

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
AND THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**Eighty-first Session
May 15, 2021**

The joint meeting of the Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means was called to order by Chair Chris Brooks at 8:16 a.m. on Saturday, May 15, 2021, Online and in Room 4100 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Chris Brooks, Chair
Senator Moises Denis, Vice Chair
Senator Julia Ratti
Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro
Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop
Senator Ben Kieckhefer
Senator Pete Goicoechea
Senator Scott Hammond
Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair
Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Vice Chair
Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson
Assemblyman Jason Frierson
Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow
Assemblyman Gregory T. Hafen II
Assemblywoman Sandra Jauregui
Assemblyman Glen Leavitt
Assemblywoman Brittney Miller
Assemblywoman Sarah Peters
Assemblyman Tom Roberts
Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus

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Assemblywoman Jill Tolles
Assemblyman Howard Watts

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Wayne Thorley, Senate Fiscal Analyst
Sarah Coffman, Assembly Fiscal Analyst
Alex Haartz, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Brody Leiser, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Tom Weber, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Andrew Clinger, Chief Financial Officer, Nevada System of Higher Education
Hawah Ahmad, Clark County Education Association
Lindsay Anderson, Government Affairs Director, Washoe County School District
Brad Keating, Clark County School District
Dawn Etcheverry, Nevada State Education Association
Selena La Rue Hatch, Nevada State Education Association; Washoe Education Association
Calen Evans, President, Empower Nevada Teachers
Chris Daly, Nevada State Education Association
Ruben Murillo, Nevada State Education Association; Clark County Education Association

CHAIR BROOKS:

These Committees will start by hearing closing recommendations from the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Fiscal Analysis Division regarding Statewide decision units for position restorations. Closing recommendations regarding Nevada's kindergarten through Grade 12 (K-12) education system have been rescheduled to be heard a few days from now.

WAYNE THORLEY (Senate Fiscal Analyst):

This is the third meeting in which the Joint Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means, also known as the money committees, have discussed funding for position restorations. The Committees' actions from the previous two meetings are discussed on pages 1 and 2 of the Statewide Decision Units Closing Packet ([Exhibit B](#)).

On April 1, 2021, the money committees preliminarily granted approval of the elimination of General Fund appropriations and federal funds for certain positions recommended to be held vacant or eliminated in the Executive Budget. The money committees then preliminarily granted authority to use American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) to cover the costs of these positions during the 2021-2023 biennium beginning October 1, 2021.

On May 3, 2021, the money committees were presented with updates based off work done in subcommittee meetings and information received by the Office of the Governor, Office of Finance (GFO). Based on these updates, the money committees approved the elimination of three positions from budget account (B/A) 101-3194 within the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HHS-DPBH - Environmental Health Services — Budget Page DHHS-DPBH-42 (Volume II)

Budget Account 101-3194

The two items being considered by the money committees today are described on page 2 of [Exhibit B](#). Preliminary guidance received from the U.S. Department of the Treasury indicates an eligible use of the CLFRF includes payroll and other position costs associated with rehiring public sector staff up to the staffing levels existing before the Covid-19 pandemic. To assist State agencies in managing workload relating to restored positions, the money committees may wish to consider authorizing the restoration of positions with the CSLFRF beginning July 1, 2021, instead of October 1, 2021. This would increase the authority of funding by \$5.1 million in fiscal year (FY) 2021-2022 by increasing the \$14.6 million previously approved to \$19.7 million.

Additionally, the money committees may wish to consider approving the authorization of the CSLFRF beginning July 1, 2021, to restore funding for position reductions approved by the money committees for the Nevada System

of Higher Education (NSHE) associated with a hiring freeze across NSHE institutions. The Nevada System of Higher Education provided supplemental information to Fiscal staff regarding the budgetary reduction measures and estimated the number of positions which may go unfilled as a result of these measures. While the estimated number of positions total 487 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, the actual number of positions to be restored by the NSHE Board of Regents may differ from this figure given the estimated nature of this number and the fact estimates were not provided for each individual budget account.

