

**NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
NEVADA STATE BOARD FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

Thursday, January 28, 2016

Department of Education
Board Conference Room
700 East Fifth Street
Carson City, Nevada

And

Department of Education
Board Conference Room
9890 South Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, Nevada

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
(Video Conferenced)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Elaine Wynn
Pat Hickey
Tonia Holmes-Sutton
Mark Newburn
Anthony Martinez
Allison Stephens
Victor Wakefield

In Carson City:

Freeman Holbrook
Teri Jamin
David Jensen

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas

Dena Durish, Deputy Superintendent, Educator Effectiveness & Family Engagement
Karl Wilson, Education Programs Professional
Laurie Hamilton, Administrative Assistant

In Carson City

Steve Canavero, Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction
Janie Lowe, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Student Achievement
Lauren Hulse, Management Analyst
Mindy Martini, Deputy Superintendent, Business and Support Services
Mike Raponi, director, Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning & Education Options
Julian Montoya, Education Programs Professional
Tracy Gruber, Education Programs Supervisor

Colin Usher, Education Programs Professional
Jem Kingman, Education Programs Professional
Mark Gabrylczyk, Director,
Russ Keglovits, Education Programs Professional
Gunes Kaplan, Education Programs Professional
Peter Zutz, Administrator, Assessment, Data & Account Management
Amanda Pinter, Administrative Assistant
Shawn Osborne, IT Department
Karen Johansen, Assistant to the State Board of Education

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:**In Carson City:**

Greg Ott, Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:**In Las Vegas:**

Michael Robison, University of Phoenix
Dave Berns, Nevada Succeeds
Deb Roberson, Quest Prep
Irma Pumphrey, Clark County School District
Lindsay Anderson, Washoe County School District
Kathleen Vokits, Clark County School District
Ben Gerhardt, Nevada Virtual Academy
Heidi Arbuckle, Clark County School District
Heather Strasser, Clark County School District
Rob Askey, Touro University
Patricia Cooper, Sierra Nevada College
Robert Jones, Clark County School District
Myron Martin, The Smith Center
Tonya Walls, Touro University
Frank Abbott
Terri Barber, quest Academy
Diane Albiston, Clark County Shoo District
Pam Salazar, Chair, Teachers and Leaders Council
Tim Lorenz, Odyssey Charter School
Barbara Gnatovish, Sierra Nevada College
Peter Reynolds, Clark County School District
Barbara Konrad, H.O.P.E.
Manny Lamarre, Governor's Office
Caryne Shae, H.O.P.E
Demetria Murphy, Leadership for Education Equity
Yvonne Chaves, Clark County School District
Andrea Klafter-Rakita, Clark County School District

Carson City:

Gennie Hudson, Agency HR Services
Jaimarie Dagdagan, Legislative Counsel Bureau
Julie Waller, Legislative Counsel Bureau
Tim Logan, Lyon County School District

Wayne Workman, Lyon County School District
Sandra Sheldon, Churchill County School District
Dawn Huckaby, Washoe County School District
Mary Pierczynski, Nevada Association of School Superintendents
Dotty Merrill, Nevada Association of School Boards
Anthony Verde, Applicant for Superintendent of Public Instruction
Jennifer Evans, Douglas County School District
Allison Combs, Nevada System of Higher Education
Katrina Midgley, Sierra Nevada College

Public Comment #1

Kathleen Vokits, president, Nevada State Association of School Nurses, stated she has been a nurse in the Clark County School District (CCSD) for 17 years. The Nevada State Association of School Nurses is a statewide association that is affiliated with the National Association of School Nurses. School nurses across the state fully support a state performance evaluation system. The association supports the recommendation that the performance rubric is developed by the 2018-19 school year based on the national association of school nurses standards. Student health, safety and the continuous improvement of individual school nursing practices are the goals of the performance rubric.

Mr. Peter Reynolds, CCSD, said he is a licensed school psychologist. The recognition of research based national framework is key in professional standards. He recognized the language in the Nevada Education Performance Framework (NEPF) is unclear about the role Other Licensed Education Personnel (OLEP) have in terms of being linked to student performance, and he would like to see the language clarified in discussions today.

