

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
JUNE 2, 2022
2:00 PM**

Office	Address	City	Meeting
Department of Education	2080 E. Flamingo	Las Vegas	Room 114
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St.	Carson	Board Room
Department of Education	Virtual/Livestream	n/a	n/a

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Felicia Ortiz, President
Mark Newburn, Vice President
Katie Coombs
Christina Nguyen
Tamara Hudson
Tim Hughes
Cathy McAdoo
Russel Fecht

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

Jhone M. Ebert, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Dr. Jonathan Moore, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction
Heidi Haartz, Deputy Superintendent for Student Investment
Jessica Todtman, Deputy Superintendent for Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement
Dr. Seng Dao Keo, Chief Strategy Officer
Peter Zutz, Administrator, Office of Assessment, Data, and Accountability Management (ADAM)
Craig Statucki, Director, Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning & Education Options (CRALEO)

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT

David Gardner, Senior Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE

Jeff Church, Trustee, Washoe County School District.
Ken Paul, Principal, W. Mack Lyon Middle School.
Anna Binder, community member.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting called to order at 2:08 P.M. by President Felicia Ortiz. Quorum was established. President Ortiz led the Pledge of Allegiance and provided a land acknowledgement.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Jeff Church, Trustee, Washoe County School District Board, provided public comment regarding agenda item 5 and 6. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A)*

Ken Paul, Principal, W. Mack Lyon Middle School, provided public comment regarding AB 469. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A)*

Jen Loescher, Executive Senior Teaching Policy Fellow, Teach Plus Nevada, provided public comment regarding agenda item 7. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A)*

Dr. Summer Stephens, Superintendent, Churchill County School District, provided public comment regarding agenda item 8. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A)*

Deanne Moyle-Hicks, Senior Teaching Policy Fellow, Teach Plus Nevada, provided public comment regarding agenda item 7. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A)*

Jeanine Collins, community member, provided public comment regarding agenda item 7. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A)*

Chris Daly, Nevada State Education Association, provided public comment regarding agenda item 8. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A)*

Adam Young, Superintendent, White Pine County School District, provided public comment regarding agenda item 8. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A)*

3. APPROVAL OF FLEXIBLE AGENDA

Member Tamara Hudson moved to approve the flexible agenda. Member Tim Hughes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Ortiz reported that this meeting is student member Christina Nguyen's last meeting. President Ortiz thanked member Nguyen for her time on the Board and wished her well. President Ortiz welcomed the new student member Malia Poblete.

President Ortiz reported that the Nevada's 2022 Presidential Scholars are Jang Gun Choe, from Clark High School, and Julianna E. Schneider from Davidson Academy of Nevada. The semifinalist are Evan D. Fife from West Career and Technical Academy, Ethan P. Hisiao from Palo Verde High School, Emma Lee from Coronado High School, William M. Liu from Davidson Academy of Nevada, Poem Estelle Schway from Nevada Connections Academy, and Katherine Son from West Career and Technical Academy.

President Ortiz reported that the lawsuit filed against the Board and the State of Nevada to push the State to fund education better has been dismissed. President Ortiz noted that the Board strongly advocates for additional funding for education. President Ortiz noted that the Board and the State Superintendent have requested a presentation from the Commission on School Funding at the July Board meeting. President Ortiz noted that she hopes this will lead to a statement to the State Legislature from the Board in advance of the next session of support for additional funding for education.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent of Public Instruction Jhone M. Ebert reported that University of Nevada Reno, President, Brian Sandoval hosted all the Superintendents of Nevada last month and listened to the concerns and thoughts of the Superintendents. Dr. Danica Hays, Dean, College of Education, University of Nevada Las Vegas also attendant.

Superintendent Ebert reported that Kathleen Galland-Collins, Assistant Director, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement (EDLiFE) in collaboration with Chair Tammie Smithburg of the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Advisory Taskforce will present to the Legislative Committee on Education regarding the report that will be released by the Taskforce.

