COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

MEETING MINUTES- JUNE 21, 2011

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:

- Commissioner Bill Slentz
- Dr. Keith Rheault, Ex Offico
- Commissioner Arnie Maurins
- Commissioner John Newman

Las Vegas:

- Chairperson Jhone Ebert
- Commissioner David Flatt
- Senator Mo Denis (arrived 10:05 am)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- Commissioner Essington Wade
- Commissioner Ji Wang
- Commissioner Dan Stockwell
- Senator Mike Schneider

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Carson City:

- Dr. Kim Vidoni, (NDE)
- Christy Borino, (NDE)
- Melissa Swann, (NDE)
- Amanda Pinter (NDE)
- Jerry Atkins (Storey County School District)
- Ed Grassia (Washoe County School District)

Misha Miller (Washoe County School District)
Lynette Bower (Lyon County School District)
Jodi Budd (Lyon County School District)
Alison Cadwell (Lyon County School District)
Taylor & Amanda Fairfield (Lyon County School District)
Ashley & Wade Meadows (Lyon County School District)
Alan Medeiros (Lyon County School District)
Shawn Pennell (UNR)
Sue Chambers (Churchill County School District)
Janice Towns (Carson City School District)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – Chairperson Ebert called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Roll call was read and the attendees present are as recorded above.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – Did not recite.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes, January 24, 2011 and May 2, 2011
Chairperson Ebert asked for the approval of the two previous meeting minutes. Senator Denis asked to amend the May 2, 2011 minutes noting his absence, so amended.

Motion to approve by Senator Denis, second by Commissioner Flatt, Motion Carried.

4. Presentation from Lyon County SD on impact of Pathway to Nevada's Future Project, Alan Medeiros, Lynette Bowen, Alison Cadwell, teachers, and Amanda Fairfield, student.
This program placed laptop computers and iPad Touches into 120 classrooms throughout the district and provided on-line professional development for the involved teachers. The students had no fear of using technology so they picked up using the iPad Touch and laptops quite readily and helped each other in the learning process. On-line professional development provided teachers with support and training to use these tools. The Professional Development process was very grueling, 80 to 90 hours of training or lesson creation in each module, but they believed it was worth it in the end. The project was well received by teachers and students.

5. Presentation of McAfee Security Solutions, Steve Tehejeyan, McAfee, Inc. Mr. Tehejeyan advised the Commission that threat factors have multiplied over the year. McAfee has enabled a consistent level of infrastructure security. McAfee has taken the responsibility for security away from the schools into a central office for more efficient, effective security and visibility of what is happening. Chair Ebert added that security is so important because people who are trying to gain student and staff data are doing it for financial gain. A discussion ensued over the feasibility of statewide pricing for licenses.

6. Discussion and possible approval of State Educational Technology Award, Chair Ebert and Kimberly Vidoni, NDE. Item #6 was carried forward from our previous meeting which did not have a quorum. This was recommended by Churchill County Superintendent Dr. Carolyn Ross and the group was led by Dr. Vidoni, together with people from across the state, to develop the technology application and award. Dr. Vidoni asked if the Commission would like to make the selection during a public meeting or a small group. Commissioner Slentz suggested a small group make three nominations from the applications received and invite the nominees to the Commission public meeting when the selection would be made. Dr. Rheault agreed with that suggested process.

Motion to accept the criteria and selection process for the Award of Excellence for the Digital Age Classroom by Commissioner Slentz, second by Commissioner Flatt, motion carried.

7. Discussion and possible action on bills and Department budgets from 2011 Legislative Session that affect the Commission, Dr. Keith Rheault, NDE and Chair Ebert. Dr. Rheault stated that ACR2, which was SB 197, was amended to delete the sections that abolished Councils and Commissions resulting in no changes to the responsibilities or duties of the Commission on Educational Technology. Responsibility for ensuring the Councils and Commissions fulfill their duties now belongs to the Superintendent of Public Education. A revised State Board will take effect January 8, 2013 and they will be responsible for nominating 3 individuals for the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Governor will make the appointment. Commission expenditures for the biennium had a slight reduction, approximately $700 per year. Dr. Rheault advised he is available to contact the Legislative staff to inquire about the $10,000 funding from the Legislative Committee on Education that was used in conducting the even-numbered year assessment to see if the funding is again available. The funding for the Tech Grants is in AB 579, the K-12 Public Education Funding Bill. Specifically listed in the bill is $1,912,241 for each year for Educational Technology. Library Database funding was removed from the Department of Education and is being funded directly to the State Library.

Motion by Commissioner Slentz to authorize Dr. Rheault to contact Legislature to determine if funding is available to assist the State Technical Assessment in the coming Biennium. Second by Senator Denis, motion carried.

Educational Technology funding for grants to districts were included in the state budget. A discussion ensued on the RFA for these funds. Chair Ebert suggested the fund be allocated only to projects that support Common Core Standards, Growth Model, and the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium. Dr. Vidoni stated there had been some discussion regarding simplifying the application which should in turn simplify the process. Dr. Rheault stated that in the past there had been one two-year application and Dr. Vidoni confirmed this would be the case this time as well.

Motion by Chair Ebert to form a Subcommittee with the Department of Education to streamline the application and include a focus on Common Core and the Growth Model as part of the consideration. The Subcommittee would send the revised application to the Commission Members for comment and before release, then send the approved application to the School Districts. Second by Commissioner Flatt, motion carried.
Motion that members of the Subcommittee to be composed of: Chair Jhone Ebert, Commissioner Arnie Maurins, Commissioner Bill Slentz, Commissioner John Newman, Sue Chambers as Grant Writer and the representative for a rural school district and Ed Grassia representing a large school district, led by Dr. Vidoni, voting members to only be Commission Members. Motion carried.

8. Comments from Commissioners. Senator Denis noted he is now a Senator so his position needs reappointing and Senator Schneider has been termed out. Dr. Rheault noted there are other vacancies on the Commission that will need to be filled.

9. Public Comments. Dr. Vidoni advised the Pathways project is ending this month. She thanked everyone that participated in the project.

10. Set date of next meeting. Hold off setting date.

11. Adjournment. Commissioner Denis moved to adjourn, Commissioner Flatt second, motion carried.

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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