

Minutes of the Meeting

STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

December 18, 2013

**Call to Order; Roll Call; Pledge of Allegiance**

President Keith called the meeting of the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to order at 9:05 A.M. via video conference in the Board Conference Rooms of the Nevada Department of Education Offices in Carson City and Las Vegas, Nevada.

Roll call showed the following Commissioners present:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Mary Keith, President  
Wendy Zastawniak, Vice President  
Melissa Burnham, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Jennifer Carvalho, Commissioner  
Jeffrey Geihs, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

David Wilson, Commissioner – excused  
Rajeev Gupta, Commissioner – excused

STAFF PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Christina Harper, Commission Administrative Assistant III

STAFF PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Dena Durish, Director of Educator Effectiveness  
Melissa Scott, Consultant

LEGAL COUNSEL IN CARSON CITY:

Carrie Parker, Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN CARSON CITY:

Terry Owens  
Dr. Tom Harrison, University of Nevada, Reno  
Amy Waddell, Washoe County School District, Human Resources/Licensing  
Jeni Ellis, Washoe County School District, Human Resources/Licensing

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN LAS VEGAS:

Jerry DeLuca, Educational Testing Service  
Andre Yates, Clark County School District  
Emily Lin, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Adam Johnson, Teacher for America

Patricia Cooper, SNC  
Kim Metcalf, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Roberta Kaufman, NSC

It was determined that a quorum of the Commission was present. Commissioner Geihs led the pledge of allegiance.

### **Welcome and Introduction of New Director of Educator Effectiveness**

Superintendent Erquiaga introduced Dena Durish as the new Director of Educator Effectiveness beginning on January 1, 2014. Ms. Durish will be the primary contact for the Department of Education with the Commission.

Superintendent Erquiaga stated that the Commission will be asked, after the first of the year, to meet with the Teachers and Leaders Council in the development of the educator evaluation system. The Commission will also be asked to collaborate on the new Administrator Degree program being developed at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Superintendent Erquiaga stated that there has also been discussion surrounding teacher licensure renewal, continuing education, and professional development; it is anticipated that the Commission will play a large part in the discussion.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Approval of Minutes: a) October 17, 2013 Meeting**

**MOTION:** Vice President Zastawniak moved to approve the October 17, 2013 minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Burnham. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Fiscal Report – Review of Current Budget Account Balance**

This item was postponed until Ms. Calkins from Teacher Licensure was able to participate in the meeting. Ms. Calkins was unable to participate in the meeting; as such this item was postponed until the January 2014 meeting.

### **Update of Nevada Department of Education Activities**

This item was postponed until Ms. Calkins from Teacher Licensure was able to participate in the meeting. Ms. Calkins was unable to participate in the meeting; as such this item was postponed until the January 2014 meeting.

**Workshop to Solicit Comments to NAC 391.036 – Tests of Competency Required for Initial License; Exemptions; Failure to Comply; Times for Administration of Tests**

President Keith opened the workshop for comments at 9:15 A.M. There were fourteen individuals present. There being no public comments; President Keith closed the workshop at 9:17 A.M.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Carvalho moved to send the proposed language for NAC 391.036 to the Legislative Counsel Bureau for legal language and post for public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Geihs. The motion passed unanimously.

**Workshop to Solicit Comments for Proposed Amendments to NAC 391.202 – Endorsement to Teach Computer-Based Applications, Delete NAC 391.192 – Endorsement to Teach Concepts, Skills and Basic Applications Regarding Computers, and Delete NAC 391.196 – Endorsement to Teach Computer Programming or Computer Science**

President Keith opened the workshop at 9:20 A.M. There were fourteen individuals present. There were no public comments.

Melissa Scott, Nevada Department of Education Consultant, stated that based upon recommendations and comments, she met with stakeholders and resolved the outstanding issues with the regulation proposed language. Ms. Scott stated that the original proposal deleted NAC 391.192 and 391.196; after the meeting with stakeholders it was agreed to only delete NAC 391.192 and amend language to 391.196 and 391.202. A copy of the proposed language was included in the packet.

President Keith closed the workshop at 9:22 A.M.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Burnham moved to send the proposed language for NAC 391.196, 391.202 and deletion of 391.192 to the Legislative Counsel Bureau for legal language and post for public hearing, seconded by Vice President Zastawniak. The motion passed unanimously.