Superintendent Ebert reported that the Department provided six presentations at the last Legislative Committee on Education these were supports for recruitment and retention of educators, health and wellness, restorative practices, school safety, school and district performance plans, and boards councils and commissions.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Member Hughes moved to approve the consent agenda. Member Katie Coombs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPOINTMENTS TO THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD

President Ortiz noted that the Board is authorized to appoint two members to the State Public Charter School Authority Board (SPCSA), and today the Board is tasked with appointing one member. Each member will be interviewed, and one will be chosen to sit on the SPCSA Board.

Member Hudson recused herself from the decision as she is one of the candidates to interview for the SPCSA board seat.

President Ortiz invited candidate Dr. Tara Raines to the podium to introduce herself. Dr. Raines noted that she is a visiting assistant professor in the psychology department at UNLV, a school psychologist by trade, and a former tenured professor at University of Denver, and director of clinical training for the psychology program. Dr. Raines noted that she serves as a member of the leadership team for the My Brother's Keeper Alliance in Las Vegas, chaired the anti-racism policy writing group for Clark County Public schools. Dr. Raines served in an advisory capacity for the application process for a new recently approved charter school in Las Vegas. Dr. Raines serves on the board at Democracy prep. Member Hughes asked Dr. Raines to share a recent decision the SPCSA Board has made that she disagreed with and why, as well as what she would have felt to be a better course of action. Dr. Raines responded that during her time spent serving on the board of a charter school she did not agree with the report done after a site visit. Dr. Raines stated that she would like to see these reports include a greater context of what is happening on the ground at the time of the site visit because all schools and particularly those with the greatest need are very nuanced. Dr. Raines stated that she believes a site visit review that is checklist driven can overlook assets and areas of resilience. Member Hughes asked nationally, who Nevada should be looking to for guidance and to learn from to improve its charter schools. Dr. Raines responded that any models would not adequately fully meet the needs of Nevada because Nevada is unique.

President Ortiz invited Lisa Levine to the podium. Ms. Levine noted that she grew up in Las Vegas and earned a bachelor's degree in political science from UNLV as well as a master's degree in public administration. Ms. Levine started working in Nevada government her freshman year of college for Congresswoman Titus managing her congressional office in the first district. Ms. Levine stated that she

worked for IGT heading up government affairs and community relations on the west coast. Ms. Levine stated that currently she runs her own public affairs firm. Ms. Levine noted that she is deeply involved in the community serving on the UNLV alumni association board of directors and the chair of their advocacy. Ms. Levine serves on the women's research institute of Nevada. Member Hughes asked Ms. Levine to share a recent decision the SPCSA Board has made that she disagrees with and why, as well as what she would have thought to be a better course of action. Ms. Levine responded that there are best practices model in other states, but across the country there is a national association that provides some best practices and one thing seen throughout education and government agencies across the State but particularly with the SPCSA is opportunities to modernize application processes to ensure that schools going through the process receive a fair opportunity to reside in Nevada. Member Hughes asked Ms. Levine her opinion on how Nevada charter schools are measuring up as a sector. Ms. Levine responded that in her experience throughout education shows that education in this State and other States can be very siloed. For example, perhaps Clark County School District is opening a magnet program school specific to the arts, how unfortunate would it be then if the public charter school authority allows for a public charter school to be built across the street also specific to the arts. If there is more communication, then you can have more accessibility both in a geopolitical way as well as for different communities. President Ortiz asked Ms. Levine if there were any charters school specific policies that she would advocate for or against. Ms. Levine responded that she believes it is important that there is accountability and transparency especially with the sense of a lack of trust of institution right now and we see that across the country and in our own community specific to education. Ms. Levine thinks that ensuring that we are as good of public stewards as possible because public charter schools receive public funding.