Approval of Flexible Agenda

Member Newburn moved to approve a flexible agenda. Member Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried

President's Report

President Wynn announced the reappointment of Teri Jamin representing the Nevada Association of School Boards. She has served on the Douglas County School Board since 2004 having been re-elected twice, and serving as president twice.

President Wynn welcomed new board member former Assemblyman Pat Hickey who was appointed by the Governor to serve out former member Dave Cook's term through January 2017. Mr. Hickey will represent District 2. He is a native Nevadan first served in the Assembly in 1997 and after a 14 year hiatus returned in 2011 as minority leader. He was a strong proponent of the Governor's reforms during the 2015 legislative session.

Allison Stephens was also welcomed to the Board as the Board of Regents representative for the the Nevada System of Higher Education replacing Kevin Melcher. She was elected to the Board of Regents in 2012 from District 4 and has lived in Las Vegas for 20 years. Currently she is pursuing her doctorate at Rutgers University in biomedical informatics.

Board Member Allison Serafin, who recently resigned from the Board, was the chair of the High School Graduation Committee. President Wynn appointed Member Newburn to fill that position. She also appointed Pat Hickey to that committee.

Interim Superintendent's Report

Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction, Steve Canavero provided an update about the annual approval of the State Improvement Plan (STIP) and the 5-year improvement plan. The law was recently changed to allow the STIP to include the individual school performance plans by requiring approval in March rather than in January.

The High School Graduation Committee met on January 14, 2016. There was a presentation from the Governor's Office of Economic Development, discussions with industry representatives and presentations about Career and Technical Education (CTE). Discussions included what does economic diversification and workforce development mean for K-12. Future meetings will include representatives from NSHE and other institutes of higher education as well as industry to report their analytics, and the technical and academic skills that do well in programs to understand the data about college readiness.

Dr. Canavero explained the Board identified Teach Nevada Scholarship recipients they awarded scholarships to as well as the institutions that can provide the most qualified teachers the fastest. There were 134 scholarships were awarded to alternative route to licensure programs. The Board asked a list of schools is created so when a scholar signs up for the Teach Nevada Scholarship they will receive a list of schools with the highest teacher vacancies in the State. The scholar must agree to serve three of the five years in one of these schools. There are 200 schools on the list, over 20 are Zoom schools and over 20 are Victory schools.

President Wynn inquired how Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. School in CCSD teaches children when 60 percent of their teacher positions are vacant. Dr. Canavero responded one of the reasons the list was established was to ensure that schools like MLK Jr are addressed and the vacancies are narrowed. President Wynn said she would like to see a narrowed list that continues to observe those schools which are considered high risk because of personnel issues so they can be monitored more closely than the general group.

Member Wakefield asked what else is being done so this is not the only way these schools are being helped. President Wynn said the clearest, single most important aspect is having a teacher in a classroom that can access students. Regardless of other interventions, if there is not an adult to conduct the affairs of education, it will be difficult. Teacher shortage must remain front and center.

Dr. Canavero explained a Request For Proposal process is used when the State hires contractors through the State Purchasing Department. Currently there is a licensure study to receive funding to bid an RFP to evaluate the structure of the licensing system. Three external vendors have submitted proposals to review seven different programs, including Victory Schools. There is also an RFP for Harbor Master, funded by the legislature to expand high quality charter schools in the state. They work as a critical partner to the Achievement School District (ASD) for turning around under performing schools.

The Nevada Department of Education (NDE), striving for transparency in communication, now has a Legislative Implementation Report available on its website. A new page was added regarding Grant opportunities to broadcast new opportunities for funding as they become available. The site will be expanded to provide an easy place for the public to access successful grants that have been awarded.

Member Wakefield asked if the MLK School mentioned earlier would be a candidate for the ASD. Dr. Canavero said the process for selection of schools to be eligible for ASD conversion is specified in law and it is based on underperformance. He added MLK would need to be on the underperforming list and then go through the selection process. Regulations are in the adoption process.

Member Stephens expressed she would like to ensure that the NSHE perspective is not having a negative impact on the college readiness definitions included in NAC, and that they will be included in the process and future discussions. President Wynn asked if there is representative on the High School Graduation Committee from higher education. Dr. Canavero confirmed the Regent appointment from the Board is not on the committee. President Wynn requested the committee is increased to include Regent and Board Member Allison Stephens. Member Stephens accepted the appointment.

Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Possible Approval of State Board of Education 2016 meeting dates
- b. Possible Approval of 2016-17 Career and Technical Education Course Catalog
- c. Possible approval of FY15 Career and Technical Education State Funding Report
- d. Possible Approval of December 17, 2015 Minutes

Member Newburn moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Member Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Election for Vice President of the State Board of Education

President Wynn explained the departure of Allison Serafin created a vacancy of the vice president of the State Board. President Wynn suggested the consideration of Member Newburn as the new vice president.

Member Wakefield moved to approve the nomination of Member Newburn as the State Board vice president. There were no further nominations. Member Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Information, Discussion and Possible Action regarding the process for recommending three names to the Governor for his consideration in appointment of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott explained the legal requirements. NRS385.150 specifies the superintendent of public instruction is appointed by the Governor from a list of three candidates submitted by the Board and serves at the pleasure of the Governor. The Board's task is to select three names and submit them to the Governor for him to choose a final candidate.

Genevieve Hudson, Agency Human Resources (HR) Services and HR for the Department of Education and Personnel Officer with the Agency, explained the process is to draft an announcement for the recruitment of the position. It is posted and advertised in multiple locations and then resumes and submittals are received. The submittals are tracked and reviewed to ensure the minimum qualifications identified in the recruitment are met as required by NRS 385.160. Four submittals were received and one was deemed to not meet the minimum qualifications. The other three are available for consideration. President Wynn reiterated the process of recruitment, announcement and solicitation occurs in the HR department. The Board

is required to review the appropriate screened submissions that are presented with the assignment to forward three to the Governor. Any further obligation is not indicated.

Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott stressed that according to statute the appointment is made by the Governor. The only control the Board has to preclude someone from becoming superintendent is to not recommend them. Comments made to indicate opinions would not prohibit the Governor from appointing anyone once they were recommended by the Board.

Information, Discussion and Possible Action to review the names of qualified applicants and recommend a list of three names to be forwarded to Governor Sandoval pursuant to NRS 385.150.

President Wynn stated this is a unique condition because the former superintendent was recruited to work for the Governor, and now the Board works for him. She added we have not lost our former superintendent in his leadership, only in the position he had. We were fortunate that Dr. Canavero accepted the interim superintendent position to continue the work that the Board has done through multiple legislative sessions. This is reflected in the lack of application and interest of the education public to apply for this position. It indicates the public knows we are on track, have plans, are in the implementation phase with leadership moving in that direction. It could be construed as good news more than bad news that the interest has not been very deep. The lack of response is not considered a lack of interest or a lack of reaching out and making this an open process. Rather it is seen as a validation that the NDE is on track, doing well and there is continuity of the work that has begun.

Member Newburn stated as a member of the Board he does not have a strong desire for whoever is selected to suddenly change directions. There is momentum from the last legislative session and he would like to see it continued. When he had been in office for two and a half years he was already in his fourth acting superintendent of instruction. New leadership often goes in a different direction that can result in a regime change at the top levels, and he has watched that occur twice in his tenure. He concluded we cannot afford another top level management purge. The NDE is going in a good direction and he hopes the Governor keeps that in mind for his selection.

Member Wakefield commented the reach of the advertisement has brought little interest. He asked if a reasonable effort was put into the process for a position of this level. Ms. Hudson said the process was the same and has been the same for this recruitment in prior year for the superintendent position.

The job announcement was placed on the State of Nevada unclassified/non-classified positions website, Craig's List Reno, JobSpider.com, Getjob.us, and careers in government. The Division of Human Resource Management has a contract with Careers in Government and they posted the announcement in places including Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Google Plus, Jobs to Careers, Zip Recruiter and Glass Door. This reaches nationwide and to a larger population than previous recruitments. She mentioned the one applicant that was deemed unqualified was contacted and advised she did not meet the qualifications. The other three applicants were notified they met the minimum qualifications. None of them are prepared to speak today.

President Wynn said even though it appears that a job such as this seems to go under radar, it is a small community when it comes to state superintendents. The buzz gets out when there is a vacancy in a position such as this, usually the word gets out even if people think that what has

been done is inadequate, which is often not the case. There is a network and an underground network that works.

