

Minutes of the Meeting

STATE OF NEVADA – DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

June 13, 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 2nd Floor Board Conference Room of the Nevada Department of Education Office, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Roll call showed the following Commissioners present:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Dr. Vernon Luft, President
Carol Lark, Vice President
Bill Mendenhall, Commissioner
Rhogenia McMillan, Commissioner
Dr. Hardy McNew, Commissioner
Fred Perdomo, Commissioner
Karen Votraw, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Ann O'Connell, Commissioner – excused
Nicholas Ungaro, Commissioner – excused

STAFF PRESENT:

Christina Harper, Administrative Assistant to the Commission
Dr. Jerry Barbee, Director of Teacher Licensure

LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT:

Janet Hess, Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

Mary Ann Gibbs, Clark County School District
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 McNew moved to approved the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Votraw. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Recognitions of Colleagues

President Luft recognized outgoing Commissioners Rhogenia McMillan, Hardy McNew, and Fred Perdomo for their hard work and dedication to students and education. President Luft stated that Vice President Lark's term is also ending, but she could be reappointed.

President Luft recognized Mary Ann Gibbs, as she is retiring from the Clark County School District, for her contributions to the educational process in Nevada.

4. Approval of Minutes: a) May 2, 2008

The following amendments were made to the May 2, 2008 meeting minutes: Page 3, 2nd paragraph, 8th line, "schools must move beyond..."; 3rd paragraph, 10th line, "...literacy. The [lift] *life* and career..."; 5th paragraph, 1st line, "...new teacher licensure website: [ndteachers@doe.nv.gov] nvteachers@doe.nv.gov is..."; Page 4, 6th paragraph, 1st line, "...Following [a] discussions, ..."; Page 5, 5th paragraph, 3rd line, "...they need to focus on [establishing] *reviewing the criteria and procedures of Nevada's...*"; 6th paragraph, 4th line, "ARL program is exactly what it needs to be prior to making comparisons..."; 7th paragraph, add "*Commissioner McMillan wanted to thank the Task Force Members for their participation on the Task Force.*"

Commissioner McMillan moved to approve the May 2, 2008 minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Perdomo. The motion passed unanimously.

The following amendment was made to the May 2, 2008 Joint Meeting Minutes: Page 1, remove Dr. Hardy McNew from the list of Commissioners present.

Vice President Lark moved to approve the May 2, 2008 Joint Meeting Minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner McMillan. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Fiscal Report – Review of Current Budget Account Balance

Dr. Barbee reviewed the fiscal report dated May 9, 2008; the total revenue received was \$1,738,053.84, with Commission expenditures totaling \$8,082.40; total expenditures for the Licensure budget of \$1,137,209.95 for a total of funding available of \$600,843.89. The balance of the Commission's budget is \$1,471.60. Dr. Barbee stated that funding and expenditures are on track for the remainder of the fiscal year.

6. Update of Nevada Department of Education Activities

Dr. Barbee updated that the move for the Southern Nevada Licensure office is anticipated for August 1, 2008. The delay with the move has been attributed to the

permit process, fire department inspections and then the time for the construction company to complete the work once the permits were received. Dr. Barbee reminded the Commission that August is the busiest month for the issuance of teacher licenses and the move may be delayed until late September or early October.

Dr. Barbee stated that he attended the National Association of State Directors for Teacher Education Certification (NASDTEC) conference. The hot topic of discussion this year was the concept of alternative route to licensure, on-line course offerings, professional development, and what states need to do in order to enhance opportunity and teacher mobility.

7. Review, Discussion and Possible Approval of the Commission's Mission Statement

President Luft reviewed the proposed Mission Statement developed by President Luft and Commissioner Votraw. This proposed Mission Statement includes portions of the old Mission Statement and facts about the Commission.

Vice President Lark commended and thanked President Luft and Commissioner Votraw for their work on the Mission Statement. Commissioner McNew stated that the proposed Mission Statement is clear and concise. Commissioner Perdomo questioned if the length of the membership terms should be included. President Luft recommended adding a statement, "serve no more than two three-year terms".