President Ortiz invited candidate Tamara Hudson to the podium. Member Hudson noted that she is a special education teacher and next year she will be a special education facilitator. Member Hudson has sat on the State Board of Education for just under two years. Member Hudson noted that her area of focus has been teacher development and she applied for the SPCSA Board seat to get out of her usual box and ensure charters school teachers are being developed as well. At her current school, Member Hudson has led the push to become a National Board-Certified School where half of the teachers are Nationally Board Certified. Member Hughes asked Member Hudson to share a recent decision the SPCSA Board has made that she disagrees with and why, as well as what she would have thought to be a better course of action. Member Hudson responded that she is a firm supporter of ensuring all students have access to charter schools whereas it is difficult when it comes to minorities, especially the students with disabilities. Member Hudson stated that she has heard and seen some students with special education needs not be accepted either because there is not support provided in the school. Member Hudson believes that a public charters school should be able to provide supports to special education students. Vice President Newburn asked what Member Hudson would take from the State Board to the SPCSA Board. Member Hudson responded that she would bring transparency and communication. This Board is very open with their stakeholders and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to voice their concerns.

President Ortiz invited Dr. Tonia Holmes-Sutton the incumbent SPCSA board member to the podium. Dr. Holmes-Sutton noted that she is a National Board-Certified teacher and Executive Director for Teach Plus Nevada. Currently, Dr. Holmes-Sutton is supporting teachers, teacher leadership, and policy and advocacy at the local district and State level. Dr. Holmes-Sutton noted the NRS references with regards to elementary and secondary experience. Dr. Holmes-Sutton has been certified as a k-8 teacher, as an early childhood teacher, and has a master's in special education early childhood. Dr. Holmes-Sutton noted that she has taught in the Clark County School district for over 15 years before transitioning out of the classroom. With regards to secondary and postsecondary, Dr. Holmes-Sutton noted that she is a mentor to 10 Nevada promised scholarship students currently and have mentored over 40 students in that process. Dr. Holmes-Sutton has hosted exchange students who attended Sunrise High School. Dr. Holmes-Sutton noted the professional development opportunities extended to her as a member of the SPCSA Board. Vice President

Newburn asked Dr. Holmes-Sutton what she would like to achieve given another term to serve on the SPCSA board. Dr. Holmes-Sutton responded that she would like to continue to advocate for greater diversity amongst the board members. Dr. Holmes-Sutton noted that she appreciates the opportunity to be a board member and to be a person of racial diversity and a person who comes with diverse perspective, thinking, and leadership experience.

President Ortiz invited Patricia Haddad to the podium. Ms. Haddad noted that she currently serves as Chief of Staff for an organization called the English Learners Success forum. The organization focuses on improving the quality of curricular materials in core subject areas that are developed by content developers and to specifically ensure that they are adequate and meet the needs of multilingual learners. Prior to this, Ms. Haddad served as Chief of Staff and Interim Director of Policy for Opportunity 180 where her work was focused on community members, families, decision makers, and individuals who are in the education landscape at large to ensure that conditions were created to provide for high quality schools to exist in Nevada. Ms. Haddad serves as the Board President for the Parent Leadership Team of Nevada, who are currently spinning off to be their own 501c3. Ms. Haddad serves on the Community Development recommending Board for the City of Las Vegas. Ms. Haddad noted that she is a former research associate for the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy.

President Ortiz invited TeAshaNique Caldwell to the podium. Ms. Caldwell noted that she is currently a special education teacher at Hollingsworth STEAM Academy. Ms. Caldwell serves as a Creative Director for an organization called Sparkle Pink where she works with the parent connections advocating for children with behaviors. Ms. Caldwell attended UNLV and noted that she has a master's degree in social education and a bachelor's degree in early child education. Member Hughes asked Ms. Caldwell what different perspectives and additional skillsets she would bring to the SPCSA board. Ms. Caldwell responded that she would bring a teacher perspective, know what is happening in the classroom the board will be able to set guidelines, standards, and regulations. Vice President Newburn asked Ms. Caldwell what her vision of the charter schools is. Ms. Caldwell responded that she advocates for students with disabilities because she does not see enough opportunities for them or their families. President Ortiz asked Ms. Caldwell what she feels is the most important role the charter school authority plays. Ms. Caldwell responded that she believes the most important role is empowering families and communication of goals that are set.

