**Legislative Update**

**CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**March 13, 2015**

Friday, March 13 marks the end of the first third of the 78th Session of the Nevada State Legislature; 80 days remain in the 120-day session. Monday marks the deadline by which bills sponsored by legislators must be introduced. The following Monday, March 23, bills sponsored by committees must be introduced. These two deadlines will result in an influx of bills, many of which will pertain to education. Stay tuned!!

**Highlights from Week 6:**

**MONDAY, MARCH 9**

Senate Legislative Operations

* **SCR1** is a resolution that the Nevada Legislature will study the system of professional development (PD) for teachers and administrators during the upcoming interim session. The resolution expresses the need for high quality PD and that the current system should be studied to make it more effective. SCR1 creates a panel of 6 legislators (3 from the Senate and 3 from the Assembly) who will conduct the study. Senator Joyce Woodhouse, who presented the resolution, also put on the record that she will be offer an amendment to provide for a technical committee to aid the Legislator’s in their work in order to provide them expertise.

A Senate Concurrent Resolution (or an Assembly Concurrent Resolution) is a bill that is generally used to address the sentiments of both Senate and Assembly to deal with matters affecting both chambers. They usually express the intentions of the body, do not need to be signed by the governor, nor do they have the force of law.

SCR1, if it passes, will be one of many resolutions and bills put forward asking for a study. The legislature will identify their top 5 priorities and provide funding for those specific items. SCR1 will be competing against several other interests, therefore, it is critical the Nevada Legislature understand how important this study will be to the success of students all across Nevada.

Assembly Education

* **AB206** is a bill that requires districts to provide a list of resources to parents along with the required notifications for health screenings and bullying incidents. The District supported the bill and will work with community partners to develop the resource lists to assist parents in finding the appropriate treatment for their child.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 10**

Senate Education Committee

* **SB212** is a bill regarding student discipline that will authorize the superintendent of a school district to allow a modification to the requirement that a pupil be suspended or expelled from public school for battery of a school employee, distribution of a controlled substance or is deemed a habitual discipline problem. The law already allows modification of a suspension or expulsion in the case of a dangerous weapon. The suspension and expulsion language remains in the statute. However, this bill would allow the superintendent some flexibility regarding the discipline for these infractions.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11**

Senate Committee on Government Affairs

* **SB70**, the bill that makes changes to the Open Meeting Law, was amended and passed by the committee. The bill was amended by the Attorney General's office in response to concerns raised by the District and other entities. The amendment will allow 45 days for the approval of minutes.

Assembly Education

* **SB101**, the bill that would allow a two-week delay in notifying employees of reemployment during legislative years, has already been approved by the Senate. The school districts and education organizations supported the bill and since no one opposed the bill, the Committee suspended the rules and passed it on the same day, allowing it to make its way to the Assembly Floor for approval in a timely manner.

Senate Commerce and Labor

* **SB217** is a bill presented by Senator Ben Kieckhefer to help students and parents in need of eye medication. SB217 requires drug pharmacies and insurance companies to work together in order to provide enough medicine for those suffering from ocular ailments. As its sometimes difficult to measure eye drops or apply them to children, many run out of their prescription too early. This bill is attempting to help patients receive enough medication in these difficult circumstances.

The Clark County School District follows these types of bills to ensure we weigh in on issues that provide quality health care for students and educators. We also follow anything that could increase the cost of healthcare to employees.

Senate Committee on Legislative Operations

* **SJR8:** Senate Joint Resolution 8 would place an increase of the minimum wage on the ballot in 2018. Should the Resolution pass this session, it would need to be passed again during the 2017 Legislative Session before it goes on a ballot.

Joint Resolutions are introduced by the Nevada Legislature for constitutional issues that can be placed on the ballot for a popular vote. The Legislature needs to pass the measure during two consecutive sessions (’15 and ’17, for example) in order to get the Joint Resolution qualified and placed on the ballot.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 12**

Senate Committee on Education

* **SB211** would require that high schools begin after 9:00 am, middle schools after 8:00 am, and elementary schools after 7:00 am The bill also requires an ethnic studies course for high school graduation. The district opposed the bill based on the unfunded mandates it proposes.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 13**

Senate Education

* **SB200** – SB200 is bill that initially did two thing things. First, the bill allows for military families to receive an exemption from the Charter School Lottery if they want to attend a charter school that exists on a military installation. The second part of the bill would allow developers who donate land (or charge no more than 25% of the land’s value) to a charter school, to be able choose the neighborhoods they want to attend the school. During the work session, the second part of the bill was stricken totally from the bill leaving only the part that allows military children to have first right of refusal should a charter school be built on their base.
* **SB20**5 – This is a bill that aligns all school district emergency plans with recommendations made by the Nevada Department of Education. This bill will require no additional costs to the school district and will help identify best practices on how to deal with emergencies on school grounds.

