Minutes

Parental Involvement Task Force Commission on Professional Standards in Education July 28, 2011

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Parental Involvement Task Force met in Carson City on July 28, 2011. Chair Elissa Couch called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

Task Force Members Present:

Elissa Couch, Chair - via telephone conference call
Ann Bingham, Member – via telephone conference call
D'Lisa Crain, Member – via telephone conference call
Eva Melendrez, Member – via telephone conference call
Karen Taycher, Member – via telephone conference call
Rorie Fitzpatrick, Member – via telephone conference call
Lyn Gorrindo, Member – via telephone conference call
Margaret Ferrara, Member – via telephone conference call
Amy Henderson, Member – via telephone conference call
Shawn Vogel, Member – via telephone conference call

Staff Present:

Christina Harper, Commission Administrative Assistant Dr. Katherine Rohrer, Licensure Office

Public:

Kathleen Conovoy

Chair Couch determined that quorum of the Task Force was present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

REVIEW AB 224 AND DEVELOP GOALS FOR THIS TASK FORCE TO INCLUDE DEVELOPING REGULATIONS TO ADD TO COURSEWORK FOR TEACHERS IN THE AREA OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Chair Couch stated that she would like this Task Force to develop a schedule and goals as this Task Force has been tasked with developing coursework for teachers in the area

Commission on Professional Standards in Education Parental Involvement Task Force July 28, 2011 Page 2

of parental involvement and family engagement. Chair Couch reviewed AB 224 and stated that the Commission on Professional Standards in Education must adopt regulations requiring coursework in parental involvement by December 31, 2011 in coordination with the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement. The Department of Education is in the process of hiring a Director for this office.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that she is working on the job announcement, will be applying for approval to open the job announcement, anticipate opening open the recruitment in September, and hire an individual by October 1, 2011.

Eva Melendrez stated that currently the special education endorsement requires coursework in working with families; this may be a place to start in order to develop and broaden this requirement for elementary and secondary teachers.

Ann Bingham stated that the University of Nevada, Reno currently offers courses in family involvement.

Chair Couch requested, as there is coursework developed and available at UNR and UNLV, to have this information provided to the Task Force to review and discuss at the next meeting.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the Task Force needs to answer the following questions, "What is necessary to ensure the successful outcome of the coursework(s)? What is appropriate in terms of ensuring that pre-service teachers obtain the necessary information and training to be able to provide instructional setting that leads to good family engagement? Are there states that have such requirements and do we know if those states practices are leading to the outcomes that Nevada is looking for?"

D'Lisa Crain stated she worked on this bill and the intent of the bill was to ensure that elementary and secondary teachers have coursework in family engagement, similar to special education teachers. This is an effort to provide advocacy and empowering parents. Ms. Crain suggested placing very broad but specific requirements of what his course would entail.

Ann Bingham stated that this is also an effort to provide strategies for teachers to engage families in the learning process.

Chair Couch stated that it appears that the group would like to coursework to include, but not limited to: 1) building relationships; 2) advocacy; and 3) strategies for teachers for the engagement of families.

Commission on Professional Standards in Education Parental Involvement Task Force July 28, 2011 Page 3

Chair Couch summarized that this Task Force is looking for the categories to be broad and ensure that the universities/colleges can provide this coursework and also have cultural competence building blocks components within teacher coursework and evaluation.

It was requested that Task Force members e-mail their documents to Mrs. Harper, who will disseminate those documents to all Task Force members prior to the next meeting.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE - IF NECESSARY

The next meeting of the Task Force was scheduled for September 13 at 2:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS COMMENTS

There were no further Task Force Member comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Couch adjourned the meeting at 9:50 A.M.