

Minutes of the Meeting

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

February 5, 2010

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

President Owens called the meeting of the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to order at 11:00 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 LAS VEGAS:

Dr. Terry Owens, President  
Nicholas Ungaro, Vice President  
Bill Mendenhall, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Karen Votraw, Commissioner  
Dr. Vernon Luft, Commissioner  
Brienne Thoreson, Commissioner  
Wendy Zastawniak, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Ann O'Connell, Commissioner – excused

STAFF PRESENT:

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, Senior Deputy Attorney General – Carson City

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN LAS VEGAS:

Andre Yates, Clark County School District  
Peter Yeager, Educational Testing Service  
Lori Navarete, Nevada State College  
Brenda Jones, Sierra Nevada College  
Marilyn Ford, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Nancy Sileo, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN CARSON CITY:

Anna Savala, Washoe County School District  
Dawn Huckaby, Washoe County School District  
Keli Brown, Sierra Nevada College

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

The pledge of allegiance was led by President Owens.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Luft moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Votraw. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes: a) December 4, 2009 Joint Minutes; b) December 4, 2009 Regular Meeting

The following amendments were made to the December 4, 2009 Joint Meeting Minutes: Page 4, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> line, ...and [a] teacher success. Page 5, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> line, ...Commission on Professional Standards in Education has the authority to set requirements...

The following amendment was made to the December 4, 2009 Meeting Minutes: page 4, Item 8, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, 1<sup>st</sup> line, ...Commissioner Luft stated that [the] he appreciates the Commission's and State Board of Education's position...

Commissioner Luft moved to approve the December 4, 2009 Joint Meeting Minutes and the Regular Meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Vice President Ungaro. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Fiscal Report – Review of Current Budget Account Balance

Dr. Barbee, Director of Teacher Licensure, reviewed the budget status report as of January 15, 2010. Dr. Barbee stated that total revenues received to date total \$1,238,704.25. Commission expenditures total \$4,527.68; expenditures for the Licensure budget total \$633,710.75; for an available funding total of \$604,993.50; and funding available from the Commission budget of \$7,614.32. Dr. Barbee stated that the budget is within the parameters of the work program.

5. Update of Nevada Department of Education Activities

Ms. Dopf reported that there are active legislative meetings with the Legislative Commission on Education (LCE); ACR2; Interim Finance Committee (IFC); ARRA Oversight and Interim Finance Committee regarding budgets for the K-12 system and Nevada higher education. The Nevada Department of Education has requested statutory relief so that the school districts can use flexibility to meet funding reductions.

Ms. Dopf reported on the proposed impact of the budget cuts on the school districts; and stated that for the Teacher Licensure office there should be no impact due to the fact that the Teacher Licensure office is totally fee funded. Ms. Dopf stated that 10% cuts were projected and the Department of Education is not aware of what further budget cuts will entail. Our staff impact is unknown at this time. Federal and fee funded staff will be affected the same as state funded staff regarding any further salary cuts, RIF or furloughs.

Ms. Dopf stated that Nevada will be applying in Phase II in the Race to the Top (RTTT), if the statutory barrier is removed. Ms. Dopf believes that this barrier will be removed in a special session of the Legislature. Teacher and administrator quality is one of the four major assurances. This Commission will need to look at possibly developing regulation for an alternative route for administrators, which is a component of the Great Teachers and Leaders requirement.

Upon questioning by President Owens, Ms. Dopf responded that the Race to the Top Grant is a competitive grant with no guarantee of funding. The grant application has a total of 500 possible points. Category IV has the potential of \$60-\$175 million over multiple years, but will require a Memorandum of Understanding from the school districts, who will be receiving 50% of the total funds, based upon Title I allocations. Dr. Rheault is also committed to help the rural school districts with funding to make the amount available to rural school districts more acceptable.

Upon questioning by President Owens regarding "Where do the funds go?", Ms. Dopf responded that there are guidelines to "reform" with "common core" and alignment of assessment, longitudinal data systems, great teachers and leaders, and support to struggling schools being the four reform areas in RTTT.

Dr. Barbee updated and stated that Dr. Vincent Sako has been hired as a consultant to monitor teacher education programs with the intent to provide the Commission and the State Board of Education with more information along with teacher completer surveys.

Dr. Barbee stated that he attended the NASDEC meeting wherein they discussed reciprocity.

Dr. Rohrer and the Clark County School District attended an in-house meeting with Idaho Testing Department concerning electronic correlation directory.

Dr. Barbee stated that he is also revisiting the process of background investigation with regards to finger printing.

#### 6. Workshop to Solicit Comments for NAC 391.170 – Endorsement as Professional Administrator of School or Program

President Owens opened the workshop at 11:30 A.M. There were five individuals present. There being no public comments, President Owens closed the public hearing at 11:32 A.M.

Commissioner Luft moved to hold a public hearing for amendments to NAC 391.170, seconded by Commissioner Votraw. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Public Hearing and Possible Permanent Adoption of R086-09; NAC 391.095 – Qualifications for License: Generally; Physical Education Elementary License; NAC 391.098 – Endorsements and New Section for Qualification for License: Physical Education Elementary License; K-8 Physical Education; New Section for Subject Area Minor Endorsements

President Owens opened the public hearing at 11:34 A.M. There were five individuals present.

Andre Yates, a task force member, expressed concern regarding the six semester hours of credit in two subjects. Upon questioning by Ms. Dopf, Mr. Yates responded that the intent of the task force was a minimum of two subjects.