**Coming Up:**

To keep current about hearings that are scheduled (and sometimes rescheduled) during the session, it’s important to utilize the “Calendar of Meetings” link on the Nevada Legislature website ([www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us)). There you will find the most accurate list of committee meeting dates and times as well as the bills scheduled to be heard.

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| Bill# | Description | Next Meeting Title | Next Meeting Date |
| SB159 | Revises provisions relating to insurance. (BDR 57-829) | Senate Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy -- Work Session Item | 3/16/2015 8:30 AM |
| AB179 | Revises provisions governing personal information. (BDR 52-756) | Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor | 3/16/2015 1:00 PM |
| SB58 | Revises provisions governing the release of information relating to children within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court and children in protective custody. (BDR 5-490) | Senate Committee on Judiciary | 3/16/2015 1:00 PM |
| SB157 | Enacts the State and Local Government Cooperation Act. (BDR 22-706) | Senate Committee on Government Affairs | 3/16/2015 1:30 PM |
| AB111 | Revises provisions relating to the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship. (BDR 34-258) | Assembly Committee on Education -- Work Session Item | 3/16/2015 3:15 PM |
| AB121 | Revises provisions governing the discipline of pupils. (BDR 34-173) | Assembly Committee on Education -- Work Session Item | 3/16/2015 3:15 PM |
| AB218 | Revises provisions relating to emergencies in schools. (BDR 34-666) | Assembly Committee on Education | 3/16/2015 3:15 PM |
| AB234 | Enacts provisions related to multicultural education. (BDR 34-102) | Assembly Committee on Education | 3/16/2015 3:15 PM |
| AB56 | Revises provisions regarding the equalization of assessments of property for purposes of taxation. (BDR 32-304) | Assembly Committee on Taxation | 3/17/2015 1:30 PM |
| SB220 | Requires instruction on financial literacy in public middle schools and junior high schools. (BDR 34-654) | Senate Committee on Education | 3/17/2015 3:30 PM |
| SB219 | Revises provisions relating to policies of health insurance. (BDR 57-688) | Senate Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy | 3/18/2015 8:30 AM |
| AJR6 | Proposes to amend the Nevada Constitution to allow the Legislature to authorize a lottery for support of the public education of children and the health and welfare of senior citizens. (BDR C-1000) | Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections | 3/19/2015 4:00 PM |

**Attachments**

This update references the following materials which are attached to the email:

* *CCSD Legislation Status Report 03-13-15*

**Want to Learn More?**

A couple of readers have asked what the difference is between a hearing and a work session. In case you didn’t know:

***Hearing***

Once a Committee schedules a bill, it will receive a hearing. The hearing is meant to be the public’s opportunity to hear the purpose of the bill, why it’s needed, and to put on the record who supports or opposes it. Legislators can call up witnesses for additional information and may question any person who comes to “the table” to testify. After the debate, very rarely does a bill get voted on immediately. Usually only bills that are simple in nature and are non-controversial will receive an immediate vote. The majority of others bills will have their hearing closed, and will be readied for a future meeting, otherwise known as a work session.

***Work Session***

A work session is a specific time during a Committee meeting where the Chairperson will bring back bills which were previously heard to amend, ask additional questions, and then, in most cases, vote on. Work session are open to the public to watch, however, they may not participate in the debate unless asked to by a member of the Committee. Results of a work session may vary. Bills can be voted up or down, the former sending them to the Senate or Assembly floor for full consideration. The Committee may recommend that additional work needs to be done and will schedule another work session to hammer out those details. The Committee may also recommend the bill to another Committee if they feel issues in the bill are necessary for additional input. Bills that don’t receive approval from the committee do not continue in the legislative process.

This two-step process allows for considerable deliberation both from the public and those who will eventually vote on the bill. It’s an opportunity for lobbyists and special interests to work with legislators on amendments to make the bill better (or worse!). Work sessions are clearly noted on agendas once they are scheduled.

Several bills did come on up work session this week. The highlights include:

Assembly Education

* AB112 -- The bill clarifies that the safe and respectful learning environment laws also includes school administrators, teachers, and support staff. The bill was amended during work session to clarify that teachers and administrators are included in the meaning of a safe and respectful learning environment as well as that school districts provide opportunities for adults to report bullying that may have occurred from fellow colleagues.
* AB117 -- This bill allows schools district to lease their school buses to the general public. The bill is completely permissive and does not require a Board of Trustees to participate in this program. CCSD offered an amendment that would require the lessee to cover-up or block out any wording that the bus is owned by a school district. Additionally, the amendment clarified that the lessee is completely liable for any damage, maintenance, and cleaning once returned. Finally, the amendment allows for the school district to recoup costs of mileage, administration costs, additional rental fees, or any other expenses related to the leasing of the bus or vehicle. The Committee accepted CCSD’s amendment unanimously.