

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**Eightieth Session  
April 10, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Education was called to order by Chair Moises Denis at 1:46 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, in Room 2134 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4404B of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Moises Denis, Chair  
Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Vice Chair  
Senator Dallas Harris  
Senator Marcia Washington  
Senator Scott Hammond  
Senator Ira Hansen  
Senator Keith F. Pickard

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop, Senatorial District No. 8  
Senator Pat Spearman, Senatorial District No. 1

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jen Sturm, Committee Policy Analyst  
Risa Lang, Committee Counsel  
Betty Kaminski, Committee Manager  
Linda Hiller, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Brad Keating, Clark County School District  
Jorge Sanchez  
Mike Slofany  
John Eppolito

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Margarita Urbina  
Abigail Barraza  
Alice Sanchez  
Karla Fajardo  
Jose Zalaras  
Rudy Hernandez

CHAIR DENIS:

I will open the meeting of the Senate Committee on Education with a work session on 12 bills, starting with Senate Bill (S.B.) 99.

**SENATE BILL 99**: Creates a task force to study certain issues relating to the profession of teaching. (BDR 34-389)

JEN STURM (Committee Policy Analyst):

Senate Bill 99 was first heard in Committee on February 18. In its original form, the bill creates the Task Force on the Creation of a Career Pathway for Teachers to study certain issues relating to the profession of teaching, including the creation of tiered licenses or endorsements for a teacher based on the teacher's scope of practice and experience. There are amendments included in the work session documents I have submitted ([Exhibit C](#)).

CHAIR DENIS:

Because of some changes with this bill, we are going to delay it to the end of the meeting so we can ensure we get everything back on track. I will open S.B. 109 for work session.

**SENATE BILL 109**: Requires cameras to be installed in certain classrooms within a public school which are used for special education. (BDR 34-10)

MS. STURM:

Senate Bill 109 was first heard in Committee on March 1. It requires each public school including charter schools to utilize video cameras in classrooms where the majority of students receive special education, have speech and language delays and are assigned to a special education classroom for at least half the school day. There are proposed amendments included in the work session documents ([Exhibit D](#)).

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SENATOR HAMMOND:

With the help of Will Jensen from the Department of Education (NDE) we believe we included amendments that should make some people happier. I do not want to put an unfunded mandate on the schools. I am hoping that our amendments will allow the districts to reevaluate the impact this bill will have on the schools, so we can get a better fiscal note going into the money committees.

CHAIR DENIS:

Our job is to look at policy to see if a bill is good and has been worked out. We know this bill has some financial implications and we will have those discussions.

SENATOR PICKARD MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 109.

SENATOR WASHINGTON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DENIS:

I will open S.B. 145 for work session.

**SENATE BILL 145**: Creates the Battle Born Opportunity Grant Program for university students. (BDR 34-384)

Ms. STURM:

This was heard on February 22 and creates the Battle Born Opportunity Grant Program for students attending a university within the Nevada System of Higher Education. I have submitted the work session documents ([Exhibit E](#)).

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 145.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DENIS:

I will open S.B. 191 for work session.

**SENATE BILL 191**: Requires each public school in a school district to establish and maintain a school library. (BDR 34-562)

CHAIR DENIS:

I also had a library bill, S.B. 249, and we have combined the two bills into one library bill with S.B. 191.

**SENATE BILL 249**: Requires each public school to establish and maintain a school library. (BDR 34-13)

Ms. STURM:

Senate Bill 191 was heard on March 13 in Committee and requires public schools to establish and maintain a school library. There are proposed amendments to the bill that are included in the work session documents ([Exhibit F](#)).

SENATOR WOODHOUSE:

When we combined the bills, we took S.B. 191 and worked on a number of concerns that arose, specifically regarding a school librarian or library assistant and a teacher-librarian and the difference between the two. We made changes throughout the bill to address that. We also endeavored to put the two bills together so S.B. 249 is in S.B. 191.

