

Minutes of the Meeting

STATE OF NEVADA – DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

September 5, 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
Fred Perdomo, Commissioner
Karen Votraw, Commissioner
Nicholas Ungaro, Commissioner

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Rhogenia McMillan, Commissioner – excused

STAFF PRESENT:

Christina Harper, Administrative Assistant to the Commission
Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services
Donna Brothers, Carson City Teacher Licensure Supervisor

LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT:

Dr. James E. Irvin, Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

Meg Nigro, Clark County School District
Andre Yates, Clark County School District
Marjorie K. Conner, UOP, Las Vegas, Nevada
Bill Speer, Associate Dean, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Marilyn Sue Ford, Curriculum and Instruction for University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Francine Mayfield, Nevada State College
DeShawn Reed, Washoe County School District
Dawn Huckaby, Washoe County School District
Craig Stevens, Nevada State Education Association
Kelly A. Jesch, Washoe County School District

It was determined that a quorum of the Commission was present. President Luft stated that new Commissioners have not yet been appointed and thanked the Commissioners, whose terms have expired and are up for appointment, for attending this meeting. It was pointed out that Commissioners may continue to serve until they have been reappointed by the Governor.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Ungaro.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes: a) June 13, 2008

The following amendments were made to the June 13, 2008 meeting minutes: Page 5, 6th paragraph, remove the entire paragraph; Page 7, 1st paragraph, 4th line, "...classroom until the end of that school term or ninety days (which ever [every] was the...".

Commissioner Votraw moved to approve the June 13, 2008 minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Mendenhall. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Fiscal Report – Review of Current Budget Account Balance

Ms. Dopf stated that the FY 2008 budget is being finalized and will report the final carry forward balance at the next meeting for FY 2009. Ms. Dopf reviewed the fiscal year 2008 report dated July 7, 2008; the total revenue received was \$1,964,757.90, with Commission expenditures totaling \$11,918.24; total expenditures for the Licensure budget of \$1,346,436.00 for a total of funding available of \$618,321.90. The balance remaining in the Commission's budget is \$1,077.76.

Ms. Dopf reviewed the fiscal year 2009 report dated July 31, 2008; the total revenue received at \$612,295.09, there was no Commission expenditures to date of July 31, 2009; the total funding that the Commission received for FY 2009 is \$8,841.00. The total expenditures for the Licensure budget at \$31,468.75 for a total of funding available of \$580,826.34.

President Luft stated that as the Commission requests individuals to serve on task forces and expects those individuals to drive to a central location to attend the meetings, with the price of gas; expressed a desire to reimburse those task force members for mileage for their volunteer service. President Luft questioned if there are sufficient funds allocated within the Commission's budget for mileage reimbursement.

Ms. Dopf advised the Commission that there was a decrease in the Commission's budget from \$12,996.00 for FY 2008 to \$8,841.00 for FY 2009.

Deputy Attorney Irvin advised the Commission to consider developing a policy regarding the issue of providing mileage reimbursement for task force members. Ms. Dopf added that there are parameters for reimbursing for mileage and per diem, and will continue to monitor the Commission's budget throughout the year to determine if reimbursement for mileage is fiscally feasible.

5. Update of Nevada Department of Education Activities

Ms. Dopf stated that the Southern Nevada Teacher Licensure Office is relocating this weekend and will be operational on Monday; the Licensure Office is closed today, Friday, September 5th for the relocation and this was posted on the Department's website.

Ms. Dopf stated that in relation to video conferencing capability, this will require additional time to install the video conferencing equipment in both the northern and southern offices, but should be operational in October and ready for use by November.

Ms. Dopf reported that on August 21, 2008 the Legislative Committee on Education (LCE) held a work session and is in the process of generating a work document that will generate bill drafts in the area of teacher preparation and teacher licensing. It was decided that items, such as teacher personnel preparation, were to be discussed at another work session. Ms. Dopf stated that she will notify Commissioners of the next work session of the LCE. Some of the items that may be discussed at this next LCE meeting include reciprocity for licensure, the three years of experience, and exam requirements in order to help alleviate the teacher shortage problem. The LCE will also be discussing a formalized training for substitute teachers. Ms. Dopf will keep the Commission updated on the final recommendations of the LCE and will notify the Commission of the date of that work session.