If both actions are approved, the total authorization of the CSLFRF for the purpose of position restoration would be \$66.3 million in FY 2021-2022 and \$51.4 million in FY 2022-2023 as reflected on page 4 of [Exhibit B](#).

Page 4 of [Exhibit B](#) provides a one page summary of Governor Steve Sisolak's recommended budget reductions related to the elimination of positions or holding positions vacant. These reductions are shown in columns A through F on page 4 of [Exhibit B](#). Column G on page 4 of [Exhibit B](#) provides the number of FTE positions for which funding will be restored, including the 487 FTE positions estimated to be restored for NSHE. The positions to be restored in NSHE are located in the seven formula instructional institutions and the four professional schools, but do not include FTE positions for the Desert Research Institute (DRI) or the remaining NSHE budget accounts. These remaining NSHE budget accounts do not utilize the funding model which shifts the focus of education formula funding from the number of enrollments to the number of courses completed and graduating students. Columns J and K on page 4 of [Exhibit B](#) represent the actual dollar amount of the CSLFRF which would be authorized for the funding of State positions.

Pages 5 and 6 of [Exhibit B](#) provide a detailed breakdown of page 4 and include individual decision units by budget account in which the positions recommended to be held vacant or eliminated in the Executive Budget are contained. The dollar amount associated with restoring funding for these positions is also shown.

In addition to the previous actions taken by the money committees regarding the restoration of position funding with the CSLFRF beginning October 1, 2021, do the Committees wish to authorize additional funding of \$5.1 million in FY 2021-2022, bringing total authority in FY 2021-2022 to

\$19.7 million for position restorations previously approved by the Committee, thereby allowing State agencies to begin hiring and filling the positions beginning July 1, 2021?

Do the Committees wish to approve the restoration of funding for positions throughout NSHE budgets beginning July 2021 with the CSLFRF authorizations of \$46.6 million in FY 2021-2022 and \$46.5 million in FY 2022-2023? Fiscal staff seeks authority to make technical adjustments as necessary.

CHAIR BROOKS:

There are 487 FTE positions within NSHE which would be restored as a result of this action. However, this does not include positions located at the DRI. Regarding the education row in the table on page 5 of [Exhibit B](#), do we have any information on the FTE positions associated with B/A 101-3010, B/A 101-2983, B/A 101-2985, B/A 101-2989, B/A 101-2990, B/A 101-2991, B/A 101-2996, B/A 101-3003, B/A 101-3004, B/A 101-3017, B/A 101-3221 and B/A 101-3019? Are these positions treated differently because they are funded through nonformula budget accounts?

EDUCATION

NSHE

NSHE - Desert Research Institute — Budget Page NSHE-93 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-3010

NSHE - Intercollegiate Athletics - UNR — Budget Page NSHE-39 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2983

NSHE - Statewide Programs - UNR — Budget Page NSHE-42 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2985

NSHE - Agricultural Experiment Station — Budget Page NSHE-55 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2989

NSHE - Cooperative Extension Service — Budget Page NSHE-59 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2990

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NSHE - System Computing Center — Budget Page NSHE-26 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2991

NSHE - University Press — Budget Page NSHE-23 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-2996

NSHE - Business Center North — Budget Page NSHE-63 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-3003

NSHE - Business Center South — Budget Page NSHE-90 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-3004

NSHE - Prison Education Program — Budget Page NSHE-135 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-3017

NSHE - Health Laboratory and Research — Budget Page NSHE-52 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-3221

NSHE - Capacity Building Enhancement — Budget Page NSHE-137 (Volume I)
Budget Account 101-3019

BRODY LEISER (Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst):

As submitted, enhancement decision unit E-680 within B/A 101-3010, B/A 101-2983, B/A 101-2985, B/A 101-2989, B/A 101-2990, B/A 101-2991, B/A 101-2996, B/A 101-3004, B/A 101-3017, B/A 101-3221 and B/A 101-3019 did not include FTE positions identified by NSHE. Decision unit E-682 within B/A 101-3003 also did not include an FTE position. This is consistent with other decision units submitted by NSHE.