President Ortiz asked each Board member to identify their top three candidates. Member Christina Nguyen responded that her top three candidates were Patricia Haddad, Tamara Hudson, and Tara Raines. President Ortiz noted that her top three candidates were Dr. Tonia Holmes-Sutton, Patricia Haddad, and Tara Raines. Vice President Newburn noted that his top three candidates were Dr. Tonia Holmes-Sutton, Patricia Haddad, and Lisa Levine. Member Katie Coombs noted her top three candidates were Tara Raines, Tamara Hudson, and Patricia Haddad. Member Hughes responded that his top three candidates were Lisa Levine, Dr. Tonia Holmes-Sutton, and Patricia Haddad.

Member Newburn asked for the breakdown of votes from voting members of the Board. President Ortiz responded that the totals are four votes for Patricia Haddad, two votes for Tamara Hudson, two votes for Tarra Raines, and two for Dr. Tonia Holmes-Sutton, and two votes for Lisa Levine.

Member Coombs suggested ranking their top candidates in choice order. Vice President Newburn agreed. President Ortiz noted that her top choice was Dr. Tonia Holmes-Sutton, Vice President Newburn noted his top choice was Dr. Tonia Holmes-Sutton, Member Hughes noted his top choice was Patricia Haddad, Member Coombs noted her top choice was Patricia Haddad, Member Fecht noted his top choice is Dr. Tonia Holmes-Sutton and Member Nguyen noted her top choice was Patricia Haddad. President Ortiz noted there is a tie. President Ortiz asked the top two candidates Patricia Haddad and Dr. Tonia Holmes-Sutton to step up to the podium to answer additional questions.

President Ortiz asked both candidates how they plan on prioritizing the work of the SPCSA board. Dr. Tonia Holmes-Sutton acknowledged her attendance at the SPCSA board meetings have been consistent and she has prioritized by scheduling around these specific dates that board meetings are held in addition to the board trainings. Ms. Haddad responded that there are many things she is involved in but ultimately serving on the SPCSA board would be a top priority right behind her job. Ms. Haddad noted that she has a professional life that allows her the flexibility to be present on a Thursday afternoon to interview for this position.

Member Hudson removed her name from the list of candidates for consideration.

Member Hudson moved to appoint Dr. Tonia Holmes-Sutton to the State Public Charter School Authority Board. Vice President Newburn Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

8. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COLLEGE AND CAREER READY (CCR) HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT RFP PROCESS

President Ortiz noted that upon reviewing the backup documentation for this item, she did not feel it was sufficient to make a decision so the item will be moved to the July meeting.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

President Ortiz suggested a presentation from the Commission on School funding and a presentation on the progress of the 85-15 carry over dollars from Clark County School District with regards to AB 469. President Ortiz noted that she received a request from workforce development to present on their progress.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

Anna Binder, community member, provided public comment regarding AB 469. *(A complete copy of the statement is available in Appendix A)*

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 5:06 P.M.

APPENDIX A: STATEMENTS GIVEN DURING PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Jeff Church, Trustee, Washoe County School District Board, provided public comment regarding agenda item 5 and 6.
2. Ken Paul, Principal, W. Mack Lyon Middle School, provided public comment regarding AB 469.
3. Jen Loescher, Executive Senior Teaching Policy Fellow, Teach Plus Nevada, provided public comment regarding agenda item 7.
4. Dr. Summer Stephens, Superintendent, Churchill County School District, provided public comment regarding agenda item 8.
5. Deanne Moyle-Hicks, Senior Teaching Policy Fellow, Teach Plus Nevada, provided public comment regarding agenda item 7.
6. Jeanine Collins, community, provided public comment regarding agenda item 7.
7. Chris Daly, Nevada State Education Association, provided public comment regarding agenda item 8.
8. Adam Young, Superintendent, White Pine County School District, provided public comment regarding agenda item 8.
9. Anna Binder, community member, provided public comment regarding AB 469.

