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

August 12, 2009

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

MINUTES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHARTER SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Dr. Cliff Ferry, Chair
Jan Biggerstaff
Christopher Wallace

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:
Willia Chaney, Alternate

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:
Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction
James Wells, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative and Fiscal Services
Tom McCormack, Consultant, Office of Fiscal Services
Doris Arnold, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Public Instruction
Karen Johansen, Administrative Assistant to the State Board of Education

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:
Dr. James E. Irvin, Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:
Jeanne-Marie Hanna, Clark County School District, Legal
Debra Hegna, Clark County School District Office for Charter Schools
Craig Stevens, Nevada State Education Association
Michele Robinson, Office of Charter Schools and Charter School Association of Nevada
Kathleen Conaboy, K-12 Inc.
Steve Knight, Executive Director, Silver State Charter School

1. Call to Order; Roll Call

Chairperson Dr. Cliff Ferry called the Subcommittee on Charter Schools to order at 3:00 p.m. Roll call was heard and a quorum of three members was determined.

2. Discussion of creation of a new Office of Charter Schools within the Department of Education.

Jim Wells, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative and Fiscal Services, explained the proposed Office of Charter Schools in the Department of Education chart that was distributed to all Board members. The members discussed the chart and the proposed Charter Institute. A proposal regarding staffing and funding to oversee Charter Schools will be brought to the Board of Examiners meeting or to the Interim Finance Committee.

3. Review and possible recommendations by the Subcommittee affecting State Board responsibilities relative to charter schools, to include, but not limited to: Senate Bill 385, Assembly Bill 489 and Assembly Bill 181 from the 2009 Legislative Session

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction, noted the following:

- SB385 and AB489 were both Charter School Institute bills and stalled during the 2009 Legislative Session.
- AB181 was originally a charter school bill and later was amended to include a proposed Charter School Institute. The bill did not pass.

Dr. Rheault outlined possible discussions including roles the Subcommittee on Charter Schools and the State Board of Education may consider regarding decisions about a proposed Charter School Institute. Dr. Cliff Ferry brought up concerns including, would the Institute be willing to revoke charters due to financial reasons, and how would members be appointed and salaries determined? Mr. Wells explained the changes AB181 made in its first reprint.

4. Public Comments

Steve Knight, Executive Director, Silver State Charter School, stated he thought it was a great idea to create an Office of Charter Schools because the 25 Charter Schools in Nevada are becoming burdensome to the State Board of Education.

Kathleen Conaboy, K-12 Inc, thanked Dr. Rheault and staff for the ideas and concepts brought forward. She noted it is a giant step forward to consider an Office of Charter Schools or a Charter School Institute to assist in the work load.

Member Biggerstaff moved to work with and support the ACR 2 Interim Subcommittee and recommended the creation of a separate governing board for a Charter Institute. Member Wallace seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Adjournment

Seeing no further discussion, the Subcommittee on Charter Schools was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.