E-680 Staffing and Operations — Page NSHE-96
E-680 Staffing and Operations — Page NSHE-40
E-680 Staffing and Operations — Page NSHE-44
E-680 Staffing and Operations — Page NSHE-57
E-680 Staffing and Operations — Page NSHE-60
E-680 Staffing and Operations — Page NSHE-27
E-680 Staffing and Operations — Page NSHE-24
E-680 Staffing and Operations — Page NSHE-91
E-680 Staffing and Operations — Page NSHE-136

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E-680 Staffing and Operations — Page NSHE-53
E-680 Staffing and Operations — Page NSHE-140
E-682 Staffing and Operations — Page NSHE-65

Funding associated with hiring freezes was identified within each of these budget accounts. The Nevada System of Higher Education provided supplemental information to Fiscal staff regarding the decision units shown on page 5 of [Exhibit B](#). For several of the budget accounts listed on page 5 of [Exhibit B](#), the information provided did not identify the specific number of FTE positions within each budget account. Budget reductions are associated with the State hiring freeze. When the Board of Regents approves the final NSHE budget accounts, Fiscal staff expects the CSLFRF will be specifically used to restore or hire positions which otherwise would have gone unfilled. While there are no FTE positions reflected in [Exhibit B](#) for these budget accounts, each of the nonformula budget accounts has an associated restoration amount specifically identified.

If the action on page 3 of [Exhibit B](#) is approved by the Committees, it would restore funding within every budget account used to support positions at NSHE. However, we currently do not have an exact number regarding the amount of FTE positions that would be restored within each budget account.

CHAIR BROOKS:

The decision the Committees are making today relates to the restoration of funding for positions. Within the NSHE budget accounts, 487 FTE positions have been identified for restoration, but the CSLFRF may be used to restore even more positions than this. A dollar amount regarding position restoration for nonformula budget accounts has been established. Not knowing the total amount of FTE positions which will be restored makes the Committees' decision difficult. I would like to hold the NSHE accountable and make sure all of these positions are restored appropriately.

MR. LEISER:

Fiscal staff went through the specific decision units discussed in [Exhibit B](#) to ensure the funding amounts shown are associated with Category 1 reductions contained within the decision units connecting to personnel. Even though specific FTE positions have not been identified, the amounts shown in

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[Exhibit B](#) are the same amounts shown in the Executive Budget associated with the personnel services expenditure category.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

This is an ever-changing process and NSHE has flexibility when spending the funding allocated to it. However, the decision units discussed in [Exhibit B](#) are specifically associated with Category 1 funding and we want to see the restoration of positions. This is extremely important in rebounding from the Covid-19 pandemic.

ANDREW CLINGER (Chief Financial Officer, Nevada System of Higher Education):

This is a very challenging process. The figures shown for the DRI and nonformula budget accounts in [Exhibit B](#) do not specifically identify FTE positions as NSHE knew it was going to be forced to hold positions vacant. At the time NSHE budget accounts were being built, we could not identify which positions would need to be held vacant. It is a fluid process regarding when NSHE positions become vacant, and we are trying to be as transparent as possible. I want to ensure the CSLFRF used by NSHE goes specifically towards position restoration and does not get moved to any other spending category.

CHAIR BROOKS:

The Committee wants to ensure the CSLFRF goes specifically towards position restoration.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON:

It is important to provide jobs for Nevadans and to ensure the CSLFRF is used for position restoration. I am now comfortable approving the use of the CSLFRF funding.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Are the position restorations being requested through decision unit E-680 all-inclusive? The University of Nevada, Reno is the one institution proposing the elimination of positions instead of a temporary hiring freeze. Are these position eliminations encapsulated in decision unit E-680?

MR. CLINGER:

I will need to get back to you with this information.

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SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

The Executive Budget shows decision unit E-680 within B/A 101-2983 is requesting to implement a temporary hiring freeze for administrative and academic faculty and classified positions. I want to ensure decision unit E-680 encompasses personnel issues.

MR. LEISER:

Decision unit E-680 does encompass personnel issues.

SENATOR RATTI:

Does NSHE assume the hiring freeze placed on State agencies will be lifted sooner rather than later? Will this allow staff to be hired by the time school starts again in the upcoming academic year?

