

## Minutes of the Meeting

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

May 1, 2009

#### 1. Call to Order; Roll Call; 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 Office in Carson City and Las Vegas, Nevada.

Roll call showed the following Commissioners present:

#### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Carol Lark, President – Carson City  
Dr. Vern Luft, Commissioner – Carson City  
Bill Mendenhall, Commissioner – Las Vegas  
Ann O'Connell, Commissioner - Las Vegas  
Dr. Terry M. Owens, Commissioner – Las Vegas  
Brienne Thoreson, Commissioner – Carson City  
Nicholas Ungaro, Commissioner – Las Vegas  
Wendy Zastawniak, Commissioner – Carson City

#### COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Karen Votraw, Vice President - excused

#### STAFF PRESENT:

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

#### LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT:

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

#### AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

Francey Dennis, University of Phoenix – Carson City  
Andre Yates, Clark County School District – Las Vegas  
Meg Nigro, Clark County School District – Las Vegas  
Brenda J. Jones, Sierra Nevada College – Las Vegas

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

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 Luft. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes: a) February 27, 2009

Deputy Attorney General Irvin suggested his training be reflected through an outline of the areas covered in his presentation. The Commission unanimously agreed to this amendment.

Commissioner Luft moved to approve the February 27, 2009 minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Ungaro. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Fiscal Report – Review of Current Budget Account Balance

Dr. Barbee reviewed the budget status report as of April 10, 2009. Dr. Barbee stated that total revenues received to date are \$1,710,570.42. Commission expenditures total \$5,731.48; total expenditures for the Licensure budget of \$1,107,789.30; for an available funding total of \$602,781.12; and funding available from the Commission budget at \$3,109.52. Dr. Barbee stated that within the Licensure Office budget there have been recent amendments to include additional funding for out-of-state travel for staff to attend national conferences; increases in the operating budget; and increases in the furniture/equipment budget.

President Lark questioned if the lack of teaching jobs in Nevada will affect the Licensure budget. Dr. Barbee responded that with more support staff going back into the classroom the teacher licensure renewal revenue should remain constant, but there may be an effect on the budget in the area of new teacher licensure as Clark County is currently not recruiting new teachers and other school districts are also not hiring new teachers.

5. Update of Nevada Department of Education Activities

Dr. Barbee stated that the Southern Nevada teacher licensure office is developing a data base system in order for staff to improve efficiency and a reporting system process for required reports due to the Department and Legislature. The staff is also developing a resource manual on how the teacher licensure office functions and job descriptions for all jobs that are performed within the licensure office.

Dr. Barbee commended the licensure office staff for doing a good job and reported that currently the licensure office is about two to three weeks out in issuing licenses.

Ms. Dopf reported that the Mega Conference was a success with approximately 330 participants, primarily educators, administrators and parents. The theme of the Mega Conference was "Thinking about Learning - Learning about Thinking". The Center for Effective Learning brought in Trainers and three model schools; with one school from Nevada, utilizing the application of brain research, using what we know about the brain,

and how that impacts learning in the classroom. Ms. Dopf stated that ten Nevada schools were recognized and highlighted in their work of improving student achievement utilizing 21 Century skills and technology. The participant feedback received was positive and that there was a great deal of information provided to help move the educational process forward. Guest speaker Ron Clark did a tremendous job creating a high energy level among the participants by providing excellent information and set an enthusiastic, positive tone for the Conference.

Commissioner Owens congratulated and thanked the Department of Education for supporting this type of affordable and accessible conference in Nevada. It is wonderful for teachers to be able to access this type of high level of training and to hear from top quality speakers in Nevada.

President Lark stated that Douglas County School District sent individuals to this training and returned all fired up and ready with new ideas and options for the next school year for many school programs.

#### 6. 2009 Legislative Report and Update

Ms. Dopf reported on the following legislative bills:

- SB 330 – Senator Horsford’s world class education bill which proposes major changes to the Department of Education and education overall. The original bill proposed that the Commission be eliminated under a governance consolidation. Ms. Dopf advised that the elimination of the Commission on Professional Standards in Education within SB 330 has been eliminated and the Commission maintains their original authority along with the State Coordinating Council for the RPDP being maintained.

