer's inquiries regarding the budget crisis and scheduling, Mrs. Fischer and Mrs. Campos noted that alternative meeting dates could be discussed and set following the vote. Mr. Gent strongly dissented against delaying the decision, stating that postponing action would create critical uncertainty and lead to further severe teacher turnover, which he is unwilling to risk. Discussion ensued.

#### **DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF THE 2026-2027 FINAL BUDGET**

Mr. Ritchie presented the 2026-2027 final budget. Mrs. Fischer moved to reject the budget as written and requested a roll-call vote; the motion was seconded by Mr. Small. Clarification was provided to the Board that a "Yes" vote would signify agreement to reject the budget at this time, whereas a "No" vote would signify a decision not to reject the budget.

Mrs. Campos called for a roll call vote, which resulted as follows: Mr. Harris, Yes, to rejecting both options; Mr. Daffer, Yes; Mr. Small, Yes; Mr. White, Yes; Mr. Gent, No; Mrs. Campos, Yes; and Mrs. Fischer, Yes. The motion passes to reject the budget 6-1.

Dr. Gent requested a revision to the agenda order to consider Agenda Item 22 (Scheduling of Future Meetings) out of consideration for the time constraints of the current meeting.

**DISCUSSION TO APPROVE, DISAPPROVE, AMEND, OR MODIFY THE DATE OR ATTENDANCE AREA OF FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS:**

The Board reviewed future meeting dates around the Memorial Day holiday and graduations. Appointed were Mr. Harris, Mrs. Fischer, and Mr. Daffer to meet with leadership, with Mr. White as an alternate. Legal counsel cautioned members against serial communication outside of public meetings to maintain open meeting law compliance.

Following the discussion, the Budget Committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 27th at 7:00 AM, and the next public meeting was set for June 2nd at 4:30 PM.

Mrs. Campos made a motion to approve the scheduling of the committee meeting and the June 2nd budget meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Small. The motion passed with a vote of all in favor, 7-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the April 16, 2026, minutes
- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the Resolution for the creation of the AB 398 fund 225

Mr. Small made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 6-1.

**DISCUSS THE BID RESPONSES RECEIVED FOR THE SY2026-2027 SCHOOL LUNCH PRODUCTS BID, PUBLICLY OPENED ON MARCH 31, 2026. B. REJECT BIDS OF GET FRESH SALES, INC. AND SYSCO CORPORATION AS BEING UNRESPONSIVE. C AWARD THE BID TO NICHOLAS AND COMPANY INC. FOR ALL LOTS AS THE LOWEST, RESPONSIVE, AND RESPONSIBLE BIDDER. D. AWARD THE NECESSARY CONTRACT:**

Mr. Ritchie presented the bids, informing the board that because Get Fresh Sales Inc. and Sysco Corporation submitted incomplete bids lacking required pricing and signatures, their proposals could not be legally considered for award. Nicholas and Company Inc. was the sole fully compliant bidder across all lots. Discussion ensued.

Mr. White made a motion to award the bid to Nicholas and Company Inc. Mr. Small seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor, 7-0.

**DISCUSS THE BID RESPONSES RECEIVED FOR THE AMARGOSA ES COMBI PROJECT, INCLUDING PROPOSALS FROM CENTRAL RESTAURANT PRODUCTS, CULINARY DEPOT, AND KAMRAN & COMPANY, LLC. B. AWARD THE BID TO CULINARY DEPOT AS THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE BIDDER FOR \$50, 169.72 OR C. REJECT BIDS AND PROVIDE DIRECTIONS TO STAFF ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT:**

Mr. Cardinal presented the competitive bids and project timeline, noting the objective to complete installation prior to the start of the new school year. Following a review of the warranty

terms, he recommended awarding the contract to Culinary Depot as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder in the amount of \$50,169.72.

Mr. Small made a motion to award the bid to Culinary Depot in the amount of \$50, 169.72. Mr. Harris seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor, 7-0.

**APPROVAL OF PERS CRITICAL LABOR SHORTAGE DESIGNATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER (EC/Pre-K)/EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER (ECSE), SECONDARY CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION TEACHER (CTE), SECONDARY ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER (ELA), SPEECH THERAPIST/LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST (SLP), AND BUS DRIVER POSITIONS:**

Mrs. Wright presented an overview of the proposed designation. Discussion ensued.

Due to the lack of a motion, the agenda item was tabled until a future meeting.

**2025-2026 SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION PROCESS AND DEADLINES:**

Mrs. Wright presented an overview of the evaluation process and upcoming deadlines for Dr. Gent. Before the presentation and discussion of Item 16, Mr. Gent recused himself. Following Board discussion, it was decided to table Item 16 until the June meeting.

**CLOSED SESSION- PURSUANT TO NRS 388.471-388.515; NRS 388.267, AND NRS 241.030 FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL MATTERS REGARDING THE POSSIBLE NON-PERMISSIBLE PHYSICAL RESTRAINT, AN AVERSIVE INTERVENTION OF A STUDENT, AND A PROPOSED CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN AS REQUIRED BY NRS 388.508:**

At 11:33 PM, Mrs. Campos moved to recess into closed session pursuant to NRS 388.471-388.515; NRS 388.267, & NRS 241.030 for the purpose of discussing personnel matters regarding the possible non-permissible physical restraint, an aversive intervention of a student. The Board reconvened in open session at 11:46 PM.

**APPROVE, DISAPPROVE, AMEND, OR MODIFY THE PROPOSED CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS REGARDING THE POSSIBLE NON-PERMISSIBLE PHYSICAL RESTRAINT VIOLATION AND AN AVERSIVE INTERVENTION OF A STUDENT:**

Mrs. Fischer made a motion to approve the corrective action plans. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor, 7-0.

**DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF THE NCSD WARRANTS:**

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the warrants. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor 7-0.

**GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT:**

Five public comments: one delivered in person and four submitted via email.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

11:58 PM

By \_\_\_\_\_  
David Harris, Clerk