Basically, S.B. 191 was the bill addressing the issue in the Washoe County School District (WCSD) and some charter schools that use library assistants in their school libraries while other districts including Clark County School District (CCSD) use certified teacher librarians. We wanted to maintain the belief that school libraries should be in all our schools and that they should have certified teacher librarians, while still recognizing that it is difficult to get enough certified teacher librarians to staff each school library. We consider this a good marriage of the two bills. One thing that is different is that since a number of the charter

schools are very small, we identify that schools with 500 or more pupils are included in the bill's requirements.

CHAIR DENIS:

Yes, if the schools are smaller than 500 pupils, the bill does not apply to them, although they may do it.

SENATOR HAMMOND:

There are a lot of new things here that will affect many of the schools I represent, so I want to read through the bill more thoroughly and get some feedback. It sounds like there is a "may" versus "shall" for the smaller schools. If it is a larger school, does it still say the library shall be a certain size? Is there a certain configuration? Is it a "shall" or a "may"?

RISA LANG (Committee Counsel):

Yes, it is mandatory for charter schools that enroll 500 or more pupils, other than distance-education charter schools.

SENATOR HAMMOND:

Is it a "shall" that those schools with 500 or more pupils should have a library space? Or is it a "shall" that the space has to be so big? I understand there is a minimum requirement on books and equipment, but is there a minimum on size?

MS. LANG:

That would be provided in the regulations that are adopted later. It is not in the statute.

SENATOR HAMMOND:

I would like to be able to vote yes on this, but I will wait until I get to the Senate Floor so I can read through it. I believe in the intent of the bill and I believe that what both Senator Woodhouse and Senator Denis are trying to do is exactly what we need in our schools and our educational process. I need to read through it, though, because there will be a lot of people who will come to me and ask about it.

CHAIR DENIS:

I appreciate that. We realize that by combining the two bills, we are trying to get the bill to where it needs to be, rather than having separate bills.

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SENATOR PICKARD:

I want to take the same position. This is a significant change. I will vote "no," but I expect that once I get my arms around it, my vote will be a "yes" on the Senate Floor. I hope so, anyway.

SENATOR WASHINGTON MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 191.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED (SENATORS HAMMOND, HANSEN AND PICKARD VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR DENIS:

I will open the work session hearing on S.B. 204.

**SENATE BILL 204**: Revises provisions relating to the mental health of pupils.  
(BDR 34-551)

Ms. STURM:

This bill was heard in Committee on March 15. It requires certain educational facilities that provide instruction to students in grades 7 through 12 to establish procedures and interventions for the prevention of suicide and to educate and train teachers and students in assisting those at risk. There is a proposed amendment included in the work session documents ([Exhibit G](#)).

CHAIR DENIS:

I would like our Committee Counsel to comment on the last amendment and how it works for a private school.

Ms. LANG:

As proposed to be revised, instead of requiring the policy to specifically address the needs of those groups it makes it an authorization.

CHAIR DENIS:

They may do it, but they do not have to do it?

MS. LANG:

They still have to have a policy to address the prevention of suicide, but this would make it optional whether or not that policy specifically addresses the needs of those groups that are at high risk for suicide.

CHAIR DENIS:

The way I understand it, they have to have a policy, but they do not necessarily have to use all the ones listed in section 10, subsection 3. Is that correct?

MS. LANG:

Correct. That is the way I would read this.

SENATOR PAT SPEARMAN (Senatorial District No. 1):

During the hearing, a number of people took issue with being required to do this, but most of the testimony ignored the fact that what section 10 does is create a broad-based coalition. Many of the things they were objecting to are not in the bill. The one objection they had was in section 10, subsection 3, where it said, "must address," but now it says "may address." So, it is now permissive.

I want to read this into the record again. Section 10, subsection 1 of S.B. 204 states:

The governing body of each private school that provides instruction to pupils in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, shall, in consultation with pupils, parents or guardians of pupils, school employees, persons who provide mental health services to pupils, persons and organizations with expertise in the prevention of suicide and other interested persons and entities.

