

Minutes of the Meeting

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

December 12, 2008

1. Call to Order; Roll Call; Introduction of New Commissioners; and Pledge of Allegiance

President Lark called the meeting of the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to order at 9:00 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:

Carol Lark, President
Karen Votraw, Vice President
Dr. Vern Luft, Commissioner
Brienne Thoreson, Commissioner
Wendy Zastawniak, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Ann O'Connell, Commissioner
Dr. Terry M. Owens, Commissioner
Nicholas Ungaro, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Bill Mendenhall, Commissioner – excused

STAFF PRESENT:

Christina Harper, Administrative Assistant to the Commission – Carson City Location
Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services – Carson City Location
Dr. Jerry Barbee, Director of Teacher Licensure – Las Vegas Location

LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT:

Dr. James E. Irvin, Deputy Attorney General – Carson City Location

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

Carson City Location:
Andre Yates, Clark County School District
Meg Nigro, Clark County School District
Jennifer Caldwell, Washoe County School District
DeShawn Reed, Washoe County School District

Las Vegas Location:

No public was present.

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

New Commissioners Dr. Terry Owens, Wendy Zastawniak, and Brianne Thoreson provided a brief introduction of themselves.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Luft.

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) October 17, 2008

Commissioner Luft moved to approve the October 17, 2008 minutes as submitted, seconded by Vice President Votraw. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Fiscal Report – Review of Current Budget Account Balance

Dr. Barbee reviewed the budget status report as of November 24, 2008. Dr. Barbee stated that the Licensure and Commission's budget is entirely a fee generated budget; with total revenue received to date of \$1,187,406.92, Commission expenditures totaling \$2,906.10; total expenditures for the Licensure budget of \$532,550.83; for an available funding total of \$654,856.09.

Dr. Barbee stated that the Licensure Office has made a request to move funding within the Licensure Office's budget to Interim Finance Committee (IFC); this meeting will be held in January. Dr. Barbee stated that this request is to move funding from areas where funding is not being utilized to areas where additional funding is needed.

Ms. Dopf added that the State's student population was reported with less than 1% growth and the Licensure budget anticipated teachers needed for 3% student growth.

5. Update of Nevada Department of Education Activities

Ms. Dopf reported on the following budget cuts, to date:

- The Norm Referenced Tests have been eliminated for the current school year, this was approved in the Legislative Special Session June, 2009;
- \$300,000 funding for this biennium for school support team leaders was eliminated as the number of schools identified as needing improvement was less than projected. Ms. Dopf emphasized that the school support team funding was not eliminated from the budget, but the funding that was unused for this biennium was eliminated.

- There was a \$5 million reduction in the millennium scholarship fund. It has been reported that the millennium scholarship fund is solid until 2015.
- The Regional Professional Development Programs (RPDPs) were not impacted by the initial budget cuts.

Ms. Dopf reported that the State Board of Education adopted the changes to NAC 391.558 effective January 2009, which allows for an 80% pass rate for the universities for the Praxis exams. The issue of the pass rate is that if the university's pass rate dropped below that rate then the State Board of Education could require additional program reviews.

6. Workshop to Solicit Comments for NAC 391.420 – Business and Industry License – Ethnic Music

President Lark opened the workshop at 9:38 A.M. There were five individuals present. There being no public comments, President Lark closed the workshop at 10:10 A.M.

Dr. Barbee provided a hand out and stated that the specific program for Ethnic Music was added to the Business and Industry Endorsement at the request of the Clark County School District to support the need identified to offer mariachi music. It was never the intent for the Business and Industry Ethnic Music Endorsement to be used to substitute or replace any endorsement required teaching music under any other Nevada teaching license. It is recommended that the Business and Industry Ethnic Music Endorsement continue to serve the purpose as originally intended and not be allowed to satisfy any other requirements for teaching in Nevada. Dr. Barbee stated that because the Ethnic Music program is identified within the Business and Industry Endorsement, licensees are required to take the same twelve semester hours as all Business and Industry licensees. Because the renewal requirements are not applicable to the Business and Industry Ethnic Music endorsement licensees, the following recommendations are offered: a) three semester hours in a course involving classroom management; and b) nine semester hours from a regionally accredited institution in the subject area of music.

Dr. Luft stated that the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) offers a course centered on more traditional music instruction and expressed concern about these individuals having instruction in classroom management. Dr. Luft stated that UNR does not offer a specific course in classroom management, as classroom management is taught within other courses as it relates to teaching in specific courses.

Upon questioning, Dr. Barbee stated that the Business and Industry Ethnic Music Endorsement only applies to secondary education and only for the teaching of mariachi music.

