



SESSION SPOTLIGHT

April 5, 2019

We have officially reached the halfway point of the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session, and we saw many bill presentations this week as the first deadline is a week away. Many bills tied to education issues with huge effects on CCSD students and educators were heard in committee, including a presentation on one of CCSD's bill draft requests.

Ending Fund Balance

Tuesday night in the Senate Committee on Government Affairs, CCSD's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Jason Goudie presented **SB26**, CCSD's Ending Fund Balance bill. **SB26** takes the ending fund balance of 8.3 percent as found in the Nevada Administrative Code and puts it into the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS). This allows school districts to build up a reserve so they can preserve their bond rating and maintain operating costs in emergency situations.

Due to budget cuts and other concerns, CCSD has sustained with as little as one day of operating expenses in our Ending Fund Balance, which represents our only savings.

Many members of the community testified in support of **SB26** such as the Nevada Association of School Superintendents, the Washoe County School District, the Nevada Association of School Boards, the Nevada Policy Research Institute, the Council for a Better Nevada, HOPE for Nevada, the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce, the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance, the Latin Chamber of Commerce, and the Retail Association of Nevada, among others.

Student Learning Goals (SLGs) in Teacher Evaluations

On Wednesday, in the Senate Committee on Education, Senator Dallas Harris presented **SB475**. The bill reduces the weight of SLGs in teacher evaluation from 40 to 20 percent in the first year, and 15 percent thereafter. The bill also provides for some consistency in how and when evaluations are done for all licensed personnel, such as librarians and counselors. CCSD testified in support, including Dr. Holli Ratliff, Principal of Josh Stevens Elementary School.

Reorganization Amendments

Friday, in the Senate Committee on Education, CCSD's CFO Jason Goudie and Kellie Ballard, Director at the Office of the Deputy Superintendent, presented **SB469**, which makes amendments to the CCSD reorganization. **SB469** gives the superintendent the decision on how many schools each School Associate Superintendent oversees. The bill also states that the dollars the school district is legally required to spend per NRS 338G.610 are considered restricted dollars.

Continuing Funding for Zoom/Victory Programs

Monday, in the Senate Committee on Education, **SB467** was presented to continue funding for both Zoom and Victory programs through the 2019-2021 biennium. Many from CCSD showed their support for continued funding. School Associate Superintendent Lorna James-Cervantes and Principals Barry Bosacker, Sarah Popek, and Warren McKay testified to the benefits they have seen from the Zoom funding for their English Language Learner (ELL) students. Chief Instructional Services Officer Dr. Brenda Larsen-Mitchell and students Valerie Vargas, Yahira Reyes Herrera, and Giovanni Antonio Cervoni from Valley High School all spoke about the positive benefits from the resources provided by Victory funds.

Background Checks for Volunteers - Work Session

SB185, which updates requirements related to volunteer background checks, was passed last Wednesday in the Senate Committee on Education work session. The bill now includes a conceptual amendment that only “unsupervised” volunteers must be fingerprinted. The amendment defines “unsupervised contact” to include direct contact or interaction with a pupil who is not under direct supervision of someone else who has been fingerprinted. The amendment also defines direct supervision by someone who has been fingerprinted. CCSD has worked with Senator Heidi Gansert to include this amendment for clarification.

The bill will now go the Senate floor and await a vote from all senators.

As always, you can find the full list of bills we are tracking [here](#).

[Current Scheduled Meetings for the Week of April 8, 2019.](#)

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

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