**MEETING OF**
**THE COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY**
**MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 13, 2012**

Nevada Department of Education - Satellite
755 N. Roop Street, Room 201
Carson City, NV 89701

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

Elko County School District
Administration Building
850 Elm Street
Elko, NV

Humboldt County School District
Administration
2135 Avenue C
Winnemucca, NV

White Pine County School District
Administration Board Room
310 E. 4th Street
Ely, NV

1. **Call to Order**: The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM.

**ROLL-CALL –**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Carson City**

Amy Henderson, Commission Member
Arnie Maurins, Commission Member
Ji Wang, Commission Member
David White, Commission Member
David Gustafson, DoIT, Ex-Officio
Keith Rheault, NDE, Ex-Officio

**Las Vegas**

Jhone Ebert, Chairperson
Mike Amie, Commission Member
Senator Mo Denis, Commission Member

**Ely**

Irene Chachas, Commission Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Assemblyman James Ohrenschall

**The Commission has a quorum.**

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Carson City**

Joe Elcano, KNPB
Lisa Evans, Wexford
Jacque Ewing-Taylor, UNR
Terra Graves, Washoe County School District
Alan Medeiros, Lyon County School District
Bill Slentz, Oasis On-Line
Dan Slentz, Oasis On-Line
Kim Vidoni, NDE
Christy Borino, NDE
Tedie Lee, NDE

**Elko**

Susan Neal, Elko County School District
Duane Barton, Elko County School District

**Ely**

Mark Bechtel, White Pine County School District

**Las Vegas**

Loretta Asay, Clark County School District
Craig Cuddihy, Vegas PBS
Kendall Hartley, UNLV
Sharon Hegman, Clark County School District
Kim Loomis, TISS/Virtual High School
Brian Saffle, Clark County School District
Lee Solonche, Vegas PBS

**Winnemucca**

Jeanne Moline, Humboldt County School District

2. **The Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Chairperson Jhone Ebert

3. **Dr. David White** was introduced and welcomed as a new Commission Member, representing Higher Education.

***Chairperson Ebert asked to move Item 8 out of order to after Item 5 at presenters' request. No objections were noted.***

4. **Approval of the November 2-3, 2011 Minutes**
Motion to Approve the Minutes as written by Commissioner Denis, Second by Commissioner Chachas, **Motion Carried.**

5. **Review of legislation related to the Commission.**
Dr. Keith Rheault discussed the function of the Educational Technology Commission per NRS 388.795. He also advised that the legislature approves the budgets and the LCE approved the $10,000 for the biannual needs assessmentreview which will be addressed in Item 6. The written report is scheduled for April 1st but will be delayed due to just recently receiving the necessary funding. It will be presented to the Commission by August 1st for review.

8. **Presentation of PBS/KLVX Distance Learning Satellite Service**

Lee Solonche, Director for Educational Services at Vegas PBS/KVLX, reported to the Commission that Virtual High School has grown to thousands of students and is providing services at no charge to deaf and blind students. Media and literacy kits are provided to teachers, parents, and care-givers at no charge and assist in providing effective lessons and also aides the interaction with other students.

Kim Lewis is the coordinator in the Clark County School District. Ms. Lewis presented a flyer that described the services available, including drivers' education and health education, which are provided at no cost to other counties until June 30, 2012. When asked about planning for the future, Ms. Lewis advised there would be surveys available to all districts for their participation and input for the planning.

6. **Presentation and possible approval of UNR Biennial Needs Assessment Plan in accordance with NRS 388.795 (6)**
Ms. Jacque Ewing-Taylor of UNR conducted the previous needs assessment. She is proposing to conduct a comparable assessment with small adjustments. She said they will again use Survey Monkey with little difference from the previous survey. Ms. Ewing-Taylor stated that assuming April 1st would be the starting date, they would strive to conclude the assessment over the summer, aiming for a first draft to be submitted to NDE by August 1st. Dr. Rheault asked how the assessment would be used. Ms. Ewing-Taylor advised that as an example, they would be looking at old computers in the classroom; the assessment would help establish a good policy discussion for future funding.
Chairperson Ebert stated there was difficulty in the past collecting parent responses. Ms. Ewing-Taylor responded that timing was the challenge; they intend to coordinate with Clark County School District, perhaps have computers available on parent-teacher night to be used for the survey for those who don't have computers at home. Commissioner Henderson said she would work with Ms. Ewing-Taylor and the Nevada PTA to bring in parent responses. Chairperson Ebert asked if there was any alignment of this survey to the SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) readiness tool. Dr. Kim Vidoni responded that there is an SBAC readiness tool coming available on March 30th that may provide some results that will work in conjunction.

