



# The Capitol Reporter

MARCH 19, 2009

Volume 1 | Issue 11

2009  
LEGISLATURE

[www.nsea-nv.org](http://www.nsea-nv.org)

Important Dates:

3.25.09 – DSA Hearing

*The Capitol Reporter*  
is published by  
NSEA  
3511 E. Harmon Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV 89121

[To unsubscribe click here](#)

## Things Pick Up in Carson City

### Senator Horsford Unveils SB 330: The Initiative for a World-Class Education

Senate Bill 330 (SB 330) was introduced in Carson City by Senator Steven Horsford, Wednesday, March 18. SB 330, as defined by Sen. Horsford is a bill that provides “an opportunity to have a debate about the state of our education and how to implement sensible solutions that improve student achievement. It is a proposal that allows us to take bold action based on the concern of parents, teachers, and the business leaders among others who are concerned about the state of education in Nevada. It is a policy discussion on education.”

NSEA is taking part in the open conversation as well as part of the group working together to ensure all Nevada students have a world-class education.

The bill seeks to find a financial solution that would increase per-pupil spending from close to 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation to a much more acceptable ranking. The bill, as presented, will be re-worked and amended to ensure the final product is acceptable for our members.

To view the bill go to [www.nsea-nv.org/LAC.htm](http://www.nsea-nv.org/LAC.htm).

∞∞∞∞∞

### Schools Budget to be Heard Again on Wednesday

*Please send your stories in today!*

The Distributive Schools Account—DSA—will be heard again on Wednesday, March 25. The proposed budget cuts will be discussed once again. If you haven't already done so, please contact your lawmakers today. If you have, please encourage your friends and family to contact them today. It is imperative that lawmakers hear how the proposed budget cuts would hurt you at work and at home. Your friends and family members can also share their stories on how the proposed cuts would hurt their community.

Please visit [www.nsea-nv.org](http://www.nsea-nv.org) and click on the Say NO to Education Cuts graphic. Together we can ensure our voices are heard and that the education budget is spared of the cuts the governor has proposed. Contact your legislators today!

∞∞∞∞∞

(continues)

## ***Clark County Teacher Makes Case for Saying NO to Budget Cuts***

Schools Budget Heard in Carson City, Las Vegas

“Budget cuts to the school district would be detrimental in so many ways!” That was a statement made by Clark County Teacher Kerri Soper as she kicked off her testimony before the joint K-12 Subcommittee of the Nevada Legislature Tuesday morning. The subcommittee, comprised of assemblypersons and senators, heard the Distributive Schools Account (DSA)—the schools budget—which includes millions of dollars in cuts.

“At my school, cuts would most certainly impact direct teacher instruction as class sizes would grow from 20 to even more in grades 1 through 3 and from 35 to more in grades 4 through 5; children would receive less and less individualized instruction. One of the keys to a quality education is the teacher’s ability to differentiate school instruction based on a child’s need,” testified Soper. “Larger class sizes reduce that ability as well as create more opportunities for students to fall through the cracks. This affects the middle schools and high schools even more profoundly because in addition to the large class sizes, they are dealing with not enough desks for every student or books for them to utilize in class and at home.”

Soper continued her testimony with the impact of cuts to the students and the classrooms, as well as the impact the cuts would have on her personally.

“On a personal level, the proposed budget cuts would be crippling. As a young, single woman I already struggle to make ends meet. It doesn’t help me when I see and hear people making much more than I do in a job that requires limited skills, no college degree, and no mandatory continuing education for salary advancement,” added Soper a member of NSEA since 2007. “I strongly believe the proposed budget cuts would require some teachers to leave the district, and for some to leave teaching altogether.”

Please support Soper’s testimony by sending the subcommittee members your own testimony. Tell them how the proposed budget cuts would hurt your students, the classroom, your worksites, and your life personally. Log on to [www.nsea-nv.org](http://www.nsea-nv.org) and click on the Say NO to Education Cuts graphic. Your voice will be heard!