APPENDIX A, ITEM 1: JEFF CHURCH

Good afternoon, my name is Jeff Church I am a trustee for the Washoe County School District in Reno Nevada. The views expressed today are mine and I'm speaking I think these fit into agenda items five and six so if I go off of those just let me know and I'll move on. Number one I want to talk about the recruiting task force. I taught recruiting nationwide I'm not trying to make any money I'm done with that, but I do have a little bit of expertise in that area, and we really do need to think outside the box on the area of recruiting. I would love to see the State host a national convention. Think of the money we could make for Las Vegas or Reno to hold a national convention on recruiting and retention and its not just for teachers, but for bus drivers or anything else. I'm gonna save you hundreds of dollars from my class and tell you that number one is housing, we can't spend our way out of the problem. Housing is something we have to address. Uh, you know, many of the school districts own land and if we can provide housing for teachers or others, that is a major thing, especially for new hires. We don't want to enter into a long-term contract. Uh, just a quick note, the Carling Academy graduation June 17 and 18th in Elko. Uh, and then also I have a number of handouts for you folks. I just gave them to the secretary, and they deal with again, items five and six, I think. But they talk about the quality of education in Nevada. We last, we rank last in ACT scores uh in the handout, depending on the study you read. We rank 39th to 50th overall. If we keep saying that we're 18th or we're this or that we're doing wonderful. We're never gonna fix this. We have to acknowledge that we have a lot of room to grow, and we have a chronic absenteeism problem. We have a chronic drug abuse problem, and we have a quality of education problem. So, if and when those make it to you, please review those handouts. I have a whole PowerPoint on that I'm available if anybody ever wants that, uh, etc. So, I appreciate your time, and everybody have a wonderful day. Thank you.

APPENDIX A, ITEM 2: KEN PAUL

I'm Kenneth Paul principal at W. Mack Lyon Middle School about 70 miles north of here. I am retiring. I guess a lot of people did not know that, but I still have seven of my thirteen grandchildren that go to Clark County School District. And also, I plan to be involved with thoughts in our local cm. As I was going through the task of cleaning everything out, I ran across a few what I'm calling gems and one of them, this does have to do with the reorg or the AB 469. I'm gonna read a book very fast and you won't be able to see the pictures, but it's called. If you're riding a horse and it dies, get off. So how it goes is uh, do you think a bigger whip would help? Let's visit some schools that are successfully riding dead horses? Has anyone thought of using an electric prod? Let's try a more experienced rider. Let's assemble a committee to study dead horses. I think we should raise the standards for riding dead horses. I think testing the horse would help. I think we should evaluate the horse's reputation. What about implementing an individualized equestrian plan? IEP. Why don't we try adding an additional saddle? Let's try team riding. My favorite here. We will categorically deny that there is anything wrong with the horse. The basic problem is the horse's parents, poor breeding. Let's try throwing more money at the problem. I think we should give the rider a competency test. What I think is needed is federal assistance. What I know and then finally let the boy; I know what to do. If you're riding a horse and it dies, get off the horse and try something new. So that is just my, my little plug that I still feel like the reorganize, decentralization has not had its day, you know to prove that it can be effective. Thank you.

APPENDIX A, ITEM 3: JEN LOESCHER

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Dr. Tonia Holmes-Sutton's candidacy to continue leading and serving on the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) Board. I have had the pleasure and privilege of working and learning alongside her for the past three years with Teach Plus Nevada and Nevada Succeeds.

Dr. Tonia Holmes-Sutton's professional background demonstrates the ability to create an atmosphere of trust. With her extensive history of service, engagement, and dedication to education, Dr. Tonia Holmes-Sutton is first and foremost, a model mentor and an exemplary educational leader; she leads by example. Her skill and wherewithal in the championing of accountability, openness, and transparency is and will be a tremendous asset.

Moreover, she is highly qualified because she is actively focused on the current needs and challenges concerning our students and families. For example, she tirelessly advocates for teachers and students by creating opportunities for our voices to be heard and amplified, informing, influencing, and impacting educational policy.

Dr. Tonia Holmes-Sutton will surely continue to exceed your expectations because she is concerned with promoting and increasing the efficacy of education through her sustained collaborative and cooperative efforts. We are fortunate that she is willing to serve on the SPCSA Board, keeping the success and well-being of our students and families in the forefront of her mind.