It does not say you must use this book; if people are comfortable using their Bible or their Quran, they can use that. The only thing we changed that would make it permissive is that we changed "must" to "may". I think that addresses all of their concerns.

SENATOR PICKARD:

Thank you for making the change. You made a good effort to try to establish the intent that this was not requiring private schools to take a position

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inconsistent with their beliefs. I was satisfied with that explanation, but this goes the extra mile.

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 204.

SENATOR PICKARD SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED (SENATOR HANSEN VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR DENIS:

I will open the work session hearing on S.B. 253.

**SENATE BILL 253**: Revises provisions governing the suspension of licensed school employees. (BDR 34-582)

MS. STURM:

This bill was first heard in Committee on March 18. It authorizes the suspension and admonition of a licensed employee for a reason that the administrator believes may lead to demotion or dismissal. There is an amendment included in the work session documents ([Exhibit H](#)).

SENATOR WASHINGTON:

Why does the language reflect support staff or licensed personnel? Why does it only have to be licensed staff to be suspended?

MS. LANG:

I am sure there are provisions for other staff to also be suspended for various reasons. This particular bill is only addressing licensed employees. I would not speak for the sponsor of the bill but my guess is because of the more direct contact with the kids.

CHAIR DENIS:

So the answer is that it is in there, but in a different part of the statutes.



SENATOR PICKARD MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 253.

SENATOR HAMMOND SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DENIS:

I will now open the work session on S.B. 296.

**SENATE BILL 296:** Provides for the issuance of a license by endorsement to certain teachers who have a license or equivalent issued in another country. (BDR 34-607)

MS. STURM:

This bill was heard in Committee on April 8. It directs the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to adopt regulations authorizing the issuance of a license by endorsement to applicants who hold an equivalent license or authorization from another country. There was one amendment included in the work session documents ([Exhibit I](#)).

SENATOR HAMMOND:

We changed one part of the bill to clear up the difference between two categories. If we had not done that, it would have made more work for those in the NDE.

SENATOR PICKARD MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 296.

SENATOR HANSEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DENIS:

I will now open the work session hearing on S.B. 319.

**SENATE BILL 319**: Revises provisions relating to education. (BDR 34-1063)

Ms. STURM:

This bill was first heard in Committee on March 27. It defines and establishes the duties of a counselor, psychologist and social worker employed by a school district. It also proposes a possible 5 percent raise for certain professionals who earn national certification. The bill's sponsor proposed amendments that are included in the work session documents ([Exhibit J](#)).

SENATOR PICKARD:

During the hearing on this bill, I asked why occupational therapists and physical therapists had not been added and the sponsor suggested she would amend that. I do not see that in the bill today. Do you know if that was an oversight or an intent?

CHAIR DENIS:

I believe Ms. Sturm just read in the work session document that those two professions are included.

Ms. LANG:

Yes, that is in No. 3 in the amendment.

SENATOR PICKARD:

I see that now.

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 319.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

SENATOR PICKARD:

I am still struggling with the 5 percent salary increase. Not that I do not think they are worth it. It is higher than what we are providing to the others. I do not recall if it is because these professionals were left out in the past. I am a "no" for the moment, but I may change that on the Senate Floor.

CHAIR DENIS:

We have the bill's sponsor here who could address that issue.

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SENATOR MARILYN DONDERO LOOP (Senatorial District No. 8):

The 5 percent is what National Board certified teachers are awarded. What we are doing is adding these specialized professionals who almost always have a teaching license to the same category.

CHAIR DENIS:

So you are just bringing these employees up to par with the teachers who get the National Board Certification?

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

Exactly. They are National Board certified, but they do not currently get the 5 percent increase in pay. This is an extra certification that teachers can earn when they go above and beyond. We have 128 National Board certified teachers in CCSD and it is also a high number in WCSD. Nevada has one of the highest percentages of National Board certified teachers in the U.S.

SENATOR PICKARD:

That satisfies my concern.

