NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 11, 2026

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Campos, President, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Students from Mt. Charleston Elementary led the Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME:

Mrs. Campos welcomed everyone to the Board of Trustees meeting.

RECOGNITIONS:

Mrs. Lopez-Angelo recognized Tailyn Gutierrez and T.H.E. Village for their dedicated service and support provided to the District's McKinney-Vento students.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Larry Small, Member; Robert White, Vice President; David Harris, Clerk; Chelsy Fischer, Member; and Leslie Campos, President.

Marty Daffer, Member, arrived at the meeting at 5:40 pm.

Absent: Nathan Gent, Member.

Executive Cabinet/District Office staff in attendance: Joe Gent, 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; Robert Williams, Director of Technology; and Iliana Garcia, Executive Assistant.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Item 17 was moved to follow Item 10 on the agenda.

GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT

Community members addressed the Board on several issues, including: concerns regarding fiscal transparency, the need for a forensic audit, and requests for clear budget information. The prioritization of academics over sports and the importance of supporting gifted students. Feedback on budget-related decisions impacting mental health and social work programs. Requests for the Board to move past conflicts, prioritize the needs of students, and be successful together.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the May 20, 2026, minutes
- Approve, disapprove, amend, or modify the May 20, 2026, closed session minutes

Mr. White made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Small seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 6-0.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Lopez-Angelo introduced Mt. Charleston Elementary School Principal Elizabeth Gilligan and Holly Riggs, Director of Pathways Schools, who provided updates on their respective campuses. Mt. Charleston Elementary: Principal Gilligan highlighted the school's growth to a three-star rating and its strategic focus on family and community engagement. Pathways Schools: Director Riggs discussed the alternative education model, which serves students in grades 6–12, and emphasized how the school addresses diverse student needs through strategic community partnerships.

In the absence of Mr. Hush, the Board was advised to direct specific questions regarding the Transportation update to Mr. Ritchie. The submitted written report highlighted the pending purchase of new buses to bring the active fleet under 13 years of age, alongside ongoing technology upgrades to secondary radio and live-view camera systems. Operationally, staff are optimizing routing software integrations, updating inspection processes to maintain state compliance, and conducting required driver and aide recertifications, including the upcoming July 10 training in Tonopah.

Mrs. Wright reviewed Board Policy 6142a and Regulation 6142aR (Nepotism), as well as Regulation 6142R (Code of Ethics). These policies prohibit employees from supervising, evaluating, or making assignment decisions regarding family members. Employees are required to report relevant relationships within 30 days, and the District manages conflicts through reassignment when necessary. Mrs. Wright noted that the policy is closely monitored, and personnel maintain compliance by appropriately recusing themselves from decisions impacting immediate family members. Dr. Gent noted that in remote, rural communities, it is globally common for relatives to be employed by the same organization. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Wright also presented an update on Phase One of the District's Reduction in Force (RIF) process, which strictly follows bargaining unit contracts and state criteria. Site administrators received identified position lists on June 8, and official RIF notifications were issued on June 9. The initial phase prioritized eliminating vacant positions to minimize the impact on active staff. Executed position eliminations included: Certified: 27 teacher vacancies, 4 critical needs positions, and 25 filled full-time positions (leaving 20 vacancies and 13 active critical needs teachers in place). Administrative & Support (NCASA): 2 vacant administrative, 7 vacant support staff, and 4 building support positions. Non-Represented: 4 vacancies and 12 filled positions. Discussion Ensued.

Mr. Cardinal provided an update on ongoing district projects including: Tonopah Elementary School: The relocation process has been successfully completed, Hafen Elementary School: HVAC units are on the roof, Pathways, Tonopah Elementary, and Maintenance Shop roofs are being worked on, and at the District Office in alignment with POOL/PACT safety recommendations, a new front office wall was installed to establish a secure, single-point entry.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Gent reported on his ongoing collaboration with superintendents and legislative advocates from across the state to establish a unified strategy for the upcoming legislative session. This collective advocacy focuses on four primary pillars: sustainable funding for all districts, reinforcing local governance (with a specific focus on Senate Bill 460), strengthening early literacy, and stabilizing Pre-K funding. The finalized advocacy document, titled "iNVest 2027," will be presented to the Board for review and support in August. Discussion ensued.

BOARD REPORTS

Mr. Small provided updates on recent school visits, noting positive campus environments and highlighting successful school events. He also gave a reminder that nominations for the National Association of State Boards (NASB) are due by August 21, 2026, as well as recently joining the District's wellness committee.

