

Minutes of the Meeting

STATE OF NEVADA – DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

May 2, 2008

1. Call to Order; Roll Call; Pledge of Allegiance

President Luft called the meeting of the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to order at 10:00 A.M. in the Board Conference Room of the Nevada Department of Education Office, Carson City, Nevada.

Roll call showed the following Commissioners present:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Dr. Vernon Luft, President  
Carol Lark, Vice President  
Bill Mendenhall, Commissioner  
Dr. Hardy McNew, Commissioner  
Ann O'Connell, Commissioner  
Karen Votraw, Commissioner  
Nicholas Ungaro, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Rhogenia McMillan, Commissioner, excused  
Fred Perdomo, Commissioner – excused

STAFF PRESENT:

Christina Harper, Administrative Assistant to the Commission  
Dr. Jerry Barbee, Director of Teacher Licensure  
Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services  
Rorie Fitzpatrick, Assistant Director for Special Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, and School Improvement

LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT:

Janet Hess, Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

DeShawn Reed, Washoe County School District  
Jennifer Caldwell, Washoe County School District  
Mary Ann Gibbs, Clark County School District  
Byron Green, Clark County School District  
Jean King, Clark County School District  
Pam Salazar, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Marilyn Sue Ford, Curriculum and Instruction for University of Nevada, Las Vegas

It was determined that a quorum of the Commission was present.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Mendenhall.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner O'Connell moved to approved the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Ungaro. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes: a) February 15, 2008

Commissioner O'Connell moved to approve the February 15, 2008 minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Votraw. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Fiscal Report – Review of Current Budget Account Balance

Dr. Barbee reviewed the fiscal report dated April 4, 2008; the total revenue received was \$1,603,351.94, with Commission expenditures totaling \$7,943.31; total expenditures for the Licensure budget of \$979,307.04 for a total of funding available of \$624,044.90. The balance of the Commission's budget is \$1,610.69. Dr. Barbee stated that funding and expenditures are on track.

5. Update of Nevada Department of Education Activities

Ms. Dopf stated that the Legislative Committee on Education (LCE) most recently met on April 17, 2008 with the focus on teacher licensing, re-licensure, and professional development. Ms. Dopf stated that the Commission was invited to this meeting and Commissioner Perdomo represented the Commission on behalf of the President and Vice President. The higher education discussion was held for another meeting, to allow the higher education representatives to be present. The next meeting of the LCE is scheduled for May 22, 2008 and will focus on middle and high school services and initiatives.

Ms. Dopf stated that the Department of Education staffs are heavily involved working with school districts to look at the issue of the impact of the budget reductions and helping with the communication and transmitting information to the districts. Ms. Dopf stated that at this point it is uncertain the effect of the budget ripples, but staff is constantly monitoring the situation. There have been cuts in travel and a reduction in the training budgets. Ms. Dopf stated that the districts are now working on the next base biennium with no firm direction form the Budget's budget office.

Ms. Dopf reviewed that the Mega Conference, a statewide training conference, was held this past weekend, April 25-27, 2008 with the efforts of the Nevada Department of Education in conjunction with the University of Nevada –Reno to bring together educators within the state to give them the opportunity to hear about national best practices through some of the work from the International Center for Leadership and Education. Ms. Dopf stated that this year's conference highlighted Nevada schools that were demonstrating best practices and what they are doing to impact student

achievement. Also acknowledge were the high achieving/exemplary schools within the state during a dinner.

Ms. Dopf provided a handout "Framework for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning" which was provided at the Pre-Conference to the Mega Conference by Dr. Kenny Kaye, the leader for the Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. Ms. Dopf reviewed the highlights of the handout which outlines the core subjects and 21<sup>st</sup> century themes. Mastery of core subjects and 21 century themes are essential for students in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Core subjects include English, reading or language arts, world languages, arts, mathematics, economics, science, geography, history, government and civics. It is their belief that schools must move beyond a focus on basic competency in core subjects to promoting understanding of academic content at much higher levels by weaving 21<sup>st</sup> century interdisciplinary themes into core subjects: 1) global awareness; 2) financial, economic, business and entrepreneurial literacy; 3) civic literacy; and 4) health literacy.

The learning and innovation skills are what separate students who are prepared for increasingly complex life and work environments in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and include: 1) creativity and innovation; 2) critical thinking and problem solving; and communication and collaboration. The information, media and technology skills help individuals in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to live in a technology and media-driven environment, marked by access to an abundance of information, rapid changes in technology tools and the ability to collaborate and make individual contributions on an unprecedented scale. To be effective in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, citizens and workers must be able to exhibit a range of functional and critical thinking skills, such as: 1) information literacy; 2) medial literacy; and 3) ICT (information, communications and technology) literacy. The life and career skills in today's life and work environments require far more than thinking skills and content knowledge. The ability to navigate the complex life and work environments in the globally competitive information age requires students to pay rigorous attention to developing adequate life and career skills, such as: 1) flexibility and adaptability; 2) initiative and self-direction; 3) social and cross-cultural skills; 4) productivity and accountability; and 5) leadership and responsibility.

Dr. Barbee stated that the Las Vegas Teacher Licensure Office is scheduled to move on June 30, 2008 to the new facility at Silverado Ranch and Maryland. The contractor is waiting for the final approval of two permits to complete the inside of the offices.

Dr. Barbee stated that the new teacher licensure website: [nvteachers@doe.nv.gov](mailto:nvteachers@doe.nv.gov) is up and running and will be current following a meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>, to review the website and upload any corrections. Dr. Barbee stated that he hopes that the website will decrease the phone calls by 70%, as teachers will be able to access their own licensure information with regards to renewals and provisions on their license.