Member Newburn moved to approve and send the three names: Steve Canavero, Scott Grouch and Anthony Verde to the Governor for the appointment of the superintendent of public instruction. Member Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Information and Discussion regarding the upcoming Heart of Education Awards. This new program, inspired by the Kennedy Center, will honor hundreds of CCSD teachers who go above and beyond.

Myron Martin, President and CEO, The Smith Center of the Performing Arts, Las Vegas stated that in the less than four years they have been open they have greeted over 250,000 students on their campus. He shared news about a new program created by George Stevens who also created the Kennedy Centers Honors for the DC public schools. Mr. Stevens created an award show specifically for teachers at the Kennedy Center. They are currently recruiting their best teachers in six years and they are able to retain them because the teachers feel appreciated. Mr. Martin though CCSD would be a great place to change the way the community communicates with teachers.

Inspired by the Kennedy Center, the last Saturday of Teacher Appreciation Week will be a huge spectacular show at the Smith Center. The only finalists invited are teachers. The award is cast in bronze and called the Heart of Education awards. He said stories about great teachers are not often heard, and CCSD has some extraordinary teachers that will be put on the pedestal for this award show. People in the community are asked to nominate teachers. Clark County School District will keep their best teachers because they will feel appreciated.

Information and update on state readiness to administer the Smarter Balanced Assessment in Spring 2016. The Board will receive an update on our preparations and contractor performance in order to deliver the Smarter Balanced Assessments.

Peter Zutz, Administrator, Office of Assessments, Data and Accountability Management informed the Board the CAT summative 2016 assessment is on schedule per the assessment vendor, DRC. They continue with their test simulations and processes. On each of the weekly status calls DRC has assured the NDE they are on schedule for a successful administration of the 2016 CAT summative.

Member Newburn said he looked at the DRC test run and in general it appears the tests were not run on the final version that will be given to the kids, instead they will get a different version of software. He said he wanted to be sure the tests would be run on the final version and he asked what would happen if all the kids start the test at the same time. He commented that half way through the test the servers appeared to be trying to use more memory than what was available.

Mr. Zutz said he would work internally to answer Member Newburn's questions. He noted the report provided fulfills the contractual obligation by the vendor; *that on or before December 31, 2015 DRC will demonstrate the ability to test 50,000 concurrent users on the system at the same time using the computer adaptive platform that delivers the Smarter Balanced test using DRCs load testing methodologies.* Some of Member Newburn's discoveries could have been because it was tested on the DRC load testing in house. It was not a real computer system capacity assessment.

President Wynn inquired about the districts, particularly CCSD and WCSD, and the level of monitoring. Mr. Zutz responded that CCSD is not involved in any of the in-house testing the vendor does in Minneapolis. Currently they have an interim assessment, Smarter Content, but not the same platform as a computer adaptive test. Different options are being explored about how to replicate the situation. It was concluded that it would be not be of value with the interim to try to load test the system. In the next few weeks he hoped to receive a definitive plan from DRC that would detail, to their satisfaction, whether or not this will be a successful 2016 CAT summative administration.

President Wynn expressed concern that there is still a disconnection between the vendor, the state and the districts and would be more comfortable with the reports if they could bridge the gap with the test administrators in CCSD, the largest district. She expressed dissatisfaction hearing from just one side, and it is the vendor saying everything is going to be fine. Meanwhile, no one has communicated with CCSD to know if they are confident that they are on track. More work needs to be done to coordinate communication between the real users and the vendor to the extent their feet are being held to the fire.

Member Wakefield asked if there are other current assessments the vendor has that could be monitored to assure there are no real time glitches. Mr. Zutz said WIDA is the NDE assessment and it is a standalone product using the DRC platform. He added DRC is very engaged with the districts. During the second week of February DRC will be coming out for on sight trainings including Clark, Elko and Reno school districts. The training sessions have a single focus to engage with the districts. Periodically there are assessment meetings with test and district directors, which is an opportunity for NDE to present comprehensive information about Smarter and other assessments.

The system is different for WIDA, a point made by the vendor. The CAT summative system is distinct being an adaptive technology. Some of the challenges WIDA may be experiencing will not be the same challenges moving into the 2016 CAT summative. President Wynn suggested future reports on the status of the testing should include comments and points made by districts, particularly larger districts that experience crashes. She would like them to confirm that they are satisfied with the progress that is being made.