For these reasons, I strongly support selecting Dr. Tonia Holmes-Sutton to continue leading and serving on the SPCSA Board. If you have any further questions about her qualifications, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Loescher

Regional Math Trainer and Instructional Coach, Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program

APPENDIX A, ITEM 4: DR. SUMMER STEPHENS

Good afternoon. I am Summer Stephens, Superintendent of Churchill County School District. I have spent my entire career working to move forward the mission of personalizing education for every learner with a focus on competency-based education along with being fully involved in the development and implementation of state and local assessment systems. In my early career, I was fortunate to be involved in a state that utilized locally developed assessment for state and federal reporting. As that process was phased out, I was able to work closely with the Dr. Chad Buckendahl while he was with the Buros Institute and also alongside Dr. Sarah Davis-Becker through the work to develop a state assessment. This work is tough and requires much skill and expertise, no doubt. While I fully support the efforts needed to ensure that we receive high quality data for our learners in Nevada, we too must consider our goals for this work--we want accurate, timely, and relevant data that helps our learners own their learning and use it to drive where they go as they build their future stories. At this time, I do not believe the SBAC can do that for Nevada's children. In our new era of the Every Student Succeeds Act, we have the amazing opportunity to work together to challenge the status quo and consider options for our state accountability model that no longer ranks and sorts students and provides legitimate high quality feedback and a truer picture of our learners in schools today. I write today to ask you to consider not approving the current vendor being recommended today for the next College and Career Ready Assessment for the 11th grade in the state of Nevada. What we know about quality assessment practices along with competency-based education and the development of life-ready learners does not and cannot be measured by any of the assessments that were submitted for consideration in this process. In addition, more conversation must be held with districts as we develop our competency-based learning vision as a state and we must change our thinking around assessment to fully account for quality practices that support measuring growth over time, allowing multiple ways for students to demonstrate learning of key targets and competencies that have been identified as critical, and provide relevant options that our learners today find valuable in their development as well as teachers and parents find meaning in to impact instruction and support. The data received must be timely, detailed, and aligned to the work of the classrooms in order to have the most impact. The assessment being considered may also increase the amount of time students are testing on this assessment as opposed to the current assessment (which also is inadequate for its purpose). We need to engage in deeper conversations about our goals for assessment and accountability quickly in order to do what is best for Nevada's students so that we can move forward into the next steps of competency-based education in Nevada. I recommend we go back to the drawing board, fully engage more stakeholders including students, and work with our partners at NDE and our national partners Knowledgeworks to help us discover what assessment can look like to help improve outcomes in Nevada as we build stronger, more competency-based systems.

Respectfully,
Dr. Summer E. Stephens

APPENDIX A, ITEM 5: DEANN MOYLE-HICKS

Dear Nevada State Board of Education Members:

I am submitting this letter of support on behalf of Dr. Tonia Holmes-Sutton regarding her leadership service on the State Public Charter School Authority Board.

I am Deanne Hicks, a 29-year teaching veteran and the 2022 Nevada Teacher of the Year. I have had the honor of working with Dr. Holmes-Sutton over the past two and a half years in many capacities, including collaboration with Teach Plus Nevada, the Nevada National Board Professional Learning Institute, and the InspirEd Fellowship.

In all these roles I am inspired by her aptitude to understand and act on the issues that most impact teaching and learning. Her focus never wavers from the influence that the educational system has on every child and their family; they are always center to every decision and discussion where she is a participant.

Through the work of Teach Plus Nevada, Dr. Homes-Sutton has worked diligently to unify and amplify the voices of educators by bringing teachers from charter, private, and public schools together to advocate for educational policy that focuses on equity for every student within the state of Nevada.

I am confident that as a continued member of the State Public School Authority Board Dr. Holmes-Sutton will continue to serve the Board's vision of "Equitable access to diverse, innovative, and high-quality public schools for every Nevada student" as these are values that I have witnessed guide her work in all her endeavors over the years.