Craig Stevens, Nevada State Education Association (NSEA), stated that NSEA lobbied to maintain the Commission on Professional Standards in Education within SB 330. NSEA is happy that the Commission’s authority has been maintained.

- SB 20 – an education bill which includes mandatory training for substitute teachers. This bill is currently viable in Senate Finance.

Commissioner Owens expressed concern regarding the fiscal impact of this substitute training requirement on school districts. Ms. Dopf responded that the school districts have had the opportunity to provide fiscal impact notes on this bill, but there have been no fiscal impact notes from the school districts.

- SB 259 – a bill which would consider ABCTE certification for teacher license, is currently viable, but no hearing in the Assembly has been scheduled.

- AB 155 – a bill which would require a course of multi-cultural education as a requirement for teacher licensure renewal. This bill did not meet the required timelines and is no longer viable.
- AB 425 – a bill which would allow licensed individuals at specific grade levels to be licensed at another level. The bill would require an individual to meet that grade level requirements, but eliminates the student teaching requirement at the second level; and eliminates the teaching experience for licensure reciprocity, but does not amend any other reciprocity requirements. This bill would impact the Commission and is an attempt to get highly qualified individuals without a reduction in education quality. This bill is viable and is generally supported with no opposition recorded.
- AB 428 – the special qualifications licensure bill which includes amendments to lower the education level back to the bachelor’s level, but still maintains the requirement of other pre-requisites to include experience. This bill is currently viable.

7. Workshop to Solicit Comments for Temporary Regulation NAC 391.015 – Location of State Offices; Acquisition of Forms for Licensure

President Lark excused herself for a few moments and turned over the gavel to Commissioner Luft.

Commissioner Luft opened the workshop at 9:44 A.M. There were three individuals present. There being no public comments, Commissioner Luft closed the workshop at 9:45 A.M.

Ms. Dopf noted that the amendment to NAC 391.015 corrects the address for the Las Vegas Teacher Licensure Office, which is outlined in regulation.

Commissioner O’Connell moved to post amendments to NAC 391.015 for public hearing at the June meeting, seconded by Commissioner Mendenhall. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Public Hearing and Possible Adoption to Consider Comments for Temporary Regulation to NAC 391.425 – Business and Industry Endorsement: Qualifications for Receipt and First Renewal – Ethnic Dance

President Lark opened the public hearing 9:46 A.M. There were three individuals present. There being no public comments, President Lark closed the public hearing at 9:51 A.M.

Commissioner O’Connell expressed concern with the wording “meaningful” on the public hearing notice. Commissioner Luft stated that the wording indicates that the word meaningful would indicate that individuals would be taking their coursework in their area of study, which would be ethnic dance. It was stated that the word “meaningful” should have read, “more relevant”.

Commissioner Luft moved to adopt temporary regulation NAC 391.425, Business and Industry License – Ethnic Dance as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Mendenhall. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Workshop to Solicit Comments for NAC 391.057 – Conditional Licensure: Categories; Qualifications; Validity; Requirements Following Issuance; NAC 391.058 – Conditional Licensure: Prerequisites to Employment of Person; Assistance, Guidance, Training, Orientation and Evaluation of Person; Cooperation with Commission and Department; and New Sections for Out-of-State License; Out-of-State Categories; Qualifications, Validity; Requirements Following Issuance; and Conditional License: Out-of-State Categories, Qualifications, Validity; Requirements Following Issuance for the Alternative Route to Licensure Program

President Lark opened the workshop at 9:53 A.M. There were four individuals present. There were public comments.

President Lark advised that on April 1, 2009 she responded to the Senate Committee on Health and Education regarding negative comments and criticism concerning the Alternative Route to Licensure regulations and the progress the Commission has made in revising the Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL) regulations. President Lark stated that she sent the letter and a binder, which included the documents and work that the Alternative Route to Licensure Task Force has been performing over the past year.

Dr. Barbee reviewed the proposal and amendments to NAC 391.057, 391.058 and new sections to deal with individuals coming from out-of-state who would like to apply for the ARL license.

Ms. Dopf requested clarification if the wording for the Out-of-State license and is the wording limited to individuals not living in the State of Nevada or does the wording apply if they obtained their training out of state.

