

Minutes
Parental Involvement Task Force
Commission on Professional Standards in Education
November 16, 2011

1. Call to Order, Introductions and Roll Call

The Parental Involvement Task Force met via telephone conference and a public location at the Nevada Department of Education Office, Superintendent's Conference Room, in Carson City on November 16, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 2:36 P.M. by Chair Elissa Couch.

Task Force Members Present:

Elissa Couch, Chair - via telephone conference call
Ann Bingham, Member – via telephone conference call
D’Lisa Crain, Member – via telephone conference call
Amy Henderson, Member – via telephone conference call
Karen Taycher, Member – via telephone conference call
Lyn Gorrindo, Member – via telephone conference call

Task Force Members Absent:

Eva Melendrez, Member
Margaret Ferrara, Member
Shawn Vogel, Member
Rorie Fitzpatrick, Member

Staff Present:

Christina Harper, Commission Administrative Assistant
Dr. Jerry Barbee, Director Teacher Licensure Office

Public:

Kimberly Smerkers-Bass, University of Phoenix
Lindsay Knox, McDonald-Carano-Wilson Law Offices

Chair Couch determined that quorum of the Task Force was present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

REVIEW PROPOSED REGULATION THAT ADDRESSES COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS IN THE AREA OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Task Force Chair Couch reviewed two proposals that address coursework requirements in the area of parental involvement. The two proposals make revisions to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 391.045. The Task Force reviewed and discussed the following proposals.

Proposal A – “...(3) At least 3 semester hours of credit in a course of study regarding parental involvement and family engagement as described in NRS 392.457 with additional emphasis on building relationships, outreach to families and developing an appreciation and understanding of families from diverse settings; or (4) An in-service or continuing education course regarding parental involvement any family engagement as described in NRS 392.457 with additional emphasis on building relationships, outreach to families and developing an appreciation and understanding of families from diverse setting; and...”

Proposal B – “...(3) At least 3 semester hours of credit in a course of study regarding parental involvement and family engagement as described in NRS 392.457 with additional emphasis on building relationships, outreach to families and cultural competency; or (4) An in-service or continuing education course regarding parental involvement and family engagement as described in NRS 392.457 with additional emphasis on building relationships, outreach to families and cultural competency; and...”

There was discussion on how to measure developing an appreciation and/or an understanding.

Task Force Member Bingham responded that in teaching such a class, there is an effort to make sure that there is an understanding of the strengths within families regardless of their circumstances and capable of building relationships. We also provide opportunities to view families in ways that they may not have viewed before based upon their experiences.

Task Force Member Crain stated that one of the goals, from a cultural diversity standpoint, should be to help students realize that they may come from one culture and might have practices or things they do in their families from that culture and that other families may do things from a different culture and the goal is not to change the culture of the family but bridge the two cultures and help both sides, the school and the family, understand the cultures better. The appreciation is honoring what a family does, but also trying to build the capacity of that family to operate within the school system.

MOTION: Task Force Member Bingham moved to submit Proposal A to the Commission on Professional Standards in Education for their consideration and possible approval, seconded by Task Force Member Crain. The motion passed unanimously.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE – IF NECESSARY

There was no need to schedule another meeting as the Task Force completed their task.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS COMMENTS

There were no Task Force Member comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Task Force Chair Couch adjourned the meeting at 2:50 P.M.