MR. CLINGER:

I believe so. The Nevada System of Higher Education has been following the guidance of the Governor's Office regarding the State hiring freeze. As decisions are finalized, it will send a signal to NSHE institutions that they can begin the hiring process.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF \$5.1 MILLION IN FY 2021-2022 BRINGING TOTAL AUTHORITY IN FY 2021-2022 TO \$19.7 MILLION FOR POSITION RESTORATIONS IN ADDITION TO THE PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE MONEY COMMITTEES REGARDING THE RESTORATION OF POSITION FUNDING WITH THE CSLFRF BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2021; THEREBY ALLOWING STATE AGENCIES TO BEGIN HIRING AND FILLING THE POSITIONS BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021, AND MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESTORATION OF FUNDING FOR POSITIONS THROUGHOUT THE NSHE BUDGETS SHOWN ON PAGE 5 OF [EXHIBIT B](#) BEGINNING JULY 2021 WITH THE CSLFRF AUTHORIZATIONS OF \$46.6 MILLION IN FY 2021-2022 AND \$46.5 MILLION IN FY 2022-2023 WITH AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL STAFF TO MAKE TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS AS NECESSARY.

SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

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SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

Approving the use of the CSLFRF is important as many students and the public benefit from NSHE's workforce development and degree programs. I support the motion.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TOLLES:

Approval of the CSLFRF will have a large impact on position restorations and students. I support the motion.

ASSEMBLY: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATE: THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

* * * * *

CHAIR BROOKS:

The Committees will now hear public comment.

HAWAH AHMAD (Clark County Education Association):

The Clark County Education Association (CCEA) represents over 18,000 licensed educators and is the largest independent teachers' association in the country. We engage in bipartisan advocacy to advance public education in Nevada. Although B/A 101-2609 was not heard today, the Committees will soon be making important decisions regarding the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan (PCFP). As the State transitions to the PCFP, the CCEA encourages these Committees to review the Nevada Department of Education, Commission on School Funding's April 23, 2021, report suggesting budget restorations will gradually increase revenue, put Nevada's students first and adequately fund education in Nevada.

EDUCATION

K-12 EDUCATION

NDE - State Education Funding Account — Budget Page K-12 EDUCATION-13
(Volume I)

Budget Account 101-2609

The Clark County Education Association understands the CSLFRF and current funding are not enough to support education in Nevada and believes new revenue needs to be generated. Generating new revenue must be a bipartisan effort led by the Governor. We are cautiously optimistic this can occur during the Eighty-first Legislative Session. We are also optimistic the CSLFRF can be utilized to invest in the Nevada communities hit hardest by the Covid-19 pandemic, specifically English language learner (ELL) and at-risk students. However, putting the CSLFRF into weighted-funding categories will not be enough. New revenue will be needed to adequately support Nevada's K-12 education system and its students. We stand ready to work with the Legislature, the Governor and the gaming and mining industries to find a solution.

LINDSAY ANDERSON (Government Affairs Director, Washoe County School District):

The Washoe County School District (WCSD) is asking for the restoration of proposed budget cuts for class-size reduction funds and the Nevada Department of Education's (NDE) Read by Grade 3 Program. This sentiment is shared by all 17 superintendents of the Nevada Association of School Superintendents. We want to ensure that if budget cuts are restored, funding is specifically used to increase base per-pupil funding (PPF). As the NDE Nevada Plan was rebranded, I wish we had come up with a better name for base funding as a negative connotation exists with the base funding used in the PCFP. Nevada has a unique opportunity to set the base amount of education funding as close to adequate and optimal as possible to start the PCFP off right for every public school student. Currently, the base PPF amount is significantly below the \$9,238 figure that Augenblick, Palaich and Associates recommends for adequately funding education. Base funding should be prioritized until the State gets it right.

The Washoe County School District expects the base PPF amount to grow proportionally as outlined in *Nevada Revised Statutes* 387.1214, subsection 5, paragraph (c). Base funding is the livelihood of Nevada's schools. This money determines how many teachers the WCSD can hire and is the determining factor regarding class size. Base funding is used to hire school-based mental health professionals which can help address the overwhelming caseloads these people are currently handling. We will use this funding to comply with early-literacy efforts such as Read by Grade 3, dual credit courses and teacher incentives. By

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funding the base PPF amount at a higher level, the State is by definition increasing weighted funding amounts since these amounts are designed to be a percentage of base funding. Any new funding put into B/A 101-2609 should be used exclusively to increase the base PPF amount.

