Minutes of the Meeting

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

March 1, 2011

Call to Order; Roll Call; Pledge of Allegiance

President Owens called the meeting of the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to order at 9:05 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
Brian Boothe, Commissioner
Dr. Nancy Sileo, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Dr. Cheryl Lau, Commissioner
Mary Keith, Commissioner
Wendy Zastawniak, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Brianne Thoreson, Vice President - excused
Elissa Couch, Commissioner – excused
Dr. Jeffrey Geihs, Commissioner – excused

STAFF PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Christina Harper, Commission Administrative Assistant
Katherine Rohrer, Licensure Office

STAFF PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Dr. Jerry Barbee, Director of Teacher Licensure

LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

There was no legal counsel present.

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN CARSON CITY:

Thomas Harrison, University of Nevada, Reno
Anna Savala, Washoe County School District

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN LAS VEGAS:

Andre Yates, Clark County School District
Dr. Tom Pierce, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Dena Durish, Clark County School District
Annie Amoia, Clark County School District
A. Serafin, TFA

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

President Owens led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Lau moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Sileo. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion, Development and Possible Approval of a Position Statement on the Alternative Route to Teacher Licensure Regarding an Accelerated Program and Non-Traditional Training Program

President Owens reviewed a draft position statement for discussion.

The Commission reviewed, suggested, and discussed possible wording options.

Dr. Tom Pierce, UNLV, stated that this is a very important topic and expressed that in his experience, individuals enrolled in ARL Programs have a difficult time working with experienced teachers. Dr. Pierce offered that carefully selected candidates have been very successful in the ARL Programs. In other non-traditional teacher training programs with individuals with a GPA of 2.0 or less, those individuals do not succeed at teaching and leave the teaching profession within the first few years. Dr. Pierce suggested structured standards for the ARL program; and cautioned that some ARL Programs are not accredited. Dr. Pierce stated that teachers need content, not only pedagogy.

Following additional comments, President Owens called for a break at 9:50 A.M. to draft the Position Statement with the agreed upon wording.

The meeting reconvened at 10:09 A.M.

President Owens read the draft Position Statement.

MOTION: Following additional discussion, Commissioner Boothe moved to approve the following Position Statement, seconded by Commissioner Lau. The motion passed unanimously.

POSITION STATEMENT
ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO LICENSURE
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION
ADOPTED MARCH 1, 2011

The Commission on Professional Standards in Education would like to respectfully convey their position on further legislation for Alternative Route to Licensure for teachers and administrators.

We believe that:

1. Teaching is an honorable profession.
2. Nevada teachers are held to high standards of quality for:
   - Accredited pre-service university and college programs, inclusive of training in content knowledge tied to pedagogy, child and adolescent development, and field-based programs;
   - Rigorous testing;
   - Nationally competitive licensure criteria; and
   - Their evaluations as probationary and post-probationary teachers.
3. Although we value the idea of outside experience, teaching is both an art and a science. It is not merely content knowledge in a given subject, but the ability to deliver that content knowledge in a highly effective manner.

We further believe that:

1. Administrators are instructional leaders of a school.
2. In order to evaluate and guide teachers, an administrator must be both knowledgeable and experienced in:
   - Educational theory;
   - Lesson planning, structure and pacing;
   - Instructional strategies;
   - Student engagement;
   - Classroom management; and
   - Alignment of curriculum and assessment to the state standards.
3. Educational experience in a school setting is essential to understanding the management and academic guidance of a school.

We also believe that:

1. Students, parents, and community members deserve teachers with high standards of quality; and
2. Students, parents, and community members deserve administrators with high standards as instructional leaders of a school.

The Commission therefore takes the position that weakening of teacher hiring criteria through additional legislation for Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL) programs should not be a deliberation in the 2011 Nevada Legislative session. We ask that Nevada

teachers and administrators be held to rigorous standards already described in the Nevada Administrative Code and that current options for ARL be allowed to remain without additions or revisions.

ACTION: Staff was directed to ensure that the Position Statement is sent to Mindy Martini at Legislative Counsel Bureau to be disseminated to the Legislature.

Comments From Public

There were no further public comments.

Comments from Staff

Dr. Barbee stated that binders were assembled and handed out which include a history of the ARL Program and how it evolved for Commissioners.

Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Keith questioned if there will be a joint meeting with the State Board of Education in the future. Mrs. Harper responded that she will confer with the Superintendent on this issue, but a joint meeting would probably would not be scheduled until sometime after September 2011.

It was stated that the next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2011.

Adjournment of Commission Meeting

President Owens adjourned the meeting at 10:25 A.M.