

Minutes of the Meeting

STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

May 2, 2012

**Call to Order; Roll Call; Pledge of Allegiance**

President Thoreson called the meeting of the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to order at 9:15 A.M. via video conference in the Board Conference Room 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:

Brianne Thoreson, President  
Mary Keith, Commissioner  
Dr. Cheryl Lau, Commissioner  
Wendy Zastawniak, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Dr. Nancy Sileo, Vice President  
Elissa Couch, Commissioner  
Bonnie Townsend, Commissioner

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Brian Boothe, Commissioner - excused

STAFF PRESENT:

Christina Harper, Commission Administrative Assistant – Carson City  
Dr. Jerry Barbee, Director of Teacher Licensure – Carson City  
Jeanette Calkins, Teacher Licensure – Las Vegas

LEGAL COUNSEL:

Dr. James E. Irvin, Senior Deputy Attorney General – Carson City  
Carrie Parker, Deputy Attorney General – Carson City  
Shane Chesney, Senior Deputy Attorney General – Las Vegas

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN CARSON CITY:

Lindsay Knox, McDonald, Carano, Wilson Law Firm  
Thomas Harrison, University of Nevada, Reno  
Lauren Jackson, Washoe County School District

**AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN LAS VEGAS:**

Esther Kassouf, University of Phoenix  
Dr. Emily Lin, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Dena Durish, Clark County School District  
Jerry Deluca, Educational Testing Service

It was determined that a quorum of the Commission was present. Vice President Sileo led the pledge of allegiance.

**Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Keith moved to approve a flexible agenda, seconded by Commissioner Lau. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Approval of Minutes: a) March 14, 2012**

Commissioner Couch requested the following amendment: Page 9, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph, 3<sup>rd</sup> line, "...not be evaluating teachers and that the evaluation process may become [to] too finite and..."

**MOTION:** Commissioner Couch moved to approve the March 14, 2012 minutes as amended, seconded by Vice President Sileo. The motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion of Open Meeting Law Compliance Issues**

Senior Deputy Attorney General Irvin introduced Senior Deputy Attorney General Shane Chesney as the new counsel for the Commission and the Nevada Department of Education.

Senior Deputy Attorney General Chesney thanked Dr. Irvin for his introduction and kind comments.

Commissioner Lau thanked Dr. Irvin for his guidance and legal wisdom during his time serving this Commission. Commissioner Lau stated that the Commission learned a lot from Dr. Irvin and Dr. Irvin will be sorely missed.

President Thoreson, in respect of Dr. Irvin's wishes for short goodbyes, echoed Commissioner Lau's comments and on behalf of the Commission thanked Dr. Irvin for his dedication and work for the Commission.

### **Fiscal Report – Review of Current Budget Account Balance**

Dr. Jerry Barbee, Director of Teacher Licensure, thanked Dr. Irvin for his guidance and assistance he provided with regards to regulations and other educational issues.

Dr. Barbee reviewed the budget status report dated April 6, 2012 for Fiscal Year 2012 with revenue received to date of \$1,254,409; expenditures to date of \$884,069; and an available balance of \$370,339. The Commission's expenditures to date total \$5,885 with funds available of \$2,141 for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Dr. Barbee stated that there have been amendments to the in-state travel budget due to the increased travel required by staff and an adjustment to the Information Services budget as funds were inappropriately charged to this account and those funds have been reinstated.

### **Update of Nevada Department of Education Activities**

Dr. Barbee reported that the Teachers and Leaders Council recently held a joint task force meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup> and will be making a presentation, in reference to performance indicators and teacher evaluative issues, to the entire Council at the May 7, 2012 meeting in Las Vegas.

Dr. Barbee stated that Jim Kenyon is currently at an Educational Testing Service (ETS) conference.

Dr. Barbee informed that Mr. Greg Weyland is no longer the Deputy Superintendent of Fiscal Services for the Nevada Department of Education.

Dr. Barbee announced that the Licensure Office has hired two new employees in the Carson City office. Patricia Bishop is the Administrative Assistant II and Dana Embro is the Analyst and liaison to the IT Department as it relates to the needs for data collection and the new data base.

Dr. Barbee announced his retirement effective December 28, 2012.