Dr. Marilyn Ford, a task force member, expressed concern with the language received back from Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) and stated that it was never the intent of the task force to change the endorsement.

Commissioner Luft responded, in regard to Dr. Ford's concerns, that the changes to the elementary caused the revision to K-12 language. LCB had a difficult time deciding how to integrate the proposed changes from the task force. Commissioner Luft stated that he does not understand how the minor changes from the task force resulted in sixty pages of proposed language. Commissioner Luft suggested scheduling another task force meeting to review the language received from LCB.

Dr. Ford stated that the task force needs to compare the original task force amendments with the LCB proposed language.

Commissioner Luft recommended that the Commission refer this language back to the task force for further review and revisions if necessary.

President Owens closed the public hearing.

The Commission discussed possible revisions to the proposed LCB language and stated that the task force needs to review three documents:

1. Original amendments of the regulation from the task force;
2. The proposed language from LCB; and
3. The current Nevada Administrative Code (NAC)

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to remand the proposed language for the elementary licensure back to the task force for review and possible revisions, seconded by Commissioner Luft. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and Possible Approval of Position of the Commission to Legislative Interim Committee for Governance and Oversight of System of K-12 Public Education (A.C.R. 2)

Ms. Dopf reviewed the draft Position Paper for ACR2 and stated that once approved by the Commission, Department of Education staff will forward to the ACR2 Committee.

Commissioner Votraw recommended adding the “elementary licensure task force” under Rationale #6.

President Owen suggested that the Paper be narrative rather than point driven.

Following a discussion of when to submit this Position Paper, it was agreed by the Commission to submit the Position Paper prior to and for the March 11, 2010 ACR2 meeting.

The Commission made amendments to the Position Paper and requested that a history of Commission be included in the Paper. President Owens stated that a history of accomplishments and the Mission and Fact Statement will be included in the Position Paper.

Following additional amendments to the Paper, Commissioner Votraw moved to adopt the Position Paper with amendments indicated and provide the Position Paper in advance of the March 11, 2010 ACR2 Committee meeting, seconded by Vice President Ungaro. The motion passed unanimously.

A break was granted at 12:35 P.M.  
The meeting reconvened at 12:45 P.M.

9. Update Regarding the Presentation for “Race to the Top” to Legislative Committee on Education with Regards to Alternative Route to Licensure for Administrators/Principals and Possible Establishment of a Task Force to Discuss Alternative Route to Licensure for Administrators/Principals

President Luft stated that he made a presentation to the Legislative Committee on Education (LCE) with regard to the “Race to the Top”; and that are no further amendments are required for the alternative route for teachers, but there currently is no regulation that addresses or allows for an alternative route to licensure for administrators.

The Clark County School District expressed opposition to the development and adoption of an alternative route to licensure for administrators.

The Commission discussed the possibility of developing a task force to review, collect information, and discuss this issue.

Commissioner Luft stated that Dr. Rheault and he informed the LCE that alternative route to licensure is considered due to teacher shortages. Commissioner Luft stated

that there is the possibility for alternative route to licensure for the rural schools with a certain number of years teaching.

President Owens stated that there currently is no shortage of administrators in Clark County School District.

The Commission agreed to appoint a task force to collect information and develop a recommendation to the Commission with regard to an alternative route to licensure for administrators.

President Owens requested volunteers to serve on the task force. The following individuals volunteered to serve on the Alternative Route to Licensure for Administrators Task Force: Commissioner Luft – representing administrators; President Owens; and Commissioner Thoreson; with President Owens as the Task Force Chair.

10. Update, Submissions of Reports and Recommendations From Task Forces and Possible Adoption of Recommendations for Task Forces

- AB 425 Sections 1 & 5

Task Force Chair Owens provided recommendations from the Task Force concerning licensure level changes.

The Commission agreed to hold a workshop of the proposed amendments for the licensure level changes at the next meeting.

- AB 428 Special Qualifications

Task Force Chair Ungaro provided recommendations from the task force, which adds a new section and amendments to Section 6(b) of NAC 391.0583 with regard to the special qualifications license for the inclusion of the bachelor's degree and aligning with the Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL) program for consistency.

- AB 425 Special Education

Task Force Chair Mendenhall reported that this Task Force continues to meet to discuss and review the issues of categorical licensing and reciprocity. A report will be provided at the next meeting.

11. Possible Approval to Amend the March 26, 2010 Meeting Date and Discuss the Location of Meeting or Video Conference

The Commission agreed to keep the next meeting date on March 26, 2010 and to begin the meeting at 9:00 A.M.

## 12. Future Agenda Items

The following items were noted to be on the March 26, 2010 agenda:

- Public hearing for NAC 391.171 - Business and Industry Endorsement Holder to be Allowed to Pursue an Administrative Endorsement;
- ACR 2 Update;
- Workshop for the Alternative Route to Licensure for Administrators;
- Workshop for recommendations from the AB 425 Section 1 & 5 Task Force and send proposed language to Legislative Counsel Bureau for language;
- Pearson (NES) presentation of their program of teacher assessment/testing for teacher education;
- Update and Recommendations from Task Forces for AB 425 – Special Education; AB 428 – Special Qualifications; Alternative Route to Licensure for Administrators; and the Elementary Licensure Task Force
- Department of Education Update

The following items were noted to be on a future agenda:

- Public hearing for the Elementary Licensure proposed regulations.

## 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

President Owens adjourned the meeting at 2:00 P.M.