Dr. Barbee clarified that the intent of the Task Force in NAC 391.XXX (the first option) was to address those individuals who came from another state and who participated in an ARL program within another state and coming into the State of Nevada requesting a license to teach in Nevada's K-12 system. The intent is based upon where the ARL training program occurred, not the fact that the individual may now be a resident of Nevada.

Dr. Barbee clarified that the intent of the Task Force in NAC 391.xxx (the second option) is for the non-traditional programs where the certification and coursework is conducted and awarded through a school district and typically no transcripts are available. Current regulations dictate that the individual must have transcripts with coursework to be evaluated. This includes the ABCTE program, programs from other school districts and states and is based upon the completion and presentation of the certificate from that program.

Ms. Dopf stated that the intent of the out of state programs needs to be very clear within the regulation.

Commissioner Luft expressed concern and wanted to ensure that these individuals applying for the ARL licensure must also take the Praxis II exam and Nevada state required exams. Dr. Barbee stated that the intent was that all of the required testing for teacher licensure in the State of Nevada would be required, but will make the necessary amendments to ensure that the Praxis II exam is included in the requirements for ARL licensure.

Commissioner Zastawniak expressed concern of the time period that an individual is allowed to be out of the classroom with no professional development and then be able to qualify for a license in Nevada. Commissioner Zastawniak expressed that it is the individual's professional responsibility to keep their license active and would like to see a requirement for ongoing professional development or for the individual to keep their teaching license active.

Dr. Barbee responded that the intent of the Task Force was to provide an individual with an opportunity to obtain an ARL license with an expired license from another state.

Commissioner Thoreson questioned why an individual with a current and renewable license in another state would not utilize the reciprocity option? Ms. Dopf responded that reciprocity is based upon that state's comparable assessment and training program requirements to Nevada requirements as reciprocity is not an automatic option.

Craig Stevens, Nevada State Education Association and a member of the ARL Task Force, expressed opposition to NAC 391.xxx, Section 2, which could allow for an unqualified individual to obtain a Nevada teaching license and with the Commission having no control over that program; that program could lower their standards for certificate completion and that certificate would have to be accepted based upon the current proposed regulations. Mr. Stevens recommended that the Commission revise NAC 391.xxx.

President Lark closed the workshop at 10:39 A.M.

Commissioner Ungaro moved to post NAC 391.057, 391.058 and new Sections 391.XXX and 391.xxx with the suggested amendments for clarification and include the Praxis II and state required testing, seconded by Commissioner Owens. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 10. Discuss and Set Meeting Schedule for the 2009-1010 Year

The Commission reviewed the following suggested meeting schedule:

September 11, 2009	Video Conference
October 23, 2009	Carson City
December 4, 2009	Joint meeting with State Board of Ed in Las Vegas
February 5, 2010	Video Conference

May 7, 2010  
June 18, 2010

Video Conference  
Carson City

Following a discussion regarding schedules and possibly amending the February or May meeting to the end of April; President Lark postponed action on this item until the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting for possible amendments and approval.

It was agreed that the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a face to face meeting in Las Vegas.

#### 11. Update of Task Force Activities

- Report from the Task Force to Review Elementary Education Licensure

Commissioner Luft stated that the Elementary Education Licensure Task Force will be meeting on May 11, 2009 at 3:30 P.M. The meeting that was originally scheduled for April 16, 2009 was cancelled due to a lack of task force quorum, as it was during spring break for many of the task force members. Commissioner Luft will provide a report at the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### 12. Future Agenda Items

The following items were noted to be on the June 19, 2009 agenda:

- Public Hearings to solicit comments NAC 391.015 – Location of State Offices; Acquisition of Forms for Licensure and NAC 391.057, 391.058, and new sections for out of state alternative route to licensure regulations;
- Final Legislative Report, Update, and Action Requirements;
- Set Meeting Schedule for 2009-2010;
- Department of Education Update;
- Foreign Transcript Evaluator Approval; and
- Report from the Elementary Education Licensure Task Force.

#### 13. Comments From Public

There were no comments from the public.

#### 14. Comments from Staff

There were no comments from staff.

#### 15. Comments from Commissioners

There were no comments from Commissioners.

#### 16. Adjournment of Commission Meeting

Commissioner Ungaro moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:050 A.M., seconded by Commissioner Luft. The motion passed unanimously.