**Presentation of Praxis Performance Assessment for Teachers**

Teresa Owens, Educational Testing Service, provided a Power Point Presentation regarding the difference between the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) and the Praxis Performance Assessment for Teachers (PPAT) exams.

Ms. Owens stated that there are numerous tests to determine the knowledge of a teacher and pedagogy; but their capacity to teach is not addressed and the current assessment tools cannot predict effectiveness in the classroom.

The purpose of the PLT is to assess a new teacher's knowledge and understanding of educational practices that are the foundation knowledge for pedagogy to beginning a career as a professional educator. The PLT assesses key indicators of the beginning

educator's knowledge of topics including: human development, learning processes, diverse learnings, educational psychology, and professional issues. The timeframe for an individual taking the PLT is after the completion of a teacher/educator program.

The Praxis Performance Assessment for Teachers (PPAT) is a brand new test and piloting for this test will begin in January 2014; and a launch date in the fall of 2014. The PPAT is a performance-based assessment that schools can use to determine the best fit for teacher candidates. States can also use assessment results to align their preparation programs with local and national standards, including InTASC and the Common Core State Standards. The PPAT is completed during the individual's student teaching with four tasks: one formative and three summative. The PPAT has written responses to a series of prompts with the submission of artifacts/evidence. This assessment is sequential and development in approach; it also includes a professional growth plan aligned with teacher evaluation systems. All of the data is stored, submitted and scored online.

The advantages of the PPAT are that it is supported by research and designed by practitioners; has centralized scoring (helps eliminate positive bias); is adaptable for alternate route candidates; and individuals have the opportunity to resubmit the test.

Upon questioning by Commissioners, Ms. Owens responded that some states have replaced the PLT with the PPATA; this is a policy decision of individual states. The cost of the PPAT is \$275 and the PLT is \$139.

Commissioner Burnham and Vice President Zastawniak stated that the PPAT reflects teaching best practice and reflects the current direction of teaching.

### **Discussion and Possible Approval of a Policy for the Timeframe for the Re-Evaluation of Testing Services**

James Kenyon, Teacher Licensure, reviewed the information he compiled with regards to whether a state had a contract or not with the testing provider, the length of that contract; and if no contract was there a specified length of provider service before an evaluation of services.

Research showed that Educational Testing Service (ETS) serviced the majority of states with no contract. Pearson requires a contract; the five year contract is a requirement of Pearson to allow a specified duration of time to provide a service and balance/offset the costs of test development and testing.

Deputy Attorney General Parker stated that the State Administrative Manual states that general practice is a contract every four years. Ms. Parker recommended that the Commission consider adopting an internal policy to include flexibility for review prior to the ending timeframe if there is a need to solve an issue with the testing provider.

**MOTION:** Following discussion, Commissioner Geihs moved to adopt an internal policy for the timeframe to re-evaluate the testing service provider every five (5) years and the

authority to re-evaluate the provider if an issue/problem arises, seconded by Commissioner Burnham. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Review and Possible Approval of the Application for Alternative Route to Licensure Providers**

Ms. Durish stated that the requested amendments, from the October 17, 2013 meeting, to the application were made; and include the name of applicant/provider; name of program; amend name of common core standards to Nevada Academic Content Standards under program design (1); add Under Program Timeframe, ...within a timeframe of two but not more than three years or less.

Deputy Attorney General Parker raised a question under Section II; if the applicant should be asked if they have applied for accreditation and if so, approved or denied. Ms. Durish responded that she is unsure if there is an accrediting agency for ARL providers.

The Commission discussed, at length, requiring a staff member of the provider, who will be going into a classroom to observe an ARL candidate, to be fingerprinted by the Department of Education. It was discussed that an option to fingerprinting staff, would be that the provider ensures that their staff meets the district's policy for individuals entering a classroom. Another option discussed was that the ARL provider is responsible that all staff members are qualified to be in a classroom.

**ACTION:** Staff was directed to research the legality and authority of the Commission to require that staff members of an ARL provider be fingerprinted before entering a classroom. Staff will report to the Commission at the January 2014 meeting.

### **Discussion of Issuing a Provisional Non-Renewable License for Core Academic Subjects**

President Keith stated that this is a request from Clark County School District to issue a non-renewable provisional license in the core academic subjects. At one time, there was the allowance for a provisional license in the core academic subjects, but that was eliminated with the No Child Left Behind Act and the highly qualified educator requirements.