SENATOR HAMMOND:

To clarify, are you saying that in those professions, these people are also certified teachers and National Board certified, so they should be compensated as such, even though they may not be in the classroom?

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP:

Yes. Almost every one of these professionals started out as a teacher and then chose to get additional credentials for their specialty and they are also National Board certified. In the past, they have not been recognized by their districts with the 5 percent increase and this is important.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DENIS:

I will open the work session hearing on S.B. 441.

**SENATE BILL 441**: Provides for the separate regulation of online charter schools. (BDR 34-392)

Ms. STURM:

This bill was first heard in Committee on April 5. It establishes separate provisions for a charter school to operate exclusively as a charter school for distance education, authorizing that school to consider using certain methods to collect student information already required in statute. There was an amendment that is included in the work session documents ([Exhibit K](#)).

CHAIR DENIS:

In the amendment I am proposing, we removed the monetary penalty in section 2 because we do not do that anywhere else and we do not yet have a mechanism to do that.

Also, there is a section where it mandates that a charter school has to be approved if it checks everything off the checklist. When we first started charter schools, all they had to do was check off the list and they were automatically approved. We have an amendment that gives them the chance to make sure everything works instead of automatic approval.

The last change in the amendment is trying to address online schools. For example, if CCSD, which has an online component as part of their education system, is asked by Nye County to do their online component, currently, they could not do that. If they separated their distance education and turned it into a charter school and then got approval through the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA), then they could. We are trying to fix that.

BRAD KEATING (Clark County School District):

This pertains to the Nevada Learning Academy, a 5-Star distance education school in CCSD. We offer distance education services to a number of students in Clark County. If this bill were to move forward, it would require us to get rid of that school, convert it into a charter school and then apply to the SPCSA. We are not interested in converting that school because it is a great school and we have put a lot of resources into it.

We are working on contracts with Nye County to offer computer literacy courses as well as some Advanced Placement (AP) science courses, because they do not have enough students in that school district to have an AP science class that would require hiring a teacher. Also, there is an online school in WCSD called North Star that would be affected by this bill as written.

CHAIR DENIS:

How are we addressing that issue?

MS. LANG:

In the amendment, section 5 of the bill was revised to say, "A charter school sponsored by a school district that offers a full-time program of distance education may not enroll a pupil in the program who does not reside in that school district". It would not affect a school that enters into a contract. It would only affect a charter school that is sponsored by a school district.

MR. KEATING:

I do not believe that will address the issue because both schools I have mentioned today are not charter schools sponsored by their school district; they are schools within the districts.

MS. LANG:

That means it would not fall under this limitation. This section now is limited to charter schools that are sponsored by a school district. If you are not a charter school and it is just a contract between the school districts, then you should be outside this provision.

CHAIR DENIS:

This is now saying that it only applies to charter schools that you might charter through the district, but the fact that it is not a charter school means it does not apply to you.

SENATOR HAMMOND:

There is still accountability for these students. Where does that come from?

CHAIR DENIS:

Do you mean the students taking the online courses?

SENATOR HAMMOND:

Yes. Not necessarily through a charter school, but through a district. They are still taking classes, but the students cannot get their diploma just by taking those online classes. So is the accountability still through the schools and their graduation is still accounted for by testing, etc.?

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MR. KEATING:

Yes. Some students are full-time at those schools, and the students contracting from outside the district would still be held accountable through their school district.

SENATOR HAMMOND:

Some of the online students are just making up credits.

CHAIR DENIS:

Correct. This is just another alternative for that school district to be able to provide those services through an interlocal agreement.

SENATOR HAMMOND:

I know you took out the provision that referenced withholding some of the money. I understand we were having a problem with it and it was different fundamentally from past iterations I have heard about in withholding money for students their freshman, sophomore, junior or senior years. In the past, we were looking mostly at fifth year students who did not get through school to graduation in four years.