The Washoe County School District does not support Nevada's hold harmless provision amounts being calculated on a per-pupil basis. These amounts have not been analyzed by the Commission or school districts and we believe this will result in a very substantial and negative change for the WCSD. Putting B/A 101-2609 together is a massive undertaking. We continue to stand ready to offer extensive expertise from school district staff as the recipients of these funds.

BRAD KEATING (Clark County School District):

Thank you for taking additional time to review the K-12 budget accounts before closing them as this will be the most important decision the Legislature has made in more than 50 years. While it has good intentions, the Nevada Plan has not served the majority of students in the State for a very long time. The new PCFP was not built to divide northern and southern Nevada or to pit the State's rural and urban areas against each other, it was built to support students' needs and help them become successful. I want to ensure every weight and aspect of the PCFP meets the needs of Nevada's school districts. Please consider the Commission's recommendations as it has been working on the historic PCFP for over 18 months to ensure the final outcome provides equity and adequacy for all Nevada students.

While I represent the Clark County School District, I also represent approximately 310,000 students and 42,000 employees who work tirelessly every day. We are grateful to all of our employees who continue to do more with less. The decision the Legislature makes regarding funding K-12 education in Nevada will affect many students in southern Nevada. Out of these students, 273,000 receive free and reduced-price lunch, 40,000 have disabilities, 50,000 are ELL, 1,700 reside in Nevada's foster care system and nearly 10,000 are homeless. These students are counting on you. While we can debate how school districts operate, we cannot debate that students need the support and resources necessary to have every chance to be successful. Approximately 310,000 students have been harmed for decades in Nevada due to a broken education funding model. Please help these students.

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DAWN ETCHEVERRY (Nevada State Education Association):

I have been teaching music in the WCSD for 27 years and currently serve as the vice president of the Nevada State Education Association (NSEA). Since the Thirty-second Special Session, educators from across the State have turned up at rallies and offered public comment asking legislators to listen to educators. Today is no different. Currently, the budget cuts being considered for education include \$156 million in class-size reduction and \$33 million for Read by Grade 3. This will result in the loss of approximately 1,000 teachers across Nevada. The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in a loss of learning for many of Nevada's students, and any cuts to education funding will make it extremely difficult for Nevada children to catch up. Listen to educators and restore funding to the proposed cuts in education.

While restoration of education programs in Nevada is possible for the 2021-2023 biennium, the State must find new funding sources dedicated to education. It is time to put A.J.R. 1 of the 32nd Special Session for a public hearing. This bill will generate \$485 million in new revenue annually. Nevada should rank better than 48th in the Nation regarding education.

SELENA LA RUE HATCH (Nevada State Education Association; Washoe Education Association):

Thank you for taking more time to consider and review the K-12 education budget accounts. Please restore the budget cuts done to class-size reduction programs and Read by Grade 3. A hybrid school schedule has been implemented by the WCSD during the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in me seeing my students every other day. I have about 10 to 15 students in my classroom each day now, enabling me to speak to each student whenever they are in class and give them the attention they need. However, I will once again have 40 students during every class period next semester. This gives me six minutes to spend with each student every week, which is not nearly enough. I will not have enough desk space for every student and will have to hope for a student to be absent so others do not have to sit on the floor. This is egregious. Please invest in Nevada's education system and restore funding to budget cuts. We are better than being 48th in the Nation regarding education.

I hope the Legislature can find new revenue to improve education in Nevada. The Commission has asked the State to invest \$200 million per-year in its education system to get Nevada in line with the national average. This is still

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not an optimum funding level, but A.J.R. 1 of the 32nd Special Session will help. I hope you will support this bill and bring it in front of Nevada voters so they can have a say in how to incrementally fix education.