Upon questioning by Vice President Lark, Ms. Dopf responded that the Commission will have the option of holding Commission meetings via video conference or in person. Upon questioning by Vice President Lark, Ms. Dopf responded that the LCE had a general discussion regarding the fact that everything needs to be done to increase the draw of teachers either in the area of ARL or via reciprocity.

Ms. Dopf stated that the proposed Department of Education budget, including the K-12 Distributive School Account, was reviewed and discussed by the State Board of Education at the August 9, 2008 meeting. The proposed budget was approved to be submitted to the Governor for consideration during the next Legislative session.

Ms. Dopf shared a few of the issues that have potential impact on the population and constituency:

- The State Board of Education is under the direction of the Governor's office to reduce the budgets the equivalent of 14.5% for the biennium;
- The \$10 million in the pay for performance pilot program never was implemented and that funding was eliminated as part of the original set of cut backs;
- The 1/5th retirement credit and signing bonuses were eliminated;

- Programs were identified to be eliminated as part of the 14.5% biennium cuts and if the cuts are not as large as projected, some programs could be added back in; and
- Enrollment growth is not likely to be affected, as only an approximate 1% growth is anticipated.

6. Approval of "Global Education Group Inc.", To Be Added to the List of Agencies Approved By the Commission to Evaluate Foreign Transcripts

The Commission reviewed documents provided by Global Education Group and their request to be added to the list of agencies to evaluate foreign transcripts.

Following a discussion, Vice President Lark moved to approve Global Education Group, Inc. to be added to the list of agencies, approved by the Commission, to evaluate foreign transcripts, seconded by Commission Mendenhall. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Report on the Action from the State Board of Education of NAC 391.558 – Teacher Preparation Programs

President Luft stated that at the June meeting it was determined that the Commission does not have authority to amend NAC 391.558 and it was recommended to present the issue to the State Board for review and action. President Luft reported that he made a presentation to the State Board at their meeting on August 8, 2008 and the State Board motioned to hold a workshop at the October 11, 2008 meeting.

President Luft stated that this issue should now be monitored by higher education and the statewide organization - Nevada Chapter of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, as the Commission's work on this issue is complete. President Luft stated that he will attend the October meeting of the State Board regarding this issue, if his schedule permits.

8. Discussion, Clarification and Intent of NAC 391.420 – Business and Industry – Ethnic Music

President Luft stated, in the absence of Dr. Barbee, it was his understanding that under the Business and Industry License it is allowable to issue a license in Ethnic Music and this license was created mainly for instructing mariachi bands in the Clark County School District. Individuals are trying to use the Business and Industry Ethnic Music License as an avenue to be hired to teach a regular music teaching position and classroom. Dr. Barbee would like to add clarification that the Ethnic Music Endorsement in the Business and Industry License can only be used for ethnic music and teaching the mariachi bands. President Luft expressed concern that the regulation states, within the Business and Industry License, that individuals who receive that license have to obtain twelve credits in professional career and technical education to include professional CTE course, one course that deals with methodology, a course that deals with the management of the student organization, and another course that deals with work based learning. President Luft stated that he is a CTE instructor at UNR and

if an individual with an ethnic music endorsement was enrolled in his class, he wouldn't know what to do with that student in his class; and suggested making exceptions to coursework for those individuals, as it would be more appropriate for those students to enroll in a course in conducting within the music department.

President Luft suggested that Dr. Barbee draft clarification wording to be added to NAC 391.420 for the specific use of the Ethnic Music Endorsement and the variation of the required coursework for those individuals.

It was the consensus of the Commission to place this item on the next agenda for further discussion of the recommendations for Dr. Barbee.

9. Workshop to Solicit Comments for a New Section; NAC 391.060 – Expiration of Licenses and Endorsements; NAC 391.065 – Renewal of Licenses: Educational and Professional Requirements; and NAC 391.075 – Renewal Of License; Credits and Courses Providing for the Renewal Of License for Certain Retired Employees

President Luft opened the workshop at 10:50 A.M. There were eleven individuals present. There was no public comment.

Donna Brothers, Carson City Teacher Licensure Office, stated that she has received very positive responses and support for a license for retired educational employees.

Commissioner Ungaro stated that he has also received very favorable responses and support. Teachers have told Commissioner Ungaro that retiring, they will now keep their license and this will then affect the school's No Child Left Behind requirements by retaining highly qualified teachers in the classroom.