Mr. Harris reported on school visits, graduation ceremonies, and commended Mr. Cardinal and the maintenance team for the exceptional upkeep of the track facility during a recent event. He reported that he applied to serve on the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) Board of Control to advocate for rural athletics; however, he was not selected for the position. He noted his upcoming attendance at a local charter school meeting, clarifying that he will be participating in his capacity as the President of the Kiwanis Club, not as a representative of the School Board.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF THE 2025-2026 AUGMENTED REVISED BUDGET

Mr. Ritchie presented the 2025-2026 Augmented Revised Budget, which included various revenue realignments, fund reallocations, and capital transfers. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Small made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Augmented Revised Budget. Mr. Harris seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 5-1; Mrs. Fischer voted Nay.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF THE NCSD WARRANTS:

Mr. White made a motion to approve the May warrants. Mrs. Fischer seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor, 6-0.

UPDATE ON CAMPUS MONITOR TRAINING AND OVERVIEW

Mr. Cardinal provided an update regarding campus monitor staffing and professional development. Mr. Cardinal reported that current staffing ratios are one monitor per 422 students at Pahrump Valley High School (PVHS) and one monitor per 351 students at Rosemary Clarke Middle School (RCMS), noting that these figures are considered appropriate for the district in comparison to regional standards. Additionally, he outlined recent professional development initiatives, highlighting that campus monitors completed a comprehensive, full-day training session covering core responsibilities, emergency medical protocols (including CPR, AED usage, and EpiPen administration), body language analysis, and de-escalation techniques. To enhance safety and recognition during incidents, monitors have been issued high-visibility vests. Discussion ensued.

a. Discuss the bid responses received for district-wide fire systems monitoring, inspections, testing, certifying, and cleaning for the 2026-2027 contract term; b. Award the contract to Ashworth & Belcastro Systems, Inc. dba ABS in the amount of $91,200 effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, with the option to extend for three additional one-year terms; or c. Reject bids and provide direction to staff on how to proceed.

Mr. Cardinal presented the bid for districtwide fire systems monitoring, inspections, testing, and cleaning for the 2026–2027 contract term. It was noted that only one bid was received, which was submitted by the current contractor, Ashworth and Belcastro Systems Incorporated (ABS). It was recommended that the contract be awarded to ABS based on their established knowledge of district systems and demonstrated cost-effectiveness. The contract, valued at $91,200, encompasses fire extinguishers, quarterly inspections, hood cleanings, and elevator testing.

Mr. Harris made a motion to award the contract to Ashworth & Belcastro Systems, Inc. dba ABS in the amount of $91,200 effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, with the option to extend for three additional one-year terms. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor, 6-0.

REVIEW OF GRADES 4-5 FEEDBACK: MISSING ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING PROCEDURE

Mrs. Lopez-Angelo presented survey results regarding the minimum grading procedure for fourth and fifth-grade missing assignments. The data indicated that 56% of teachers manually override grades because the 50% minimum threshold does not accurately reflect student proficiency, 68% believe the policy reduces student motivation, and 56% report that it complicates parent communication. While educators support the baseline intent of providing an academic safety net, the Board discussed potentially aligning the elementary procedure with the sixth-grade policy, where missing assignments are recorded as a zero. It was determined that the item would be placed on the next agenda for further discussion and potential action.

Approval of PERS Critical Labor Shortage Designation retroactively from May 20, 2026, for Early Childhood Teacher (EC/Pre-K)/Early Childhood Special Education Teacher (ECSE), Secondary Career and Technical Education Teacher (CTE), Secondary English Language Arts Teacher (ELA), Speech Therapist/Language Pathologist (SLP), and Bus Driver positions.

Mrs. Wright presented a request for the retroactive approval of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) critical labor shortage designations, effective May 20, 2026. Mrs. Wright explained that this designation covers Early Childhood Teacher (EC/Pre-K)/Early Childhood Special Education Teacher (ECSE), Secondary Career and Technical Education Teacher (CTE), Secondary English Language Arts Teacher (ELA), Speech Therapist/Language Pathologist (SLP), and Bus Driver positions. The designation serves as a contingency measure to retain staff in hard-to-fill positions during and after the Reduction in Force (RIF) process and prevents potential salary repayment liabilities for affected employees.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the PERS Critical Labor Shortage Designations retroactively from May 20, 2026, for Early Childhood Teacher (EC/Pre-K)/Early Childhood Special Education Teacher (ECSE), Secondary Career and Technical Education Teacher (CTE), Secondary English Language Arts Teacher (ELA), Speech Therapist/Language Pathologist (SLP), and Bus Driver positions. Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed with a vote all in favor 6-0.