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to approve the proposed Mission Statement as amended, seconded by Commissioner McMillan. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Schedule Meeting Dates for 2008-2009

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to approve the following meeting schedule, seconded by Commissioner Votraw. The motion passed unanimously.

September 5, 2008	Carson City
October 17, 2008	Las Vegas
December 12, 2008	Carson City
February 27, 2009	Las Vegas
May 1, 2009	Carson City
June 19, 2009	Las Vegas

9. Review and Discussion of NAC 391.558 – Procedure and Requirements for Review of Applications and Approval of Courses; Provisional and Final Approval; Denial, Expiration and Renewal of Approval; Review of Course; Annual Reports by School District; Fee

President Luft stated that the State Board of Education has the authority in NAC 391.558 for the approval of teacher education programs. President Luft suggested that the Commission make a recommendation to the State Board for a review and possible amendments to NAC 391.558.

President Luft stated that programs in higher education go through a teacher education program review every seven years in line with the cycle for national accreditation. This also identifies some test percentage pass rates that institutions must meet. Title II reporting, is where higher education institutions that prepare teachers, have to submit a report to the State Department of Education who then prepares a report for the US Department of Education, with the pass rates and program completers from those institutions in the teacher education program. As part of that plan, the State identifies the overall pass rate from teachers completing the program; and then the regulation states that if there are institutions that fall below the pass rate, the State Board can review that teacher education program more frequently. When the current pass rates were approved, there was absolutely no teacher competency pass rate data and were approved on a speculation on how pass rates would occur. The pass rate prior to January 1, 2004 had to be 90% or better; after July 1, 2004 the pass rate jumped to 95%. President Luft stated that Nevada's pass rate on the NCATE website is listed at 90%. There are only three other state pass rates that are that high or higher than Nevada. The Title II website has a report which lists every institution who prepares teachers in Nevada and their pass rates over the years. This is a summary pass rate which indicates a percentage for students who have passed ALL exams. Every year that the pass rate is below 95%, that institution could be subject to a program review.

President Luft requested that the Commission consider requesting that the State Board review and amend the pass rates to be aligned with other states and adjust the pass rates to possibly the 80-85% pass rate. President Luft stated in 2006, UNR dropped to an 88% pass rate due to the fact that twenty-one math education majors finished that year and out of those twenty-one, eight failed the Praxis II the first time they took the exam. This dropped UNR's overall pass rate and because NCATE states that the pass rate is 90%, then UNR was told that they no longer meet preconditions and in order to comply UNR had to compile data to verify that this was a one-time occurrence.

President Luft stated that he would be willing to make a presentation to the State Board of Education, if the Commission wishes.

Upon questioning by the Commission, Dr. Barbee stated that a report by school districts to the Department regarding program completers is being completed. Dr. Barbee stated that Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) requested this report about two months ago. Donna Brothers is preparing this report and will be provided to LCB by July 1, 2008.

Dr. Barbee stated that he will provide an update with this information to the Commission at the next meeting.

Vice President Lark moved to refer this item to the State Board of Education for review with recommendations from the Commission, seconded by Commissioner Mendenhall. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Update of Task Force Activities

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

Vice President Lark stated that the Task Force held one meeting since the last Commission meeting; there was a great deal of dialogue evaluating the existing ARL program as it exists in Clark County. The Task Force has received information from Clark County for discussion at the next ARL meeting.

Dr. Barbee stated that he has met with Clark County School District (Deena Durish and Karen Wright) to discuss the issue of alternative route to licensure and the relationship between the State Department of Education and Clark County in an attempt to ensure a smooth process. One of the issues discussed was the pre-evaluation process and establishing a pre and post evaluation process at the end of three years to ensure that all the requirements have been met. The pre-evaluation will be a review of transcripts to identify coursework and what the individual needs to complete to meet the requirements. Deena Durish is developing a calendar of events, forms, and procedures to be utilized by Clark County and the State Department for the ARL program. Dr. Barbee stated that approximately 95% of all alternative routes to licensure occur in Clark County.

Dr. Barbee stated that the next meeting of the Task Force has been scheduled for July 10, 2008.