Member Wakefield said he understands WIDA is a different test with the same vendor, and questioned if they are getting perfect performance from them which could be a predictor of later performance. Dr. Canavero said WIDA and Smarter Balanced are two different assessments. WIDA is a static answer online versus the computer adaptive where a series of questions is answered, and then the assessment calibrates the user's ability to work above and beyond grade level, or below grade level. That is what Smarter Balanced is. The WIDA experience will tell about the vendor's capacity but not the ability to deliver the computer adaptive test. He has received feedback that there are some hiccups with WIDA. They are not major, but about communication, and linking people and processes together on the administration. The questions we are trying to answer would not be answered by that a testing experience because it would not be testing the computer adaptive engine, it would just be testing the interim assessment.

President Wynn said this is the area of biggest exposure for the NDE, she is a test cynic and has been for decades. It keeps being proven time and time again. Not intending to be critical, she would like to get more prescriptive and demanding because of skepticism and past history. The public is owed the Board being watch dogs. The first faltering can be understood, but if it is

allowed to falter again it is their problem. She asked for diligence because all of the assessments and evaluations are dependent on this working right.

Member Jamin asked whether testing during specific windows of time at the local districts so they do not overlap is being considered. It appears there could be mid-day challenges. Dr. Canavero explained the High School Graduation Committee discussed specific window and grade level banding for the assessments a year ago. He suggested they work with CCSD, WCSD and DRC over the next month to decide if that is an appropriate strategy. It is different than a broad window which provides the most flexible and broadest window possible.

Member Holbrook added if the window is kept the way it is and there are End of Course (EOCs) crossing over with SBAC that it could cause a potential issue with the amount of users in a timeframe. Mr. Zutz said technology is relied to indicate whether that would be an issue. They have a report with contract language, for x number of concurrent users at a time. One of the questions was the time of day the testing occurred. Because of this report and the quest of the Board in December to have real time, real people, real machine and capacity test, they have been working with DRC to answer all these questions. The plan being developed should be available shortly.

Information, Discussion and Possible Action concerning evaluations for “Other Licensed Educational Personnel” in accordance with AB447. AB447 provides for the Board to determine evaluations of counselors, librarians, and other licensed educational personnel.

The Board will hear updated recommendation from the Teachers and Leaders Council regarding the manner in which recommended personnel will be evaluated, and whose evaluations may include student performance data.

Dena Durish, Deputy Superintendent, Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement conducted a [PowerPoint](#) presentation with an update and a recommendation for a motion. Assembly Bill 447 provides for an option for evaluations for Other Licensed Education Personnel (OLEP) including. A revised TLC and NDE recommendation for the Board to consider as a motion was provided:

By the 2018 – 2019 school year, statewide performance evaluations will be developed for each of the following, based on their respective national association standards:

- school nurses
- school psychologists
- school speech language pathologists
- audiologists
- school social workers
- school counselors

All other licensed educational personnel (TOSAs, PFs, coaches, consultants, etc.) are to be evaluated using evaluations approved by district board of trustees based on role/function, and must include student outcome data based on role/function.

Statute specifies that the State Board may provide for the evaluations of the OLEP and determine the manner in which to measure the performance of personnel, including, without limitation, whether to use pupil achievement data as part of the evaluation. Deputy Durish stated by the 2018-19 school year a statewide system will be developed for each group. Prior public comment

requesting the system is based on respected national association standards has been heard many times from various stakeholder groups.

Member Jensen, speaking on behalf of the Nevada Association of School Superintendents (NASS), stated they are in full support of the full proposal. Initially a response was provided recommending 2017-18 based on their review of initial language addressing a 2016-17 implementation, which was too tight to meet expectations. The 2018-19 is a better timeline allowing them to pilot. He emphasized that the identified area of school nurses, psychologists, speech and language pathologists, that it is specific to their respective national association standards. Underneath it speaks to the OLEP, which in this case must include student data.

Member Jamin asked to clarify the 2018-19 school year is referencing the statewide performance evaluations, but is it also the intent that is the timeframe for the TOSAs, PFs, coaches, and consultants?