The accountability measure was because online students were often not given a plan and did not follow through with a plan. Even if they took a fifth year, they did not graduate. That was what I was worried about. At some point, I hope we can revisit that to ensure we are keeping the online schools accountable. Those fifth year students should have plans and they should fulfill those plans in making sure they get to graduation. If we need to withhold financing to do that, we need to look at that as an incentive.

SENATOR HAMMOND MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 441.

SENATOR WOODHOUSE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DENIS:

I will now open S.B. 468 in work session.

**SENATE BILL 468**: Exempts private schools that provide a program of early childhood education from requirements relating to certain child care facilities. (BDR 38-815)

MS. STURM:

This bill was first heard in Committee on April 3. It exempts a private school that provides a program of early childhood education from the requirement that it be licensed as a childcare facility. The two proposed amendments are included in the work session documents ([Exhibit L](#)).

CHAIR DENIS:

The first amendment cleared up concerns by specifying that the bill applies only to schools that do not receive public funds. The second concern pertained to who would oversee the schools. The amendment clarifies that it will be housed within NDE which addressed those concerns.

SENATOR PICKARD MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 468.

SENATOR WOODHOUSE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DENIS:

The next bill on work session that I will open is S.B. 469.

**SENATE BILL 469**: Revises provisions relating to the reorganization of certain school districts. (BDR 34-818)

MS. STURM:

This bill was heard in Committee on April 5. It removes the requirement that each school associate superintendent oversee no more than 25 local school precincts and it makes changes to fund allocations as seen in the work session documents ([Exhibit M](#)). There is one amendment to delete section 2.

CHAIR DENIS:

Can the Committee Counsel remind me what section 2 does?

Ms. LANG:

That is the provision where the school district identifies the restricted funds for the next year. It was amending that to provide that the large school district could restrict all the funds needed to carry out its duties. The way the law currently reads, the restricted funds would be funds that are specified for a particular purpose. Removing section 2 kind of leaves things the way they are currently.

CHAIR DENIS:

I remember the issue that came up and there was a question, so rather than create something that created a conflict, we just removed it.

SENATOR HANSEN:

I am going to vote "no" but reserve my right. I want review the amendment and understand it a little better.

SENATOR PICKARD MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 469.

SENATOR WOODHOUSE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED (SENATOR HANSEN VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR DENIS:

I will open S.B. 475 in work session.

**SENATE BILL 475**: Revises provisions relating to the evaluation of educational employees and makes various other changes to provisions relating to education. (BDR 34-816)

Ms. STURM:

This bill was heard in Committee on April 3. It requires NDE to develop an electronic tool for providing documents used in evaluations to certain educational employees. It also lowers the percentage of student outcome that factors into a licensed teacher's annual evaluation from 40 percent to 20 percent. There are proposed amendments included in the work session documents ([Exhibit N](#)).



SENATOR HARRIS:

The amendments are what we heard in the hearing on April 3; there are no big changes.

CHAIR DENIS:

I appreciate your effort to pull everyone into this. Sometimes when we work on these bills and issues, we cannot always get to the perfect spot but we try to.

SENATOR WOODHOUSE:

This issue has been around for many sessions. I remember when the percentage of student outcomes factoring into a teacher's evaluation was zero. I remember when it was 50 percent, and then it went to 40 percent. At one time, the Legislative Committee on Education considered 35 percent. We considered 25 percent. So my hat is off to you for what you accomplished here.

I will vote for this measure today. However, it is not logical to me why we would implement 20 percent in one year and then the very next year, we would go to 15 percent. If we are going to go to 15 percent, why not just go there now? Why do teachers have to bounce around with a different percentage every year? But this is before us today and I appreciate your work; I just think it is illogical to have two different numbers within one biennium.

SENATOR HARRIS:

To address your concerns, there was a natural, logical reason why we did that percentage configuration. The Teachers and Leaders Council (TLC) who we worked with brought forward a recommendation of 20 percent along with an agreement on how the other metrics would have been allocated. Doing it this way allows the TLC to go back to the drawing table and figure out what they are going to do with that other 5 percent and get some consensus around that for the future.

