

Minutes of the Joint Meeting
STATE OF NEVADA – DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
NEVADA STATE BOARD FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
AND
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

May 2, 2008

1. Introductions

Board President Washington and Commission President Luft called the joint meeting of Nevada State Board of Education/Nevada State Board for Career and Technical Education and the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to order at 1:00 P.M. in the Board Conference Room of the Nevada Department of Education Office, Carson City, Nevada.

Roll call showed the following State Board Members and Commissioners present:

STATE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marcia Washington, President
Anthony Ruggiero, Vice President
Jan Biggerstaff, Clerk
Dr. Cliff Ferry, Member
Sharon Frederick, Member
Dr. John Gwaltney, Member
Barbara Myers, Member
Cindy Reid, Member

STATE BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dr. Merv Iverson, Member – excused
Gregory Nance, Member – excused
Madisen McGrath, Student (ex-officio) Member – excused

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Dr. Vernon Luft, President
Carol Lark, Vice President
Bill Mendenhall, Commissioner
Dr. Hardy McNew, Commissioner
Ann O'Connell, Commissioner
Karen Votraw, Commissioner
Nicholas Ungaro, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Dr. Hardy, McNew, Commissioner – excused
Rhogenia McMillan, Commissioner - excused
Fred Perdomo, Commissioner – excused

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services
Doris Arnold, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and State Board
Christina Harper, Administrative Assistant to the Commission
Dr. Jerry Barbee, Director of Teacher Licensure

LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT:

Janet Hess, Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

DeShawn Reed, Washoe County School District
Jennifer Caldwell, Washoe County School District
Marilyn Sue Ford, Curriculum and Instruction for University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Joe Enge, Carson City School District
Jennifer Peterson, Clark County School District
Dotty Merrill, Nevada Association of School Boards
Laverta Branchley, Nevada Connections Academy
Lorraine Alderman, Clark County School District
Craig Butz, Odyssey Charter School
Glenn Moses, Odyssey Charter School
Jay Rosen, EDA Charter School

It was determined that a quorum of the State Board and Commission were present.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Dr. Ferry.

Each State Board Member and Commissioner introduced themselves and what group of individuals they represent.

2. Overview

Dr. Rheault provided an overview of the role and responsibilities of both the State Board and the Professional Standards Commission. Dr. Rheault reviewed the regulatory structure between the State Board, Commission, and Superintendent.

Dr. Rheault stated that the Legislative Committee on Education met on April 17, 2008 and discussed teacher licensing and teacher preparation issues.

Dr. Rheault stated that the Commission has the responsibility to establish the regulations for teacher licensure and the State Board of Education has the responsibility in the suspension and revocation of a teacher's license with due process procedures.

Dr. Rheault reviewed the chart of licensed personnel employed by Nevada School Districts for the 2007-08 school year to include the following: 1) states where degrees were earned; 2) ages of new licensed staff; 3) prior out-of-state experience; 4) highest degree held; 5) assignment areas; 6) salary ranges of new licensed personnel; 7) ethnic report; ethnic school enrollments; 8) classes taught by highly qualified teachers; 9) percentage of core subject areas not taught by highly qualified teachers.

In Nevada 25% of the new hires are from within state and 75% of new hires are from out of state. Dr. Rheault pointed out with regard to the ethnic numbers that Nevada has not made any progress in the area of ethnic teachers and there are not many ethnic students in the process to become teachers. The student numbers are: 43% White; 36% Hispanic; and 11% Black.

3. White Paper Report

Ms. Dopf provided an overview of the white paper: "Developing and Sustaining High Quality Instruction in Nevada's Schools: Aligning Our System of Pre-Service Teacher Preparation, Licensure/Recertification, and Ongoing Professional Development".

Ms. Dopf stated that an important challenge facing Nevada is how to find, prepare, employ, and retrain high quality teachers and school leaders. As a state, Nevada ranks near the bottom with many of the key indicators whether it is per pupil expenditure, scores on tests, high school graduation rates, or completion of a college degree program. The Nevada Department of Education, in 2005, established a Teacher Quality Task Force (TQTF) to identify priorities in teacher preparation, licensure and professional development, and develop recommendations to ensure that every Nevada student receives instruction from highly qualified and effective teachers. The TQTF brought together representative decision makers and stakeholders from agencies involved with teacher preparation, teacher licensure and recertification, and ongoing professional development. The overarching goal that was established was, "To reform Nevada's system to link and align pre-service teacher preparation, licensure and recertification, and on-going professional development in order to sustain the delivery of high quality instruction and rigorous content for all Nevada students."