Mary Ann Gibbs, Clark County School District, explained that when the ARL program was first proposed, the intent was for the individual to achieve five satisfactory evaluations; three the first year; one the second, and one the third year. When the regulation wording was received from LCB, is when the three years of evaluation was included as a requirement. The original intent was for the individual to have the three years of experience with satisfactory evaluations. Ms. Gibbs stated that unfortunately, the individual cannot be kept on probation for contractual reasons.

Marilyn Ford, UNLV, encouraged the Commission to include individuals with "Teach for America", into the ARL process, who goal is to support education nationwide. These individuals are brilliant students who sign a two year contract with the school district and then move on. The ARL license is set up in a three year cycle. Dr. Ford suggested that the ARL requirements could be amended to add student teaching credits in order to qualify for a regular teaching license in two years in order for these individuals to qualify for a regular license in another state. Dr. Barbee responded that the Task Force will also be reviewing non-traditional teacher education programs such as ABCTE and Teach for America, after the ARL process has been established.

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

Commissioner Votraw stated that the Task Force met two times and reviewed the criteria, longevity issues, retirement issues, and verifiable service. The Task Force discussed the issue that many retired teachers will not renew their license due to recertification credits and then when this individual wants to teach, it has to be as a

substitute and this affects the school's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). This proposal encourages retirees to keep their license active and the ability to return to teaching. An individual who qualifies would receive a ten-year longevity license.

Commissioner Perdomo moved to accept this proposal and hold a workshop at the September meeting, seconded by Commissioner McMillan. The motion passed unanimously.

- Report from the Task Force to Review Elementary Education Licensure

Commissioner McMillan stated that the Task Force has not yet met and is in the process of determining who will participate on the Task Force. To date names have been submitted from UNR and Clark County and waiting for names from UNLV and the rural areas.

Commissioner McMillan stated that Commissioner Mendenhall will be taking over as Chair of the Elementary Education Licensure Task Force, due to her term as a Commissioner expiring on June 30, 2008.

As soon as all of the members of the Task Force have been appointed, a meeting date will be scheduled.

11. Future Agenda Items

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

- Review of NAC 391.558 – Teacher Preparation Programs;
- Workshop of NAC 391.060 and NAC 391.075 – Longevity License and include all national board certifications for renewal credit;
- Review of Business and Industry Ethnic Music Endorsement to discuss exception in coursework;
- Develop a process for a special education teacher moving to a regular education classroom and receiving a regular teacher license (to be reviewed by the Elementary Education Licensure Task Force);
- Report from the Alternative Route to Licensure Task Force;
- Report from the Elementary Education Licensure Task Force; and
- Addition to the Foreign Transcript Evaluator List.

12. Comments From Public

There were no public comments.

13. Comments from Staff

Dr. Barbee commented that AB 432 is the process in which if someone's teaching license expired during the school year, they were given an opportunity to remain in the classroom until the end of that school term or ninety days (which ever was the longest).

Dr. Barbee stated that June 5th, for Clark County School District, marked the end of the contract period; approximately three weeks prior Clark County began reviewing how many individuals would be losing their license and worked with the Department of Education; and as of 8:00 A.M. on June 6th – every license had been processed. Dr. Barbee thanked his staff for their diligent work and to Clark County School district for their collaboration in resolving this issue.

Dr. Barbee stated that earlier in April a presentation was given to the Legislative Committee on Education regarding the process of the teacher education program review at institutions/universities, there was representation from higher education, State Department of Education, and school districts. Dr. Barbee stated that currently there are discussions of contracting with an individual to begin consolidating current approval documents and develop an alignment for each one of the teacher education programs. Dr. Barbee stated, in the near future, there should be a list of courses available at the institutions on the Licensure website and a list of requirements of the desired endorsements/licensure. This is an effort to allow better access for individuals and collaboration of the western states for coursework.

14. Comments from Commissioners

President Luft expressed his appreciation for the outgoing Commissioners for all of their hard work and dedication to education in the State of Nevada.

15. Adjournment of Commission Meeting

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 A.M., seconded by Commissioner Votraw. The motion passed unanimously.