Deputy Attorney General Parker stated that the regulation affected is NAC 391.056, which allows provisional licenses but there is a section that does not allow a provisional license in certain subjects; the core academic subjects and the requirement for highly qualified teachers in the core academic subjects. Ms. Parker stated that in a review, Nevada's ESEA waiver does not waive No Child Left Behind. Ms. Parker stated that the Nevada Legislature also adopted statutes regarding the highly qualified educator requirements in the core academic subjects.

Andre Yates, Clark County School District, provided research of western states and reported that many states still issue provisional licenses, under different titles.

Mr. Yates requested that the Commission consider amending regulation to allow for the issuance of a one year provisional license. Mr. Yates followed his request by stating that if we do not offer a provisional license to out of state applicants, we will lose a large number of qualified potential applicants. The one year provisional license would apply largely by recent college graduates with no educator license and/or come from a state with different testing requirements.

**ACTION:** Following discussion, staff was directed to research the legality and ability to issue a one year provisional non-renewable license in the core academic subjects; as it relates to the highly qualified designation of teachers within No Child Left Behind. Staff will report to the Commission at the January 2014 meeting.

### **Discussion of the Need for a Special Education Task Force to Consolidate Endorsement Areas**

Andre Yates, Clark County School District, requested that the Commission appoint a task force to review the special education licensure framework; as there are numerous endorsements for a special education license. Mr. Yates stated that a previous task force consolidated some of the endorsement areas; but feels that further consolidation would benefit special education teachers.

**ACTION:** Staff was directed to appoint a task force to review the endorsements related to a special education license; to include Nevada Department of Education members, higher education stakeholders, school district personnel; and members of the Special Education Advisory Council.

### **Review of the Following Regulations for Possible Amendments:**

- **NAC 391.179–Issuance or renewal of limited endorsement on or after July 1, 2002; duration of limited endorsement in effect on that date**
- **NAC 391.180–Endorsement as school counselor**
- **NAC 391.185–Qualifications for endorsement as school counselor**
- **NAC 391.187–Authorization to serve as school counselor without endorsement**
- **NAC 391.192–Endorsement to teach concepts, skills and basic applications regarding computers**
- **NAC 391.196–Endorsement to teach computer programming or computer science**
- **NAC 391.202-Endorsement to teach computer-based applications**
- **NAC 391.215-Endorsement to teach art**
- **NAC 391.220-Endorsement as professional teacher of art**
- **NAC 391.223-Endorsement to provide audiological services; exception**
- **NAC 391.225-Endorsement to teach drivers' education**

It was suggested that NAC 391.225 be reviewed for possible amendments due to the fact that the regulation only requires three credit hours and due to provisions that can be placed on a license, an individual could teach drivers' education for a year without having any drivers' education coursework.

Due to time constraints, these regulations will be further reviewed at the January 2014 meeting.

### **Future Agenda Items/Commission Meeting Dates and Locations**

President Keith stated that the next Commission meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2014 with video conferencing in the Department of Education office in Carson City and Las Vegas.

The following items were noted to be on the January 29, 2014 agenda:

- Public hearing for the inclusion of pedagogy for the Alternative Route to Licensure program;
- Update/report on the Commission's authority to require fingerprinting of ARL provider staff members who will be in a classroom;
- Review and possible approval of the ARL Provider Application;
- Update and report on the ability of non-renewable provisional licensing in the core academic areas of one year for competency testing;
- Update and report on the formation of a special education task force to review the special education licensure structure; and
- Election of President and Vice President.

Future agenda items:

- Update/report on the PPAT following the pilot testing period.

### **Commissioner Comments**

President Keith stated that this will be her last meeting, as her term has expired and she is no longer a special education teacher; after accepting a job as a high school English teacher. President Keith stated that she will miss working with Commissioners and will cherish the memories of serving on this Commission.

Commissioners Carvalho and Geihs thanked President Keith for her service and professionalism to the Commission and wished her well.

Vice President Zastawniak wished President Keith all the best and stated that she appreciates all of her hard work.

### **Deputy Attorney General Comments**

There were no further comments.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Adjournment of Commission Meeting**

President Keith adjourned the meeting at 11:35 A.M.