Chairperson Ebert asked for public comments in Carson City, Las Vegas, Elko, Ely, and Winnemucca. There were no public or Commission member comments at any location.

**Motion to approve the UNR needs assessment** by Commissioner Denis, second by Commissioner Amie, **Motion carried as presented**.

7. **Update on Evaluation of State Educational Technology Implementation Fund Grants.**
Lisa Evans of the Wexford Institute stated all proposals and the building project data base have been reviewed. The first round communications have been scheduled, the districts' budget priority adjustments and findings of any existing document barriers are in review. Conference calls and scheduled site visits are focused in areas of professional development. Chair Ebert asked for any public questions or comments from Carson City, Elko, Ely, Las Vegas, Winnemucca. None were made. Chair Ebert expressed appreciation for the consistency and understanding of the scope of the project by Wexford. She reminded everyone that in order to receive funding the districts must demonstrate student growth. Ms. Evans stated the interim report will have information on how funds are furthering student achievement.

9. **Review and possible approval of Commission Digital-Age Classroom Excellence Awards.**
The application was sent out, as were a number of reminders. Not one application was submitted. Dr. Vidoni feels the lack of applications is an indicator of how busy the teachers and principals are. Commissioner Gustafson said it was unfortunate there were no applications but that it is an important endeavor and should be kept going. Dr. Rheault suggested that if EdTech Commission members talk with the districts they may be more likely to participate.

Commissioner Maurins inquired about the length of the application. Dr. Vidoni advised it was a 2-minute video. Commissioner Wang suggested this is a good way for the districts to demonstrate technology in use, and if the direction comes from the Superintendents, it most likely will be done. Commissioner Chachas suggested the local School Board Trustees could work together to recognize individuals. Mark Bechtel, White Pine County Assistant Superintendent stated that the biggest issue is having the time to do the project, but this is a worthy program. Joe Elcano, representing KNPB, stated sharing examples throughout the districts may make the process simpler. He is willing to work on this project. Dr. Rheault advised that a subcommittee should take the recommendations, incorporate suggestions for changes and move forward with the Digital-Age Classroom Excellence Award. Chair Ebert agreed.

**10. Comments from Commissioners**

Chair Ebert asked if there were any comments from Commission members in Carson City, Elko, Ely, Las Vegas. No comments were made. Chair Ebert thanked the presenters for their work.
Dr. Rheault shared the information that a new Superintendent of Public Instruction has been named, Dr. James Guthrie. Dr Rheault stated he would advise Dr. Guthrie of the Commission and suggest a designee or district superintendent to serve as a replacement Ex-Officio member. Chair Ebert advised that Dr. Guthrie is very interested in technology within the schools. Commissioner Chachas wished Dr. Rheault well, as did all the other Commission members. Senator Denis stated that Dr. Rheault was not only important to the Commission but made a difference in the entire state.

**11. Public Comments**

Mark Bechtel, White Pine County School District, and Jeanne Moline, Humboldt County School District, also expressed their appreciation for Dr. Rheault's involvement and support.

**12. Set Date of Next Meeting and Topics**

Chair Ebert asked Ex-Officio Member Dave Gustafson if he might have any innovative projects or updates that would be helpful to the Commission. Commissioner Maurins suggested having an update on the needs assessment, suggesting that Ms. Evans' reports become a standing item on the agenda. Commissioner Gustafson suggested an update on the status of the awards.
Chair Ebert suggested leaving the date of the next meeting open to coordinate the schedule with that of the new Superintendent.

**13. Motion to Adjourn by Commissioner Amie, second by Chair Ebert. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM.**

_____
**Dr. Keith Rheault**
**Superintendent of Public Instruction**

_____
**Jhone Ebert, Chairperson**
**Commission on Educational Technology**

**Transcribed by:**

_____
**Tedie Lee**
**Administrative Assistant III**