SENATOR WASHINGTON:

I spoke to Senator Harris to let her know I would not be supporting this bill because I do not believe that a teacher should be evaluated based on a student's performance. On any given day, a child can come in with a bad day and test badly. The teacher has done his or her job as far as teaching, but that one bad day can mess up that student's testing results. Based on that, I do not think the evaluation should have any percentage of student performance. I will vote "no."

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CHAIR DENIS:

Thank you for your concerns. I will point out that if we were to not do this, the percentage would still be at 40 percent.

SENATOR WASHINGTON:

I do not agree with that either.

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 475.

SENATOR HAMMOND SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED (SENATOR WASHINGTON VOTED NO.)

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CHAIR DENIS:

We are going back to S.B. 99 after some discussion.

Ms. STURM:

The first amendment I mentioned from the work session documents, [Exhibit C](#), for S.B. 99 expands representation to include other key stakeholders. I want to clarify that the proposal would be a total of 20 members; 4 of which would be nonvoting. Most of those members would be appointed by the Governor, but there will be four appointments made by legislators.

SENATOR PICKARD:

To clarify, the largest union is going to be recommending three for appointment of two; the second largest will be recommending three for two, which puts them on equal ground. And then from there, we have the others who are appointed. Is that correct?

SENATOR WOODHOUSE:

Yes, and the fifth person, a teacher, is recommended to the Governor by an "educator organization that provides training and programs", which I read as the Regional Professional Development Programs. That is how we get to the five appointees.

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SENATOR PICKARD:  
Perfect, thank you.

SENATOR WASHINGTON:  
Why 20 people instead of 5?

CHAIR DENIS:  
Welcome to the Legislature. We started out with 8 and now it is 20. We think it is comprehensive, though, and that is what the creators of this Task Force are looking for.

SENATOR PICKARD:  
Because this is not the decision-making board; instead, it is a group of major stakeholders who can bring in all the different perspectives. It is different than a board of trustees or a board of governors where they have to make decisions. This is about getting information and crafting a set of recommendations for future legislation. Ultimately, in this context more is probably better. In the Interim Southern Economic Forum, we had a room full of up to 60 people. Often, that provided an opportunity for input we would not get any other way. In this context, I think it makes sense, but I share your concern.

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS  
AMENDED S.B. 99.

SENATOR PICKARD SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DENIS:  
I will close the work session and open public comment. We do not debate bills in public comment.

JORGE SANCHEZ:  
We have 40 parents here who still want section 10 of S.B 204 to be completely removed. I am confused as to why Senators Hammond and Pickard voted "yes" on this bill and "no" on the library bill.

MIKE SLOFANY:

Please withdraw section 10 of S.B. 204. You are infringing on our freedom of choice as to the education of our children. We are controlling totally how we teach and pass to our children our religious and moral beliefs. The passing of this section will ensure all private schools that were founded based on the religious and moral beliefs of those people will compromise those beliefs. There will be no more private schools if they do not adapt to the demands of S.B. 204, section 10. No matter what anyone says on its behalf, section 10 provides those in charge the power and authority to enforce it and make the existence of all private schools almost impossible. Even with the amendments, section 10 would destroy your moral philosophy and the reason why most private schools exist.

JOHN EPPOLITO:

In WCSD two years ago, they gave a psychological assessment, the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment, to every kid in four schools without parental consent. Sixteen of us went into a school board meeting and asked why it was done without parental consent. By the time the meeting was over, Superintendent Davis said they were not going to be doing that this year. Well, why did you do it in the first place?

Maybe my concerns about S.B. 319 are not valid, but unless this stuff is done with parental consent, this is problematic. Maybe there is someplace else where it says parents have to consent to this stuff. I am talking about parts in section 3 through section 5 in the bill that define what the psychologist, the social worker and the counselor will do. It should be with parental consent.

SENATOR HARRIS:

Are we allowing testimony on bills we just passed in work session?