CALEN EVANS (President, Empower Nevada Teachers)

Empower Nevada Teachers is a nonprofit organization comprised of educators, community members and businesses whose focus is on fixing Nevada's broken education system. Please restore funding for the budget cuts done to class-size reduction and early-literacy programs. Nevada has the largest class sizes in the entire country. This is not only a detriment to student learning outcomes, but it also creates working conditions extremely harmful to educators. Nevada has one of the highest teacher turnover rates in the country.

The Commission suggested we increase educational funding by \$2 billion annually, but the Legislature is instead making budget cuts which will further impact all of our students and school district employees. If we are going to start addressing the problems with Nevada's education system we must start now as it will take time. We cannot fix this mess through budget reductions and we need to invest in public education.

I have been a Democrat my entire voting career, but the actions taken by Democrats in the Legislature regarding educators and their families is alienating the Democrats' voter base. Educators and their families have voted, campaigned, made phone calls and stuffed envelopes for Democrats, but this party's lackluster overall support of education in Nevada is not going unnoticed. We need Democrats and Republicans in Nevada to actually support the State's education system and not simply use it as a campaign promise to get elected. Neither party is truly supporting education. This is quite obvious when Nevada ranks 48th in the Nation for PPF and the State has one of the most underfunded education systems with the lowest amount of resources in the entire Country.

CHRIS DALY (Nevada State Education Association):

Please listen to Nevada's educators. This is what some NSEA members who are also educators from across the State have to say:

What is unique about my position is not only do I have the pleasure of working with wonderful students in the special education

department, I assist students when they are placed in a general education classroom setting. It is difficult to express the dire urgency. Our classrooms are so overcrowded they become standing-room-only, making instructional time nearly impossible and unfair to students. I work with teachers who walk into their classrooms on the first day of school with no curriculum. On many occasions, I have waited for my students for an hour before and after school to receive transportation. Funding affects every sector of education down to the basic fundamentals of providing pencils or paper to our students. Surprisingly, even these items are scarce in our school district. This year, my school site alone will lose several fantastic teachers to different states or another profession. Faculty losses include phenomenal support professionals from our schools. Please fund our schools and not only make Nevada 1st in tourism but also 1st in education.

As an educator heavily involved in education activism over the past two years, I find myself continually disappointed by the lack of funding for public education in Nevada. A consistent lack of funding for education has made it clear Nevada has an objectively failing education system and the largest class sizes in the Nation. When teaching middle school in Las Vegas back in 2013, as a brand new educator, my largest class size was 38 eighth-graders. From 2014 to 2015, my largest class size consisted of 40 students. Other teachers in my school had similar or even larger class sizes. To say that teaching under such circumstances is overwhelming would be an understatement. To say that issues with class sizes will be the death of my teaching career is entirely accurate. From countless conversations, I can tell you I am not the only educator feeling this strain. Please do not cut funding dedicated to class-size reduction, and do not cut educator jobs when we all know this is the last thing our State needs. Instead, please do the opposite and hire the 3,000 educators we need to make public education in Nevada more equitable for all.

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RUBEN MURILLO (Nevada State Education Association; Clark County Education Association):

Please keep education funding for class-size reduction at \$156 million and funding for early-literacy supports at \$33 million. I hope the proposed budget cuts to class-size reduction and early-literacy supports in B/A 101-2609 came before the GFO Economic Forum's May 4, 2021, Forecast Report and the allocation of the CSLFRF. Restore budget cuts by using revenue forecasting and the CSLFRF and increase funding for class-size reduction and early literacy programs. The Legislature has an obligation to fund programs which will make Nevada's students successful. Show your commitment to public education by ensuring our students have all the tools necessary to be successful.

Remainder of page intentionally left blank; signature page to follow.

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CHAIR BROOKS:

Seeing no further public comment, this meeting is adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Tom Weber,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Chris Brooks, Chair

DATE: _____

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit Letter	Begins on Page	Witness / Entity	Description
	A	1		Agenda
	B	1	Wayne Thorley / Legislative Counsel Bureau	Statewide Decision Units Closing Packet
	B	3	Brody Leiser / Legislative Counsel Bureau	Statewide Decision Units Closing Packet