

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

**October 7, 2010**

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

And

Department of Education  
9890 South Maryland  
Second Floor Conference Room  
Las Vegas, Nevada

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**  
*(Video Conferenced)*

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**In Las Vegas:**

Chris Wallace, President  
Jan Biggerstaff, Member  
Gloria Bonaventura, Member  
Willia Chaney, Member  
Dave Cook, Clerk  
Charlotte Hill, Member  
Dr. Cliff Ferry, Vice President  
Anthony Ruggiero, Member (arrived 3:12 p.m.)  
Craig Wilkinson, Member

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Zhan Okuda-Lim, Student Representative (Excused)

**DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:**

**In Las Vegas:**

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Greg Weyland, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative and Fiscal Services

**In Carson City:**

Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services  
Carol Crothers, Director, Office of Assessment, Program Accountability, and Curriculum  
Mike Raponi, Acting Director, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education  
Steve Canavero, Director, Office of Charter Schools

Rorie Fitzpatrick, Director, Office of Special Education, Elementary and Secondary Education and School Improvement Programs  
Karen Johansen, Administrative Assistant to the State Board of Education  
Lori Johnson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Public Instruction

**LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:**

**In Las Vegas:**

Robert Whitney, Deputy Attorney General

**In Carson City:**

Dr. James E. Irvin, Senior Deputy Attorney General

**AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:**

**In Las Vegas:**

Annie Wilson, State Board Candidate, District 2  
Kevin Davis, Parent  
Sandy Metcalf, State Board Candidate, District 6  
Jose Solorio, State Board Candidate, District 2

**In Carson City:**

Dotty Merrill, Nevada Association State Board  
Theresa Herup, Parent  
Teri Jamin, Douglas County School Board President  
Lyn Gorrindo, Douglas County School District (DCSD)  
Karen Chessell, Douglas County School Board Trustee  
Karen Thiessen, Douglas County Resident  
Karen Heine, Douglas County High School  
Shaun Novich, Douglas County High School

**CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

President Wallace called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m., with attendance as reflected above.

**Member Cook moved to approve a flexible agenda. Member Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

**President's Report**

President Wallace reported on his recent trip to Washington D.C. where he met with K-12 Inc., the Education Management Organization (EMO) for Nevada Virtual Academy. He stated K-12 Inc. has an excellent curriculum for kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade and they offer over 200 courses for high school. President Wallace said he also met with Jason Unger from Senator Reid's office as well as Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus to discuss educational issues. During his meeting with Jason Unger, President Wallace was informed that 2011 legislation could include another round with Race to the Top and would be open to districts as well as states, which will increase the level of competition.

President Wallace stated he wrote a letter to gubernatorial candidates for governor expressing the Board's dissatisfaction about being required to reduce the education budget by 10 percent. Based upon the letters, President Wallace invited candidates Brian Sandoval and Rory Reid, or their staff, to attend the Board meeting to discuss education issues. Cindy Reid, representing Rory Reid's campaign, accepted the invitation to address the Board tomorrow. Brian Sandoval's office declined the invitation.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction, updated the Board on their budget including travel expenses. He explained approximately one-third of the out-of-state and in-state-travel budget has been obligated. Dr. Rheault reported that the National Association of School Boards (NASBE) dues have been billed for the fiscal year.

The dues have not been paid, rather NASBE has been contacted and advised the NDE has \$15,600, provided by the budget through state appropriations. The amount due is over the amount available and NASBE was asked if they would accept \$15,600 for membership. They have not responded yet. Member Ferry will be attending the national meeting in Salt Lake City, and NASBE has authorized membership rates for him.

Dr. Rheault reported on the Test Security Report, which is a statutory report the NDE is required to collect on every testing irregularity that has occurred since the previous year. He said Nevada is the only state in the country that provides this report. There was a 12 percent increase in testing irregularities this year; with the biggest increase for pupil-cheating incidences. Cell phones are banned during tests, yet many electronic devices are being used. Tests are automatically invalidated if electronic devices are found during testing. Teacher license's can be revoked or suspended if they are found to be in violation of assisting students with test answers.