CHAIR DENIS:

The way I look at it, we are not going to have a debate, but it is an opportunity if a member of the public wants to come up and share their thoughts on education. If they get off the education topic, I might limit that. I wish they would not name senators by name, but I believe if they want to make comments, they can do that.

MARGARITA URBINA:

I am against S.B. 204, section 10. I could not find any data on high suicide rates in private schools in Nevada, so I do not understand why private schools are included in this bill. We parents are not asking to amend a word, but to remove section 10 completely.

I was reading the State regulation of private schools and it says it is a challenge for legislators in regulating private schools, because you have to respect the fundamental right of parents to direct the education of their children, you have to protect the State's interest in an informed citizenry and you have to avoid comprehensive regulations of private education that will deprive parents of any choice in education. Clearly section 10 of this bill violates all of this; please remove it.

ABIGAIL BARRAZA:

Please remove section 10 of S.B. 204. Enforcing it would be unconstitutional as you represent a severe violation upon the independence of private schools and the freedom of families to select schools that educate their children according to their religious beliefs.

CHAIR DENIS:

I understand you want to give public comment specifically on a bill we just passed. If you have something different to say, please share that, but do not keep repeating the same comments on a bill we already heard. I do want to give you the opportunity to share your comments.

ALICE SANCHEZ:

Private schools were created by private citizens, not by the government. Private schools do not receive government assistance. We as parents have a right to opt for private education, but this bill as it is written steps on our rights even though it was amended. I agree we need to have a policy regarding suicide, but imposing this bill goes against the First Amendment.

Private schools are protected by the United States Constitution, which secures our freedom of religion. This bill will allow anyone to file a claim against the school which could cause a revocation of a private school license. Please remove section 10 from S.B. 204.

KARLA FAJARDO:

I do not want S.B. 204, section 10 to be included at all. As a parent, I am 100 percent against it. You voted against why I removed my kids from the school district system. We are going to fight and we are going to continue showing up.

JOSE ZALASAR:

As a Christian and a human being, I disagree with suicide. I think you have to take into account the opinion of the parents. It does not justify that you want to pass a transgender agenda. What about the kids from other countries like my kids? Please completely remove section 10 from S.B. 204.

RUDY HERNANDEZ:

We all agree that suicide is bad, horrible and tragic. I want to make sure I am not misinterpreted in my opposition to the bill. This bill infringes on one of the most important aspects of the private school sector, which is private. Another infringement is the required training for teachers and pupils concerning suicide.

What if private schools do not want to have this specific training because it goes against our core values or statement of faith? Will the private school sector be required to have their own materials for training? Can we have our own material aside from CCSD? Please remove private schools from S.B. 204.

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CHAIR DENIS:

There will be other opportunities to speak to this bill as it moves along. I do not know what will happen with it, but we just voted it out of Committee today. I thought we addressed the issues you are talking about today, but you will have that opportunity if it continues. Seeing no more people wanting to make public comment, I will adjourn the meeting of the Senate Committee on Education at 3:09 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Linda Hiller,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Moises Denis, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>EXHIBIT SUMMARY</b>				
<b>Bill</b>	<b>Exhibit / # of pages</b>		<b>Witness / Entity</b>	<b>Description</b>
	A	2		Agenda
	B	9		Attendance Roster
S.B. 99	C	5	Jen Sturm	Work Session Documents
S.B. 109	D	9	Jen Sturm	Work Session Documents
S.B. 145	E	1	Jen Sturm	Work Session Documents
S.B. 191	F	7	Jen Sturm	Work Session Documents
S.B. 204	G	2	Jen Sturm	Work Session Documents
S.B. 253	H	4	Jen Sturm	Work Session Documents
S.B. 296	I	1	Jen Sturm	Work Session Documents
S.B. 319	J	2	Jen Sturm	Work Session Documents
S.B. 441	K	9	Jen Sturm	Work Session Documents
S.B. 468	L	4	Jen Sturm	Work Session Documents
S.B. 469	M	1	Jen Sturm	Work Session Documents
S.B. 475	N	7	Jen Sturm	Work Session Documents