**Legislative Update**

**CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**February 20, 2015**

If you've read a tweet, a newspaper, a Facebook post, or any other news media recently, you know that the 78th Session of the Nevada State Legislature is both busy and partisan. Sounds typical? Not exactly. Consider these snippets regarding the first 3 weeks of the session:

* 11 bills have been passed out of the house of origin.
* 2 bills have already been passed by both the Assembly and the Senate and are on their way to the Governor for signature.
* 2 heated floor debates have already been heard on major issues:
* SB119, the bill that would provide school districts with a bond rollover for school construction, but paired with prevailing wage (which makes it unpalatable for Democrats).
* AB125 which makes changes to existing laws on construction defects. This bill was passed by the Assembly on Tuesday and then passed in the Senate Friday!

If they can get all of this done in the first 18 days, imagine what can happen in the 102 days that are left in the 78th Nevada Legislature!

**UPDATE ON SB119:**

We’ve received many inquiries related to the status of Senate Bill 119. After Senate passage, the bill was sent to the Assembly and has been referred to the Senate Government Affairs Committee. As of this writing, a hearing has not yet been scheduled for the bill on the Assembly side. The highly controversial prevailing wage language included in the bill has resulted in a lot of speculation about the future of the bill. It is rumored that amendments will be attached on the Assembly side – from requiring approval of the local county commission to removing the school construction language, leaving only the prevailing wage language.

Attached to this email, please find an infographic document we have prepared that summarizes CCSD’s need for new schools (see “CCSD Construction Facts).

***If you have strong feelings about this bill, now is the time for you to contact your legislator.*** Please see the “Want to Learn More?” section at the end of this update for information about how to let your opinion be known.

**Highlights from Week 3:**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

Assembly Government Affairs

* **AB 3**: Assemblyman Kirner's bill to change the makeup of the PERS board was heard. The purpose of AB3 is to add three individuals with actuarial expertise and remove one public employee so the Board would consist of nine total members. The bill was supported by a few but opposed by many, primarily because they believe the current makeup of the board is very effective
* **AB54**: This bill revises how local governments can deal with fiscal emergencies. The lengthy hearing on AB 3 took up most of the Committee’s time, so the hearing on this bill was delayed. This bill is important, however, as it clarifies that school districts can declare for fiscal emergency and the bill allows options of relief should CCSD experience a severe financial hardship.

Assembly Committee on Education

* **AB26** revises provisions governing surveys to require parent permission unless the questionnaire is anonymous. This bill was presented by the Department of Behavioral Health to facilitate the Youth Risk Behavior Survey required by the CDC.
* **AB107** adds different reporting categories to the annual accountability reports to provide additional information on achievement gaps. The bill received support from many of the educational institutions and organizations but was opposed by some parent watch groups.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

Assembly Government Affairs

* School safety is always a huge priority which is why CCSD was interested in **AB58** which requires additional certification for peace officers. Though this bill does not directly affect the peace officers that serve in schools, we continue to monitor the training and specifications that are required in order for our officers to continue to serve and protect our schools and local neighborhoods.
* **SB 133**, sponsored by Senators Roberson, Harris, Brower, Farley and Lipparelli, proposes to fund out-of-pocket classroom expenses up to $100 per teacher. The bill received widespread support but will be amended to accommodate the different accounting procedures of the school districts to ensure efficient distribution of the funds.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

Assembly Committee on Education

* The Committee held their first work session and passed two bills**, AB27** which allows non-citizens with work permits to obtain a teaching license when a teacher shortage exists and **AB107**, from Monday's hearings, on accountability reports.
* **AB117:** This bill allows schools district to lease their school buses to the general public. The bill is completely permissive and does not mandate that districts participate in this program. Should the School District wish to lease out their buses, the lessee must cover-up or block out any wording that identifies the school district and the bus operator must be fully licensed. Additionally, the lessee is completely liable for any damage, maintenance, and cleaning the bus at the time of return. No school bus may be leased during school time and all school activities take priority. Moreover, a school district may recoup costs of mileage, administration costs, additional rental fees, or any other expenses related to the leasing of the bus or vehicle
* **AB165**: This “school choice” bill is a centerpiece of Governor Sandoval’s education package for the session. The bill would allow businesses to make donations to a scholarship fund in exchange for tax credits. The scholarship fund would provide funding for tuition at a private school for selected students.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and Senate Committee on Finance, Subcommittees on K-12/Higher Education

* Appearing before the Joint K-12 Subcommittee, Nevada’s Superintendent of Instruction Dale Erquiaga provided an overview of the Distributive School Account (DSA). Unlike most budget presentations that simply focus on budget line items and dollars, Superintendent Erquiaga spent considerable time setting the stage – putting in perspective the needs of Nevada’s students and identifying the programs the Governor has announced that are designed to improve student outcomes. The Committee ran out of time, and the final portion of the presentation will be given at a hearing on Friday, February 27th at 8:00 a.m.

The presentation (see “DSA”) has been attached to this email for your convenience.