Ms. Durish responded that TOSAs, PFs, coaches and consultants are to be evaluated on those approved by the districts, which is what they are doing now. That portion does not change, there is no transition timeline. For the purposes of the Board considering a motion, there is no student data for anyone this year. Beginning with the upcoming school year in 2016-17 there is a total of 20 percent, a combination of half district wide measures and half state data, which increases to 40 percent the following year. The Board could entertain a motion including language, *but must include student outcome based on role or function beginning with*, and they could mirror 2016-17 or look at 2017-18 or even 2018-19 for districts to include student data only in the OLEP special groups.

President Wynn asked for further clarification. In stating the Board's intention, the language as provided today reflects what Deputy Durish just shared. Deputy Durish said the clarification could be a sentence at the end, that districts would have until 2018-19 to include student data in the evaluations of those teachers on special assignment projects facilitators.

Member Holmes-Sutton asked if it will be broken out that the first year is 20 percent. Ms. Durish said that is in statute and this would be up to districts and what they want at this point.'

Member Newburn moved to approve the revised TLC and NDE recommended motion (see above) with the further clarification on the use of student data for the other licensed education personnel to the 2018-19 school year. Member Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Information, Discussion and Possible Action regarding the preliminary allocations for teacher incentives as provided for in Senate Bill 511. The Board may act to approve a preliminary allocation of funds, pursuant to Senate Bill 511, to be used by districts for teacher incentives. Funds will be disbursed to each district after July 1, 2016, only upon receipt of district's program for enhanced compensation and performance pay pursuant to NRS 391.168.

Deputy Durish explained that S.B. 511 has two portions. One is regarding teacher scholarships and the Board has awarded 134 scholarships for new candidates to become teachers. The second part of the bill allows districts to recruit and incentivize teachers to their districts and for the teachers to stay in high need schools based on being hired for the 2015-16 school year. Initially \$5 million was awarded for each biennium, and was increased with an additional \$5 million.

Three districts elected to not request funds for the 2015-16 school year. Initially \$9,671,000 was distributed during the first round and \$258,000 was distributed during the second round. The progress was tracked. Public comment from WCSO at the December Board meeting requested the Board take action sooner so they know how much money they have to recruit new applicants for the upcoming school year. An email was sent to all districts requesting how much was spent this year, how much was awarded and will not be spent, the estimation of new teachers to be recruited, and how many teachers would use the funds for retention. The money can only be used at Title 1, or one and two star schools. Districts submitted spread sheets and the information has been compiled in one [document](#). Deputy Durish provided details about the districts new teacher incentives and retention funds. She stated that if the Board chooses they can award each district the full amount requested for retention and hiring new teachers. An incentive may be used to increase the base salary of a teacher for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 per school year. District comprehension plans must be submitted before money is dispersed

Member Hickey commented if this plan is successful, it will likely return to the next legislative session with a request to repeat or expand the incentives. He suggested the legislature will ask the effectiveness of retaining those teachers, how well they are performing, how successful they are and how can they quantify and demonstrate this is money well spent. Deputy Durish said districts have been advised they are expected to provide an update of how the money was spent.

Discussion continued among Board members and Deputy Durish regarding the following issues:

- Retention of new and second year teachers
- District standardized tracking of evidence based data
- Disparity of teacher salary incentive

Board members considered options to include in a motion.

Member Wakefield moved to approve the funds requested recognizing it is a projection and the board will have an opportunity to revisit them at a later date, but in advance of the distribution. Member Newburn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Information, Discussion, and Possible Action concerning the State's Class-size Reduction (CSR) Program:

- a. Possible approval of new and established variances for the CSR program (NRS 388.700).
- b. Possible approval of CSR variances for remote and rural schools with kindergarten class-sizes Over 25 (Senate Bill 515, Chapter 537, *Statutes of Nevada*, 2015).
- c. Possible approval of the report of first quarter CSR variances for submission to the Interim Finance Committee (NRS 388.700)

Deputy Superintendent Mindy Martini conducted a [PowerPoint](#) presentation regarding Nevada's Class-Size Reduction (CSR) Program. Information was provided about the regular and alternative class size pupil-teacher ratio requirements. Deputy Martini reminded the Board that at the close of fiscal year 2015 they approved all of the school district CSR plans and the variances for the current year. The variance requests are based upon projections. Also, variances must be in performance rated schools of three stars or higher.