On her website, Dr. Holmes-Sutton describes herself as an education leader, advocate, and mentor. Her talent to see the bigger picture and work toward achieving it is a skill I have witnessed few hold. Dr. Holmes-Sutton leads by example, staying current on educational trends, providing testimony for state legislative committees, as well as building collaborative networks that include Nevada teachers as part of a national conversation about education.

On a more personal note, I have the privilege of experiencing Dr. Holmes-Suttons passion, enthusiasm, and joy in being one who champions those around her. As my mentor, she sees more in me than I see in myself. I am forever grateful for her guidance and support.

Dr. Holmes-Sutton offers up her time, knowledge, and guidance selflessly. She works tirelessly for undertakings to which she commits. In a time of great inconsistency and uncertainty it is my hope that you will consider providing the students, their families, and the teachers that the State Charter Authority Board serves the consistency of Dr. Tonia Holmes-Suttons leadership.

In Gratitude,

Deanne Moyle-Hicks

APPENDIX A, ITEM 6: JEANINE COLLINS

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support for Dr. Tonia-Holmes Sutton as a continued leader on the Nevada Charter Authority Board. As a former K-12 charter educator and current leader in the Las Vegas and Nevada non-profit education community, I deeply respect her lived and professional experiences that focus on equity in leadership. Dr. Holmes-Sutton is respected for being at the intersection of professional learning, education advocacy, and mentorship across Nevada; her reach into the education profession and across sectors is a valuable perspective and asset to the Charter Authority.

While Dr. Holmes-Sutton's leadership is grounded in the intersection of policy and practice - I have had the opportunity to witness her executive leadership excel across the domains of fundraising and donor relationships, marketing and communications, and managing and mentoring a cross-functional team of leaders to execute on strategy. So often the skills of an incredible educator are not recognized across sectors; however, an exceptional educator who is both user-centered and agile with experience interacting with diverse learners, families, school administrators over time has developed the ideal competencies to thrive inside complex leadership challenges. As a National Board Certified Teacher, she has applied these values and skills to learning leadership in multiple contexts. As the Executive Director for the Nevada chapter of Teach Plus and the current director for the Nevada Succeeds InspirED Global Fellowship, she is a tireless leader for teachers and supporter for user-centered systems to empower those closest to the challenges with the tools to build solutions.

A great strength of Dr. Holmes-Sutton's is her work advocating for building a diverse workforce of powerful education leaders in our community and across the country. This need is something she understands and continues to partner with individuals and organizations to improve their understanding and awareness of; coupled with her passion and expertise, her belief in getting all learners what they need to thrive is at the heart of her practice and leadership. So it is with much enthusiasm that I offer my support for her continued representation in our community through her work on the Charter School Authority Board.

In the spirit of learning,

Jeanine Collins, MAT

APPENDIX A, ITEM 7: CHRIS DALY

The Nevada State Education Association has been the voice of Nevada educators for over 120 years.

A continuing concern of classroom educators is too many standardized tests shifting the focus in the classroom away from student learning toward a culture of high-stakes testing. NSEA has been actively working to reduce the burden of standardized testing, helping pass a bill to require reviews of student assessments in 2017 and again in 2021. While small changes have been made over the last several years, Nevada needs a more substantive overhaul of state testing requirements.

With colleges and universities across the country moving away from testing requirements for admissions, it no longer makes sense to require all high school students to take a college assessment like the ACT. However, merely replacing the ACT with the SBAC or similar standardized assessments will do nothing to make the assessment less burdensome or more meaningful. NRS 390.610 requires pupils to take the assessment to graduate. Many high school juniors know they only must take the assessment to graduate and don't take the test seriously. So even with an effective assessment, there is no utility of identifying academic weaknesses to provide appropriate intervention to determine if students are college or career ready by graduation. And the sadder truth is that even district test directors haven't found the ACT or the SBAC very useful in their stated goal.