Commissioner Votraw stated that she has also received very positive responses and support for this type of license, as it will help with a school annual yearly progress (AYP) designation and keep certified/licensed teachers in the classroom and that is the benefit of this license.

Ms. Brothers stated that this will assist school districts in retaining a certified teacher in a core subject teaching students with the proper curriculum.

It was discussed that many retired teachers let their teaching license expire and then obtain a substitute license. This license will help retain the number of certified teachers in the classroom and meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind.

Vice President Lark stated that this type of license is a benefit to students in having a highly qualified/licensed teacher in the classroom, in light of the large number of teachers that retired this year, due to the issue to keep their health insurance benefits, but were not ready to retire. This will be a great benefit to the students.

Commissioner Votraw moved to post the New Section and NAC 391.065 for a public hearing at the October meeting, seconded by Commissioner Ungaro.

Commissioner Votraw suggested adding the wording “a national board certification for school counselors and speech pathologists” to NAC 391.060 for consistency, as there are other national boards that are recognized by the State for renewals. Donna Brothers responded that currently a school counselor, or anyone carrying a national board certification, now receives a license based upon their degree, and the proposed change could be a major change that needs a thorough evaluation. The national board certification has been recognized by the Legislature and additional funding has been set aside. Mrs. Brothers suggested that staff perform a thorough evaluation of the proposed addition of this wording and report back at the next meeting.

Ms. Dopf recommended that staff perform a thorough review of NAC 391.060 for the possible inclusion of the national board certification for counselors, etc. and to report back at the next Commission meeting.

10. Update of Task Force Activities

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

Co-Chair Ungaro stated that the ARL Task Force has had to postpone meetings until the video conferencing equipment is operational.

Ms. Dopf stated that the very earliest that the video conferencing would be available would be possibly in October, but more likely November.

Co-Chair Ungaro reported that the ARL Task Force has made progress with the in-state requirements and the Task Force is now reviewing the out-of-state requirements.

Co-Chair Lark stated that she would like to see a resolution of the in-state requirements and then discuss how to incorporate the out-of-state requirements. Co-Chair Lark stated that the Commission will be back on track as soon the video conferencing is operational.

- Report from the Task Force to Review Elementary Education Licensure

Commissioner Mendenhall stated that he was recently appointed as Chair of this Task Force. The membership of the Task Force has not yet been finalized, but hopes to have it finalized and notify Task Force members next week. Commissioner Mendenhall stated that a meeting will be scheduled once the video conferencing is operational.

Upon questioning by President Luft, Commissioner Mendenhall stated that he has received the names of individuals to be appointed to the Task Force from UNLV, but not from UNR. President Luft responded that he had provided names from UNR ten months ago, but will again provide those names to Commissioner Mendenhall.

President Luft stated that this Task Force needs to begin the process, appoint members, and schedule task force meetings.

11. Future Agenda Items

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

- Public Hearing of a New Section and NAC 391.065 – License for Certain Retired Employees;
- Discussion of recommendations to the Business and Industry Ethnic Music Endorsement for the specific use of the endorsement and exceptions in coursework;
- Report and recommendations from Staff regarding “national board certification” with regard to renewal of licenses in NAC 391.060;
- Discussion of developing a policy in which to allow for the payment of mileage for Task Force members;
- Election of Officers;
- Report from the Alternative Route to Licensure Task Force; and
- Report from the Elementary Education Licensure Task Force.

12. Comments From Public

Dr. Francine Mayfield, Dean of the College of Education for Nevada State College, requested that Nevada State College be considered when task force members are appointed and would like to be actively involved in the task force process. Dr. Mayfield will provide a faculty list for task force membership selection.

Dr. Marilyn Ford, UNLV, questioned if secondary ARL teachers are going to be allowed to not have a minor in their subject area, but just pass the PRAXIS II exam? Dr. Ford also questioned if the secondary ARL teachers are only going to be required to take one pedagogy course, where all of the other areas are required to have nine hours in pedagogy prior to going into the classroom.

President Luft stated that Dr. Ford’s questions will be referred to the Task Force for consideration.

13. Comments from Staff

There were no staff comments.

14. Comments from Commissioners

There were no comments from Commissioners.

15. Adjournment of Commission Meeting

Commissioner McNew moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 A.M., seconded by Commissioner Ungaro. The motion passed unanimously.