



SESSION SPOTLIGHT

February 15, 2019

As week two of the 80th Nevada Legislative Session comes to a close, legislators, new and returning alike, have started to settle into a groove. What was mostly a first week of ceremonies and agency presentations has now given way to dozens of bill testimonies, budget hearings, and even floor votes taken by the full legislative body.

This Week in Education Bills

On Monday in the Senate Committee on Education meeting, the Nevada Department of Education introduced **SB41**. This bill requires all para-professionals to become licensed through the state, allows the Department to investigate District employees, and allows the Commission on Professional Standards the ability to publicly reprimand District employees in certain situations. CCSD opposed this bill and looks forward to working with the Department in the amendment process.

On Wednesday, the Senate Committee on Education heard two additional bills. The first one, **SB91**, creates the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education. Inspired by the National Conference of State Legislatures' (NCSL) "[No Time to Lose](#)" report presented beforehand, the commission would conduct a study comparing Nevada's education system to high performing education systems both domestically and internationally.

While the bill states that the commission would be required to only meet once a year, the bill sponsor, Senator Joyce Woodhouse, envisions that the chair would call meetings as needed. The Nevada Association of School Superintendents, on behalf of all the schools districts in Nevada, including CCSD, testified in support of the bill and will work with Senator Woodhouse on the amendment process regarding commission membership.

The second bill the committee heard, **SB126**, removes the requirement first created by SB241 in the 2015 session for school-based administrators to re-apply to the superintendent for reappointment every five years regardless of their disciplinary status. CCSD will continue to monitor the conversation around this bill as accountability remains a top priority. We have yet to see the impact of this law as it has not yet been fully implemented.

English Language Learner (ELL) Presentation

At Thursday's Assembly Committee on Education meeting, Ignacio Ruiz, Associate Superintendent of the English Language Learner Division, presented the [District's Master Plan for English Language Learner Success](#).

The committee enjoyed hearing testimony from Global Community High School Principal Elena Fabunan, teacher Erika Merlos, and student Mariana Colin Carreño on their perspectives on the challenges ELL students face and why additional support in the form of structured programs help overcome those challenges. The committee members commended Mariana for her bravery in speaking about her journey to America and learning a new language while also striving for a well-rounded education.

Nevada's Majority Female Legislature (With a CCSD Twist)

You might have heard that Nevada became the first state in the country to have a [female majority legislature](#). But what you might not have heard is that of the 32 females in the 63-member body, two are current CCSD teachers in Assemblywoman Brittney Miller of District 5 and Assemblywoman Selena Torres of District 3, and two more are former CCSD teachers in Senator Joyce Woodhouse of District 5 and Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop of District 8.

Want to Learn More?

For a full list of bills we are tracking, click [here](#).

[Current Scheduled Meetings for the Week of February 18, 2019.](#)

The "[Calendar of Meetings](#)" on the Nevada Legislature Web site is always up to date.

Also, [The Guide to the Nevada Legislature](#) for 2019-2020 is a handy guide that provides the layout to the legislative building, contact information for the Senate and Assembly, and a whole lot more!

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