Senate Committee on Education

* **SB126:** This bill requires the State Board of Education to prescribe the quality and evaluation measures school districts shall use for their early childhood education programs and prekindergarten programs. SB126 will expand upon the early childhood education programs currently being run within the school district. Specifically the bill will ramp up CCSD's effort to identify students who may be deficient in English language skills so they may be better prepared when entering kindergarten.
* **SB132** regarding training for instructional assistants in special education classrooms. SB132 is sponsored by Senator Kieckhefer and requires the State Board of Education to adopt regulations requiring that all paraprofessionals in special education classrooms receive training. The bill includes a $2M appropriation for professional development. The bill was supported by school districts and education organizations as they agreed that instructional assistants ought to be trained in working with special needs students.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

Assembly Government Affairs

* **AB90** was passed by the Committee, which will help state and local agencies coordinate emergency services should a disaster strike. For the first time in Nevada history the entire state will be able to work together and help not only neighboring counties, but neighboring states, in times of emergency. CCSD worked with the sponsors of the bill to ensure there will be no additional burdens or costs placed on its employees in order to be a part of the new system. Working in conjunction with emergency personnel across the state, the school district will be better prepared should an emergency strike.

**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.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015**

[SB100](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1363/Overview)      8:00 AM  [Senate Finance](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/48/Overview)

[AB109](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1386/Overview)      1:30 PM   [Assembly Commerce and Labor](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/47/Overview)

[AB120](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1434/Overview) 3:15 PM   [Assembly Education](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/50/Overview)

[AB121](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1435/Overview)      3:15 PM   [Assembly Education](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/50/Overview)

[SJR2](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1171/Overview)       3:30 PM  [Senate Legislative Operations and Elections](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/59/Overview)

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2015**

[SB144](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1497/Overview) 8:30 AM   Senate Transportation

[SB152](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1506/Overview)     8:30 AM   Senate Transportation

[SB75](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1257/Overview) (WS) 3:30 PM   [Senate Education](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/66/Overview)

[SB101](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1364/Overview) (WS) 3:30 PM   [Senate Education](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/66/Overview)

[SB178](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1563/Overview)      3:30 PM   [Senate Education](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/66/Overview)

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

[1080](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Budget/1105/Overview)      8:00 AM    [Finance](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/48/Overview)

[AB64](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1287/Overview)      8:30 AM   [Assembly Government Affairs](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/62/Overview)

[SB70](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1250/Overview)      1:30 PM [Senate Government Affairs](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/65/Overview)

[AB89](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1319/Overview) (WS) 1:30 PM  [Assembly Commerce & Labor](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/47/Overview)

[AB93](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1326/Overview) (WS) 1:30 PM  [Assembly Commerce & Labor](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/47/Overview)

[AB115](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1432/Overview) (WS)      1:30 PM  [Assembly Commerce & Labor](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/47/Overview)

[AB112](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1417/Overview) 3:15 PM [Assembly Education](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/50/Overview)

[AB150](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1482/Overview) 3:15 PM  [Assembly Education](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/50/Overview)

[AB166](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1515/Overview)      3:15 PM  [Assembly Education](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/50/Overview)

[SB5](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1142/Overview) (WS)       3:30 PM   [Senate Legislative Operations and Elections](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/59/Overview)

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015**

[AB54](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1276/Overview)        8:30 AM   [Assembly Government Affairs](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/62/Overview)

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2015**

[AB106](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1382/Overview)      8:30 AM   [Assembly Government Affairs](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/62/Overview)

Budget Hearing   8:00 AM  [Assembly Committee on Ways and Means and Senate Committee on Finance, Subcommittees on K-12/Higher Education/CIPS](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/61/Overview)

[SB120](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1421/Overview)   1:00 PM   [Senate Government Affairs](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/65/Overview)

[SB158](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1521/Overview)   1:00 PM   [Senate Government Affairs](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/65/Overview)

[SB168](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1532/Overview)      1:00 PM   [Senate Government Affairs](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/65/Overview)

SB141 1:00 PM   [Senate Judiciary](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/55/Overview)

[SB176](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1549/Overview)      1:00 PM   [Senate Judiciary](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/55/Overview)

**MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2015**

[SJR1](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1170/Overview)      3:30 PM   [Senate Legislative Operations and Elections](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Committee/59/Overview)

**Attachments**

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

* “CCSD Construction Facts”
* “DSA” – the presentation used at the K-12 Subcommittee Budget Hearing on Thursday, February 19.

**Want to Learn More?**

In case you didn’t know:

Many ways exist for constituents to voice their opinions on legislation. You are encouraged to speak up about issues and bills that are important to you. Here are a few ways you can let legislators know how you feel:

1. Send an email or hard copy mail. Go to <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Legislator/A/Senate/> and <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Legislator/A/Assembly/> to get contact information for legislators. Email addresses, office addresses, phone numbers (sometimes even personal cell phone numbers!) are listed.
2. If you don’t know who your legislators are, visit <http://mapserve1.leg.state.nv.us/whoRU/>. Type in your address and you’ll get a list of which senate, assembly, congressional and board of regents district you’re in, as well as a link to the elected officials in those offices.
3. Use the “share your opinion” option on the Nevada Legislature website: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Opinions/78th2015/A/>. On this website you can identify the bill number, indicate whether you are for or against it, and type in comments.

A few suggestions to ensure your messages are impactful:

* Identify yourself by name and include your address. Most legislators make it a priority to correspond with individuals who live in their district, so make sure you include your contact information so they can verify that you are a constituent.
* Be brief! Legislators get a lot of input and they appreciate short, specific messages.
* Be respectful as you communicate, even if you have a difference of opinion .