2025-2026 SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION PROCESS AND DEADLINES

Mrs. Wright presented the proposed process and deadlines for the 2025–2026 superintendent evaluation. Outlining the timeline, noting that evaluation packets would be distributed via email, with follow-up reminders scheduled for June 16, June 18, and June 22, 2026. Final evaluations are due by June 22, 2026, to allow staff to compile the data for presentation at the July 16 Board meeting. Board members may complete the evaluation either electronically or via hard copy, and while narrative comments are encouraged for transparency, they are not mandatory.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Superintendent Evaluation Process and Deadlines. Mr. Small seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of all in favor, 6-0.

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL PROGRESS ON THE NYE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT GOALS

Dr, Gent provided an informational progress report on the five established district goals, noting that the district is currently exceeding its primary instructional targets and making steady progress toward long-term systemic objectives. Regarding instruction, Dr. Gent reported an 88% alignment to essential standards, which surpasses the 80% target designated for Goal 1. For Goal 2, the "i-Ready" program has been selected for K–8 English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics benchmarks to replace the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) assessments. Under Goal 3, teacher retention is on track for a 5% increase following the completion of the Quarter 3 induction survey. Family engagement is high for Goal 4, with 75% of schools hosting events, shifting the district's current focus toward increasing feedback survey response rates. Finally, under Goal 5, 100% of school sites completed Quarter 3 inspections to inform summer facility planning.

DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE BOARD MEETING TOPICS

Mr. Small requested that all budget expenses be formally presented to the Board of Trustees to ensure proper financial checks, balances, and expenditure transparency. He also proposed implementing a new quarterly reporting system starting with the upcoming school year. This system will provide the BOT with regular recaps of class sizes and grade-level data so the board can proactively prepare. Dr. Gent requested clarification on whether this system would begin in August or September, and Mr. Small agreed. Committee Updates & Governance: He requested that the BOT committee assignments be updated. Furthermore, an agenda item needs to be established to assign members to schedule and convene a policy committee meeting. Policy Review on Transportation: Suggesting that the policy committee review administration transportation policies, specifically clarifying who is authorized to use a district vehicle and gas card. Personnel Updates: He also requested that up-to-date materials regarding the current status of employee hiring and rehiring be provided. He suggested inviting local business partners to explore programs that could benefit students. Additionally, a meeting to be scheduled with Alicia Lewis to discuss her ideas regarding social workers.

Mr. Harris mentioned the following items could fall under policy meetings: Semester Tests: Increase weight to up to 20% (instead of the current 10%). Written Finals: Require final tests for grades 6–12 in Math, English, Science, and Social Studies. Live-Streaming: Broadcast all meetings that have a quorum. PLC Evaluation: Review if we are getting our 'bang for our buck' with PLCs; if not, consider lengthening classes. Mrs. Lopez-Angelo noted a report is available for the September/October agenda.

Mrs. Fischer requested the following information: classroom sizes per school; the number of zone variances and the reasons for them; and an update on the average wait time for IEP evaluations, broken down by school, including how long those waitlists currently are. Mrs. Fischer inquired about the expiration date of the Superintendent’s contract. Dr. Gent confirmed that his current contract term ends on June 30, 2027. Discussion ensued.

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

Mr. Small provided an update regarding the scheduling of graduation ceremonies for May of the upcoming school year. Additionally, he noted that the Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) conference will be held in Las Vegas on December 5 and 6.

GENERAL PUBLIC INPUT:

11 public comments: Seven delivered in person and four submitted via email.

During public comment, the Board received diverse community feedback concerning district operations, student safety, and fiscal governance. Community members, staff, and parents highlighted facilities and staffing challenges at Amargosa Valley Elementary School alongside requests for enhanced student safety measures, playground repairs, and student support programs. Commenters also addressed district governance, emphasizing the need for operational transparency, professional civility, and good-faith collaboration, while presenting varying viewpoints regarding leadership performance and contract terms. Additionally, the Board received updates on regional data center developments and was urged to proactively pursue strategic educational and career partnerships with emerging local industries.

ADJOURNMENT:

8:48 PM

By________________________________
David Harris, Clerk