6. Approval of "Educational Perspectives" To Be Added to the List of Agencies  
Approved by the Commission to Evaluate Foreign Transcripts

Dr. Barbee stated that Kenneth Warren, President of Educational Perspectives, submitted a request and information from Educational Perspectives to be added to the list of agencies approved to evaluate foreign transcripts. Dr. Barbee stated that after

research into Educational Perspectives, the Department recommends approval of this agency to be added to the list.

Following discussion, Vice President Lark moved to approve Educational Perspectives to be added to the list of agencies approved, by the Commission, to evaluate foreign transcripts, seconded by Commissioner Ungaro. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Public Hearing and Possible Adoption to Consider Comments to LCB File No. R037-08 – New Section for the Business and Industry Substitute License and NAC 391.400 – Types of Endorsements for Business and Industry

President Luft opened the public hearing at 10:36 A.M. There were nine individuals in attendance with one public comment.

Phyllis Dryden, Director of Career and Technical and Adult Education, stated that she and her staff support this proposal. Ms. Dryden stated her staff concurs that it is a better situation to have a substitute who knows the specific area for content, instructional, and safety purposes.

President Luft closed the public hearing at 10:40 A.M.

Following questions, it was discussed that a school can continue to utilize a regular substitute in a business and industry classroom, if no business and industry substitute is available for that area.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to adopt R037-08 - New Section for the Business and Industry Substitute License and NAC 391.400 – Types of Endorsements for Business and Industry, seconded by Commissioner Votraw. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Public Hearing and Possible Adoption to Consider Comments to LCB File No. R038-08 – NAC 391.378 – Qualifications For Teaching Pupils Who Have Autism

President Luft opened the public hearing at 10:43 A.M. There were nine individuals in attendance with one public comment.

Rorie Fitzpatrick, Assistant Director for Special Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, and School Improvement, stated that at the February 15, 2008 workshop was held regarding extending the sunset date of the Autism Option Program to June 30, 2012. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the Special Education Advisory Committee supports the proposal to extend the sunset of the Autism Option Program to June 30, 2012.

President Luft closed the public hearing at 10:45 A.M.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to approve LCB File No. R038-08 – NAC 391.378 – Qualifications for Teaching Pupils who have Autism to extend the Autism Option Program sunset to June 30, 2012, seconded by Commissioners O’Connell and Ungaro. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 9. Discuss and Update the Commission Mission Statement

President Luft stated that included in the packet is the last mission statement of the Commission which was developed in 1992-1993. President Luft stated that current issues, such as No Child Left Behind, higher education, and teacher education need to be included in the document.

Vice President Lark suggested that the Commission appoint a task force to review all of the information with regards to the development of a mission statement and update the document for review and approval by the Commission at the next meeting.

President Luft and Commissioner Votraw volunteered to work on the draft mission statement.

Commissioner O'Connell moved to appoint a committee of two Commissioners to develop a mission statement for review and approval at the next meeting, seconded by Commissioner Mendenhall. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 10. Update of Task Force Activities

- Update from the Alternative Route to Licensure Task Force (ARL)

Commissioner Ungaro stated the Task Force has been receiving and reviewing a lot of information, provided by Dr. Barbee and his staff. The Task Force had decided that they need to focus on reviewing the criteria and procedures of Nevada's own ARL first and then look at reciprocity. The Task Force is reviewing what other states are doing with alternative routes to licensure.

Vice President Lark stated that the Task Force has met, to date, a total of three times (March 5, April 10, and April 28) and agreed that the staff has been great with the information provided and the Task Force wants to ensure that what is place now for the ARL program is exactly what it needs to be prior to making comparisons with other states. The Task Force knows that this is a critical and important issue and is moving forward.

- Update from the Early Childhood Task Force Regard the Praxis for Individuals with an Endorsement in Special Education Early Childhood Education to Meet the Highly Qualified Requirement

Dr. Luft, on behalf of Commissioner McMillan, thanked the Task Force for their participation on the Task Force and submitted a written report in which the Task Force unanimously agreed to retain the wording as is in NAC 391.363 and keep the requirements for the special education early childhood praxis as is, because of the age of the exam and the research. This Task Force has completed their task.

Vice President Lark moved to accept the report of this Task Force and considered their work completed, seconded by Commissioner Mendenhall. The motion passed unanimously.

- Report and Recommendations from the Permanent Licensure of Retired Teachers Task Force

Dr. Barbee stated that the first meeting will be held on May 5, 2008 beginning at 3:00 P.M. and will be video-conference with sites in Las Vegas and Carson City. Commissioner Votraw and Donna Brothers, Carson City Licensure Office will be the co-chairs for this Task Force. A report and/or recommendations will be presented at the next meeting.

- Report from the Task Force to Review Elementary Education Licensure

Commissioner Mendenhall stated that he is a member of this Task Force and Commissioner McMillan is the chair of this Task Force and there is no report, as they have not yet held their first meeting. The meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

#### 11. Future Agenda Items

The following items were noted to be on the June agenda:

- Review and Possible Approval of Commission's Mission Statement;
- Review of NAC 391.558 – Teacher Preparation Programs;
- Schedule 2008-2009 meeting dates;
- Report from the Alternative Route to Licensure Task Force;
- Report from the Elementary Education Licensure Task Force; and
- Report from the Permanent Licensure for Retired Teachers Task Force.

#### 12. Comments From Public

There were no public comments.

#### 13. Comments from Staff

Ms. Dopf stated that she will research to determine if the Commission has the responsibility for NAC 391.558.

#### 14. Comments from Commissioners

There were no Commission comments.

#### 15. Adjournment of Commission Meeting

Commissioner O'Connell moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 A.M., seconded by Commissioner McNew. The motion passed unanimously.