Dana Embro, Management Analyst, discussed the variance data. President Wynn conveyed that the NDE has reviewed this prescriptive data made their recommendations.

Member Newburn moved to approve the Class Size Reduction variances and the Quarterly Report. Member Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Information and Discussion regarding the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the implications for the state. On December 10, 2015 the newest version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act – called the Every Student Succeeds Act – was signed into law. The Board will hear an overview of the legislation and considerations for the state.

President Wynn explained the Board will hear an abbreviated report today that outlines where Nevada was before this federal legislation and an overview of the work that will be contemplated.

Dr. Canavero informed the Board that the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was reauthorized and previously known as the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) act in 2001 creating accountability and transparency. The NDE worked with the NCLB act for the reauthorization of the federal act of ESEA for over a decade. In 2012 a waiver from the act was submitted to the federal government that met certain criteria and qualifications. The waiver was a way for the federal government to offer ideas after implementing NCLB. A federal act was signed in December for a new elementary and education act, called the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Dr. Canavero provided examples of what is different with ESSA:

- Under ESSA Nevada can decide which meaningful goals help articulate annual benchmarks that students must meet, reflecting back to opening remarks about the STIP and the strategic plan.
- ELA acquisition, what does it mean, how it is measured in a framework to ensure kids are on track for proficiency. After exit of ELA status, how to ensure kids do not regress.
- Flexibility to not count first year EL students in our framework. One option is to assess the academic achievement assessment would not be included. In year two is the option to include growth and in year three to roll in full proficiency and growth for students.
- Concurrently, looking at how to measure EL acquisitions. WIDA, the EL proficiency assessment, how to utilize WIDA and that assessment that measures EL acquisition for students who qualify as a way to monitor towards proficiency in a reasonable time period.

Nevada will be able to define its vision about working with struggling schools, differentiate among those schools and have consequences for schools that are not making progress and understand if there is a sub-population that is not being served adequately.

ESSA has two different ways of the approach, one is comprehensive improvement and the other is about targeted improvement. They were called priority and focus schools. There is a sub-group that is not making progress within the school, and how is that school, its teachers and

administrators ensured they will receive support. There are provisions for states that are not making progress to offer their strategies or intervention programs. Dr. Canavero relayed new provisions related to teacher quality and performance ratings. There are also key questions related to how to incorporate early literacy into a framework to ensure kids are learning to read as they transition to reading to learn.

The NDE is operating under the waiver until August 2016. The 2017-18 school year will be year one of the transition. On the fiscal side, Title I, II, III essentially remain the same. The federal government has percentages of federal funds that will flow to the state based upon a theme, such as reading.

President Wynn suggested that going forward; the Board should stipulate they will always have the best intentions for Nevada students no matter what the governing body is. Their work is based on what they want to do for the children and families of Nevada. Having said that the structure in the past has always been one where the federal government has leverage over states because of money. This boils down to a push back and a reaction by states because of restrictive requirements due to laws and regulations that require compliance.

There will be so much information and work to be done that the Board needs to focus on those policy areas that are going to be different and need cooperation so Nevada qualifies for the funding. Fiscal awareness should be the main drive now. Language is currently being considered for many of the federal regulations. Decision making for the distribution of money at the state and local level for Title I and Title IV is being made. Areas that require focus for student achievement requires attention and need to be identified. We have a Nevada Plan that is our plan and the question is how we access federal funds under these rules. President Wynn suggested small parts of ESSA could return as future agenda items.

Member Holbrook said regarding assessments he would like a future agenda item about the NDE exploring a plan to move towards an exit exam that aligns to grades 9-10. Member Jamin concurred.

In response to a question from Member Wakefield about when the rollout will occur, Dr. Canavero explained the waiver expires August 2016. He suggested a comprehensive plan will need to be created and approved to the transition from the waiver to under ESSA. If significant changes are made to the framework, and if the federal government approves it, then 2016-17 is year zero, and 2017-18 is year one.

There was no public comment.

Future Agenda Items

Member Stephens from the Board of Regents stated several Regents including the chairman Richard Trachalk would like to resurrect an old practice of joint meetings between the State Board of Education and the Board of Regents. She suggested it could be a special meeting , a retreat, with the intent to have a closer collaborative relationship on a biennial basis.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.