Upon a concern by Member O'Connell that there is no area within the Business and Industry Endorsement for economics, Dr. Luft responded that the Business and Industry Endorsement was originally established for career and technical education to recruit individuals working in a trade and a desire to teach students in their area of expertise. He stated that economics is a part of the academic curriculum. It was stated that these

individuals do not have to take the PRAXIS II exam, but are required to take all of the other required exams.

President Lark stated that in Clark County the mariachi music classes have helped prevent dropouts, as some students became interested in this class and then decided to remain in school; and as this class became popular there was a need for teachers in this area and the ethnic music endorsement within the Business and Industry Endorsement was developed as the only avenue for individuals to be licensed to teach mariachi music.

Upon questioning by Commissioner Owens, Dr. Barbee responded that individuals with a Business and Industry Endorsement are required to take twelve credits and are experts in their own field/subject area and are brought into the K-12 system to teach that expertise in that field only.

The Commission unanimously agreed to add the following verbiage to the requirements for Ethnic Music within NAC 391.420, "For renewal requirements, three semester hours in a course involving classroom management and/or coursework that imbeds classroom management methodology." The Commission also unanimously agreed to post a public hearing with this amendment for the February Commission meeting.

7. Workshop to Solicit Comments for NAC 391.075 – Renewal of License: Credits and Courses

President Lark opened the workshop at 10:11 A.M. There were five individuals present and no public comments.

Ms. Dopf stated that this amendment proposes that the Nevada Department of Education will maintain the list of state or national governance entities specific to a discipline for approval of renewal in service credit. Currently, any of these courses have to be approved by the Commission.

President Lark closed the workshop at 10:18 A.M.

The Commission unanimously agreed to post the proposed amendments for public hearing for the February Commission meeting.

8. Update of Task Force Activities

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

Co-Chair Lark stated that the ARL Task Force has not recently held a meeting, but will be scheduling a meeting for sometime in January 2009. Co-Chair Ungaro stated that the installment and set up of the video equipment had stopped the meeting cycle, but now that the equipment is operational, the meetings will resume.

Dr. Barbee reported that he has been working with staff from the Clark County School District, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and Teach for America on a proposal to

submit to the ARL Task Force for their review and input. The proposal outlines a process and identifies individuals to be admitted into the ARL program.

Dr. Barbee stated that he will e-mail the proposal to the ARL Task Force members for their review prior to the next ARL Task Force meeting. President Lark stated that the next step after receiving and reviewing the proposal is to schedule an ARL Task Force meeting.

- Report from the Task Force to Review Elementary Education Licensure and Discussion to Appoint a Co-Chair to Assist Commissioner Mendenhall

It was discussed that the goal of the Elementary Task Force is a comprehensive review of the Elementary Licensure requirements.

It was discussed to appoint a Co-Chair to help Commissioner Mendenhall with this Task Force.

Dr. Luft volunteered to work with Commissioner Mendenhall to move this task force forward. Dr. Luft also suggested that Commissioner Zastawniak join the task force, as the elementary education representative on the Commission.

It was discussed to hold the next Elementary Task Force meeting sometime in mid-January. Dr. Luft also requested that Donna Brothers, Carson City Licensure Office, be included as staff liaison.

Vice President Votraw moved to appoint Dr. Vern Luft as Co-Chair of the Elementary Licensure Task Force, seconded by Commissioner Zastawniak. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Future Agenda Items

The following items were noted to be on the February 2009 agenda:

- New Member Orientation in the morning – 2 hours with a lunch break and then the regular meeting to begin at approximately 1:00 P.M. on February 27, 2009 at the Carson City Office;
- Public Hearing to solicit comments NAC 391.420 - Business and Industry Ethnic Music Endorsement for the specific use of the endorsement and exceptions in coursework;
- Public Hearing to solicit comments to NAC 391.075 for a proposal regarding “national board certification” with regard to renewal of licenses;
- Legislative Report and Update;
- Workshop on NAC 391.420 – Ethnic Dance Endorsement – Vice President Votraw moved to hold a workshop to review Ethnic Dance, seconded by Commissioner Zastawniak. The motion passed unanimously.
- Report from the Alternative Route to Licensure Task Force; and
- Report from the Elementary Education Licensure Task Force.

10. Comments From Public

There were no comments from the public.

11. Comments from Staff

Dr. Irvin suggested that the Legislative Update be an "Action Item" in order for the Commission to take a position on an issue during the Legislature Session. Dr. Irvin stated that he has specific language for the agenda to allow for action on this item.

Dr. Barbee advised the Commission that Felicia Pagan, who worked as a Licensure Analyst for the Department for many years, passed away unexpectedly three weeks ago.

12. Comments from Commissioners

There were no Commissioner comments.

13. Adjournment of Commission Meeting

Vice President Votraw moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 A.M., seconded by Commissioner Ungaro. The motion passed unanimously.