### **Update and Submission of Report and Recommendations from Appointed Task Forces**

- Standing Task Force on Review of Regulations

Dr. Barbee stated that staff and other individuals have been selected to serve on this task force, but in discussions on how to best to review NAC 391 it is recommended that the Standing Task Force on Review of Regulations be eliminated and that the Commission review regulations in sections along with staff recommendations for possible amendments to regulations. This recommendation will streamline the process in the review and possible amendments to NAC 391. Dr. Barbee stated that currently there are four regulations in which the staff would be recommending updates; there are no major revisions anticipated.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lau moved to eliminate the Standing Task Force on Review of Regulations in an effort to streamline the process, minimize the fiscal impact, and move forward with a review of NAC 391 by the Commission accompanied by staff recommendations for possible amendments in an update of NAC 391, seconded by Commissioner Zastawniak. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Update on Revisions to LCB File No. R115-11 – Alternative Route to Licensure**

Dr. Barbee updated that since the last Commission meeting there have been several meetings with Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) in a review of the proposed regulations with the amendments approved by the Commission for the final ARL proposal. Dr. Barbee stated that it was anticipated to have the final proposal for review today; but the proposal remains at LCB for finalization.

President Thoreson stated that the Commission will await the final proposal for review and schedule the public hearing.

Vice President Sileo questioned if the delay in adopting the final R115-11 would delay the ARL applications for providers until the following year. Dr. Barbee responded that in a discussion with Dr. Rheault it was interpreted that the current ARL regulations will remain in effect until the new regulations are adopted. Dr. Barbee stated that part of the package was that qualified providers, or those seeking to be qualified providers, would have an opportunity next Fall to request, through the process, to be a qualified provider and could go into the Spring if there was a delay in the adoption of the new regulations.

Dr. Irvin stated that the statutory mandate was to have the new ARL regulations in place by December 31, 2011. Dr. Irvin advised the Commission to establish a statement with regard to the adoption of these regulations that the timeline established by the Legislature was an impossible timeline, but the Commission went to great efforts to accomplish the goal within the timeline with additional task force and Commission meetings scheduled. Dr. Irvin encouraged the Commission to adopt the new ARL regulations as soon as possible.

Dr. Irvin suggested that the Commission might want to grandfather the current regulation to allow the continuance of the old methodology to achieve the goal of ARL licensure to be in place for those individuals who are currently in the process and the Commission should adopt new ARL regulations as soon as possible to begin the new process. The Commission should be ready to respond to the Legislature with regard to the ARL statutory mandate; if the Legislature questions the delay in adoption, the Commission should respond that they held task force and special Commission meetings in a special effort to develop and adopt the new regulations and to ensure a good job in the adoption of those new regulations. It could also be stated that the Commission had a problem initially conceptually complying with what the statute mandated and the Commission wanted to ensure doing the best job possible for the ARL students and programs.

### **Review and Approval of 2012-2013 Commission Meeting Schedule**

The Commission reviewed and discussed the following meeting schedule:

August 15, 2012                      Video Conference Sites  
Carson City and Las Vegas

October 10, 2012                    Las Vegas  
Or  
Video Conference Sites  
Carson City and Las Vegas

December 12, 2012                Video Conference Sites  
Carson City and Las Vegas

January 16, 2013                  Video Conference Sites  
Carson City and Las Vegas

March 13, 2013                    Video Conference Sites  
Carson City and Las Vegas

May 8, 2013                        Video Conference Sites  
Carson City and Las Vegas

June 19, 2013                      Las Vegas  
Or  
Video Conference Sites  
Carson City and Las Vegas

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lau moved to approve the 2012-2013 meeting schedule as presented, seconded by Commissioner Townsend. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Discussion of Including a Classroom Experience Requirement for School Counselors**

Dr. Barbee stated that this agenda is to discuss considering requiring a teaching experience requirement for a counselor endorsement prior to an individual becoming a counselor. Dr. Barbee stated that there are two types of teaching licenses: 1) teacher licensing; and 2) non-teaching licensing to include counselors. The non-teaching license does not require teaching experience. Dr. Barbee provided an overview of the school counselor regulations and the requirements.

Commissioner Keith stated that she requested this item be placed on the agenda based upon personal experience and the fact that teachers work closely with counselors in the schools and with students; it is has been her experience that it is difficult to work/collaborate with a counselor with no previous teaching experience.

Commissioner Couch stated that she is both a certified teacher and counselor and she personally believes that her teaching experience has benefited her in her counseling position. There is the option within the requirements to become a school counselor and obtain teaching experience. Commissioner Couch offered that there may be a need to review other non-teaching licensed personnel who would also benefit from teaching experience.

President Thoreson recommended tabling this discussing until this regulation is reviewed by staff and the Commission in the cycle to review regulations and enhance licensure.

### **Future Agenda Items**

The following items were noted to be on the June 13, 2012 agenda:

- Department of Education Update – Dr. Barbee;
- Public hearings for R115-11 – Alternative Route to Licensure Regulation and R127-11 – Parental Involvement Coursework Requirement (it was requested to invite Monie Byers – parental involvement consultant, to attend the parental involvement public hearing);
- Educational Testing Service (ETS) exam approvals; and
- Review of NAC 391 in sections.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Adjournment of Commission Meeting**

President Thoreson adjourned the meeting at 10:15 A.M.