In a 2016 survey, district test directors found both the ACT and the SBAC came up short in the categories of informing student progress, improving individual schools or school districts, time and cost versus benefit received, setting clear expectations for students, measuring and monitoring student progress toward mastery of content standards, supporting student placement decisions, providing feedback to students and families, providing feedback to educators, and providing feedback to community members.

2016 focus groups including testing staff, principals, teachers, students, union representatives, and community members were even less kind to state mandated assessments. The most common concern was loss of instructional time. This included instructional time impacted by accommodations made to school schedules. For example, participants reported that their schools had to alter their spring schedule, that computer labs would not be available for regular use, and that some schools instructed students to stay home on days they were not being tested to accommodate test administration. Participants were also concerned about the effects on students, noting that the frequency and duration of the state assessment system led to adverse behavioral outcomes, including disengagement in the classroom, not trying hard on tests, test fatigue, missing classes, and adverse psychological outcomes like test anxiety, stress, and malaise.

NSEA believes this Board of Education should focus on streamlining the required state assessments and recommend to the legislature an amendment of NRS 390.610. If the Board believes in continuing college and career readiness assessments, NSEA strongly recommends engaging a diverse group of Nevada educators to develop meaningful proficiency exams.

APPENDIX A, ITEM 8: ADAM YOUNG

Members of the State Board of Education:

This public comment is to encourage you to consider a College and Career Ready measure that provides useful and practical information to students, educators, schools, and policy makers.

As a superintendent, I am not enthusiastic about the possibility of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) as such a measure. As you know, this assessment is currently administered to our 3-8 students. While it has a number of sound features, the fact that students and schools do not get results until August of the following school year implement eliminates any practical uses. Assessment data needs to be timely in order to be most impactful for student learning. The classic analogy is that of an autopsy versus a checkup. Receiving the data five months after the test is administered is closer to an autopsy than it is to a checkup. Informative, sure. But not really useful information to make a difference when it is most needed.

The ACT is the current measure. It has a practical use for students considering college. As a high school principal for 13 years, however, I can assure you that no amount of pleading, coaxing, encouraging, or bribery is effective for a junior who has made up his or her mind that it is a waste of time to try on the test because his or her plans as a welder, auto technician, EMT, miner, etc. do not include formal college. Furthermore, many universities who once required the ACT do not require it anymore. So even the students who might have needed a good score in the past see no practical reason to exert maximum effort now. The Work Keys, an ACT product could potentially provide an alternative that is more practical for students.

The most meaningful assessments for students measure learning that is important and practical to them. The data must be available almost immediately if we wish it to be impactful for them and for our educators. Many locally developed assessments could meet this criteria. The MAP could potentially be used as a more meaningful instrument as well.

Nevada is working to adapt its learning models to be more individualized and competency based for students. Our state assessment model needs to adapt as well if we want to move the entire system. Otherwise, educators and schools will be stuck in the “same old” because that is what is being measured by the state tests, which are then used to label schools.

Sincerely,

Adam Young
White Pine County School District
Superintendent

APPENDIX A, ITEM 9: ANNA BINDER

Anna Binder for the record. Thank you everyone. I did want to come today to express to this board um and our State Superintendent we have amazing employees at the State wit the Nevada Department of Education. Um, if for people who watch along on those ruling um presentation uh, they do an amazing job representing the work that the Department does and um the focus of needs for education in our State so, um, I want to extend that thank you. I did mean to tell you that when I saw you. Um, so, I'm gonna, I've been thinking about lots of ways to work this but um I wanted to as a community member to sincerely apologize. To member Newburn and Ms. Gonzales for the way that they were treated at the CCSD AB 469 subcommittee meeting. Um, I was one of the few people in attendance and um I really hope that the State doesn't allow the type of um I guess treatment I don't know there there's better words I think for what I'm trying to express but um as someone who is very active in our education community, I was um very very saddened to see the way that they were treated um at that meeting and and then not just them the members of the community that were attacked by that subcommittee um during that time. So, um I do appreciate member Newburn, all your work. I know you're up there somewhere um and and everybody's work. So um, I just wanted to make sure that was said out lout that it happened, so thank you.