COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 2010

Nevada Department of Education
State Board Room
700 East Fifth Street
Carson City, NV

Humboldt County School District
Administration Board Room
310 E. 4th Street
Winnemucca, NV

Clark County School District
Curriculum & Professional Development Center
3950 S. Pecos McLeod
Las Vegas, NV

White Pine County School District
1135 Avenue C
Ely, NV

Elko County School District
1092 Burns Road
Elko, NV

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carson City:

- Dori Jensen
- Arnie Maurins
- Bill Slentz
- Ji Wang
- Dr. Keith Rheault

Las Vegas:

- Jhone Ebert, Chairperson
- David Flatt
- Dr. Essington Wade
- Senator Mike Schneider (arrived at 11:45 am)

Winnemucca:

- Dr. John Newman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- Assemblyman Mo Denis
- Dan Stockwell

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Carson City:

- Dr. Kim Vidoni, (NDE)
- Carol Crothers, (NDE)
- Christy Borino, (NDE)
- Tedie Lee, (NDE)
- Mindy Martini (Legislative Counsel Bureau)
- Janice Towns (Carson City School District)
- Alan Medeiros (Lyon County School District)
- Jerry Atkins (Storey County School District)
- Joe Elcano (Washoe County School District)
- Pat Miller (KNPB)

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Elko:
Susan Neal
Ely:
Mark Bechtel (White Pine County School District
Jennifer Farnworth (White Pine County School District)
Catalina Labra (White Pine County School District)
Las Vegas:
Loretta Asay (Clark County School District)
Pamela Jones-Jernigan (Clark County School District)
Brian Saffle (Clark County School District)
Jan Biggerstaff (State Board of Education)
Lee Solonche (Vegas PBS)
Lisa Evans (Wexford Institute)
Winnemucca:
Kelly Novi (Humboldt County School District)
Jeanne Moline (Humboldt County School District)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call –Chairperson Ebert called the meeting to order at 10:32 am. Roll call was read. The Commission on Educational Technology has a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Jensen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of the previous meeting minutes (August 7, 2009 and November 16, 2009). Motion to approve by David Flatt, second by Essington Wade. Motion carried.

4. Update on the Evaluation of the State Ed Tech Grants.

Dr. Kim Vidoni, NDE, introduced Lisa Evans of the Wexford Institute. Ms. Evans stated she and a number of her colleagues will be working on the evaluation. They have made contact in every district. The Web-based portal is being developed as a resource to aggregate data across all the districts. The intention during April is to schedule site visits in locations that are undertaking multiple first-year projects. The interim report is to be prepared in May.

The data will be reported in aggregate so the Commission can see the outcome of the overall project.

5. Status Report on the 2010 Nevada Educational Technology Needs Assessment

Jacque Ewing-Taylor stated the process has started and the surveys are available on Survey Monkey. Dr. Ewing-Taylor also stated she is increasing the number of teachers involved to 1,200 in an effort to improve the data. Her team is working on the best way to access parents; this will be a county-by-county process.

Dr. Rheault asked how similar would this report be to the prior needs assessment process. Dr. Ewing-Taylor replied it is the same format.

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6. Status Report on Pathway to Nevada's Future Project (ARRA EETT)

Loretta Asay, Clark County School District, reported all districts are participating with the exception of Esmeralda. Esmeralda is expected to join the project in the second year. This project needs to keep teacher attitude and behavior in focus. UNLV is offering graduate-level credits to teachers who enroll.

Joe Elcano, Washoe County School District, added that the program also works with administrators and quite a few have signed up. Every county is different so working together is very important. Finding a middle balance-point in the professional development is the real challenge.

7. Update on the January 21, 2010 meeting on the ACR 2 Study of Governance Subcommittee

Chair Ebert stated that a number of commissions are being looked at by legislature. On January 21st Chair Ebert reported and gave a presentation to the Subcommittee.

Mindy Martini of the Legislative Council Bureau gave a summary of the study for the Governance Subcommittee. There were 40 respondents for EdTech. Ms. Martini stated she believes that the legislature understands the surveys are meant to only give ideas.

Chair Ebert stated that some of the statements in the survey show that incorrect or incomplete information is being used or referenced by the respondents. The Commission needs to communicate better to their constituents in the future, especially in funding matters.

There will be a second meeting on March 11th. May 13th will be the final work session for the Governance Subcommittee. Subcommittee Chair Parnell would like to have the morning portion of the meeting open for additional comments from the public.

8. Information on the Annual Update on Educational Technology Plan

Dr. Vidoni advised that a meeting to update the Tech Plan is scheduled for February 11th, via Centra. Dr. Vidoni stated that participants were asked to complete a survey in preparation for the meeting. Survey results will be presented together with a report/agenda to bring to the Commission. Dr. Vidoni stated that this is an update to the Plan and there would likely be minor adjustments made.

9. Update on Nevada Educational Technology Survey

Dr. Vidoni reported that the Educational Technology Survey is an annual survey that collects data on district and school technology. The results are used for Federal reporting and budget updating as well as Ms. Ewing-Taylor's needs assessment work. The district and school surveys are on-line and copies are included in the meeting packet for review. Dr. Vidoni stated she intends to have the results available for the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Jensen asked what proportion of schools completed the survey. Dr. Vidoni replied that every school is surveyed and there is a very high response rate since they know that this survey is also used for the Nevada Report Card, our on-line accountability report.

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10. Status Report on State Ed Tech Fund Grants

Dr. Vidoni reported that all of the districts have complied with the conditions of the grant awards and are actively working on their projects.

Dr. Rheault advised that in the budget cut proposals, one-shot funding projects, like Ed Tech, were not included. It would be left to the districts to decide if the Tech Funds that have been allocated would be cut.

11. Set Date of Next Meeting and Discuss Future Agenda Topics

The next meeting of the Commission on Educational Technology was scheduled for Monday, May 3, 2010 at 10:30 am, with videoconferencing to the same locations.

12. Comments from Commissioners

Dr. Rheault recommended that one or two Commissioners join Chair Ebert at the next ACR2 meeting where future bill drafts are discussed.

13. Public Comments

None

14. Adjournment

Commissioner Wade moved to adjourn, Commissioner Schneider second, motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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Dr. Keith Rheault
Superintendent of Public Instruction

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Jhone Ebert, Chairperson
Commission on Educational Technology

Transcribed by:

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Tedie Lee

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