The importance of teachers, quality instruction, and school leadership cannot be over emphasized. Given Nevada's economic and demographic conditions, having high quality instruction in all classrooms and schools is key to the state's future well being. Nevada faces a number of significant challenges in advancing the quality of current instruction in classrooms and schools, and in finding and preparing the next generation of teachers and school leaders. These challenges include reducing the proportion of teachers that leave teaching within the first five years, attending to the importance of school leadership, moving toward a coordinated system for the preparation and career long professional development of all educators, and establishing methods to determine if teachers possess the essential skills necessary to provide quality instruction.

Ms. Dopf thanked Dr. Gene Hall and Nevada Department of Education staff Rorie Fitzpatrick and Leslie James for their work on this paper.

Dr. Ferry stated that in Nevada there is a fragmented educational system regarding the areas each council/board/commission is responsible for, so it is important for the Board and Commission to keep the lines of communication open and have a good working relationship.

President Luft stated that the structure of the Commission membership and the responsibilities, warrant the Commission existence. As the Commission is appointed and appointment are made in certain positions, assures that there is representation at different levels. The Commission also receives input from stakeholders via task forces; recommendations are submitted to the Commission for consideration.

Upon questioning by Dr. Gwaltney, President Luft responded that the Commission has not received or considered too much quantitative data, but most of the data that the Commission receives is antidotal and qualitative data that the Districts and Licensure Office provide.

Member Myers expressed concern with reciprocity with teachers coming from out of state and raised the question of what "real reciprocity" looks like and the alternative route to licensure. Vice President Lark responded that currently the Commission has appointed a task force to address both the reciprocity and alternative route issues.

Member O'Connell stated that students do not learn by books alone anymore, as students are more engaged with computers. Member Myers offered that teachers need to engage students with each other, computers, and teachers need to have their own individual professional development plan.

Ms. Dopf stated that some of the current discussions have centered around ongoing professional development and the role of the Regional Professional Development Programs. There have been discussions centered around re-licensure and for renewal credits to be related to a performance or individualized teaching plan and to be tied to the specificity of the instructional meter of the teachers as defined by the evaluation process.

President Luft expressed concerns as to some of the statements made within this paper and questioned how to get statements amended.

President Luft stated that for the first issue, the paper refers that all teacher education programs are input based and since 2000, both UNR and UNLV being nationally accredited by NCATE, were required by NCATE to move from input based to outcome based. President Luft would like the paper amended to reflect the outcome based data and a reference to programs that are not NCATE accredited may not be outcome based. President Luft stated that institutions that are NCATE accredited have to prove,

by data, what the students know and are able to do in their content knowledge, pedagogy, and in their ability to help all students learn.

President Luft stated that the second issue refers to the fact that there are no teaching standards. President Luft stated that Nevada does not have specific standards for teaching, but the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) requires the teacher education programs to utilize the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC), which are a set of standards that were developed under the supervision of the National Council for Chief State School Officers. The NAC states that institutions in Nevada have to use those INTASC standards.

President Luft questioned how to get a few of these issues cleared up, prior to this paper being widely distributed. Ms. Dopf responded that this paper is version #1, with the anticipation to receive feedback from the Board and the Commission. Ms. Dopf stated that this paper has not been widely distributed and is not intended to be widely distributed until feedback was received. Ms. Dopf welcomed any feedback and/or amendments.

There was discussion to develop a task force to discuss the issues and items in this paper. It was discussed to include legislators (for the professional development component), teachers coming from out of state, Teacher Quality task force members, Board and Commission Members. Dr. Ferry volunteered to participate on the task force.

Dr. Rheault directed Mrs. Harper to contact Commissioners to determine who would like to serve on this task force. Dr. Rheault suggested that two or three from the Board and Commission would be sufficient. Dr. Rheault stated that Mrs. Arnold will contact Board Members to determine who would like to serve on this task force.

President Washington directed staff to develop a task force to review and discuss issues in the White Paper.

4. Future Activities

The future activities are listed as follows:

- Staff to contact individuals and develop a task force to review the White Paper.

5. Member Comments

President Washington thanked the Commission for attending the joint meeting.

Member Ruggiero thanked all Commission Members for participating in this meeting and would like to continue the joint meetings on a semi-annual basis. Member Biggerstaff also thanked the Commission for participating.

President Luft, on behalf of the Commission, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to discuss the educational challenges ahead to ensure a better education for Nevada's children.

6. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

7. Adjournment of the Joint Meeting

President Washington adjourned the joint meeting at 2:45 P.M.