Member Biggerstaff stated she was concerned with the amount of improper test administrations. She asked if any one area of the state was found to be in violation more than other areas. Dr. Rheault replied the violations are spread out in every county, and many violations are minor such as not giving complete instructions to special education students. Ninety percent of the violations are due to not following proper procedures or not securing the tests.

Dr. Rheault reported that he attended the Interim Finance Committee's Subcommittee with Federal Stimulus Oversight funding yesterday. The committee discussed the Education Jobs program, which is funding for Nevada that came through Congress in the middle of August for \$83 million. He said the funding has not reached the school districts yet due to follow-up information required on the application. One-third of the funds will be available for spending on October 20, 2010. The money is very flexible; although it cannot be used for salary, staff or expenditures at superintendent or district offices, or for the board of trustees. The funds can only be used at the school site level including; hiring principals, custodians, teachers-aids, after school tutors, teachers, Saturday teachers for extra compensation, class-size-reduction teachers, replacing furlough days, and providing retirement incentives. It cannot be used to pay for contractors. The schools are encouraged to spend the money this year, but have until September 30, 2012 to spend it.

In response to Member Cook's inquiry if funds will be available for state sponsored charter schools, Dr. Rheault replied if charters are district sponsored they are part of a Local Education Agency (LEA) and will be eligible for the funding. The charters sponsored by the state are not considered an LEA, and are not eligible for funding. He suggested the best solution is to establish a Charter School Institute designated as the 18<sup>th</sup> school district.

Dr. Rheault reported on the Coalition for the Common Core Standards (CCS) and said a Workshop is scheduled tomorrow. He stated the final version of the standards was adopted by the Academic Standards Council three weeks ago. All school districts, charter school representatives, higher education as well as business representatives and former coalition people have been invited to give input on how to implement the CCS next year.

Districts would like to implement the CCS immediately; however, testing is currently lined up with our Nevada standards for another four years while the new tests are being rolled out. A video is available under Hot Topics on the NDE website and gives details on how the state is ready to proceed with the CCS, explaining they are more rigorous and better for the state.

Changing classroom instruction to incorporate new CCS needs to wait until teachers are trained and materials are developed. The Board will be asked to adopt the final version of the CCS with a Public Hearing in December.

Member Ferry asked why the school districts wanted to move so quickly with the new CCS and Dr. Rheault replied they prefer the new standards to the old Nevada standards.

### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

- Minutes, August 11-13, 2010, Board Retreat and Regular Board Meeting
- Appoint the nominees to serve on the Title I Committee of Practitioners, per Section 1902 of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, to advise the State on Title I issues.
  - Brian Frazier - Administrator of Title I Programs
  - Pete Peterson - Administrator
  - Amber Carr - Local Education Agency
  - John Moddrell - Administrator (Principal)
  - Brendolyn Black - NSEA Representative
- Awarding of 1.0 gifted and talented discretionary unit to the Elko County School District
- Approval of Licensing/Relicensing of the following two Reno Private Schools for four years: Brookfield School, One World Learning Center aka Stepping Stones Children's Center and one Reno school for two years, Newton Learning Center. As well as four Private Las Vegas Schools for four years; Meadows School, KinderCare Buffalo, KinderCare Summerlin (Marigold) and KinderCare Office Place. In addition, it is recommended the following two new Las Vegas schools, Henderson Christian Academy and Lexis Preparatory School of Nevada be issued a 2 year license.

Member Wilkinson disclosed that he is a P.E. teacher at Title I school, Wendell P. Williams Elementary; in addition, his wife is a gifted and talented specialist.

Member Biggerstaff inquired how often are the private schools visited. Dr. Rheault responded that each school is visited every time they apply for licensing. He explained the NDE Private

School Consultant left in August to become a superintendent at a school district in Arizona. When the new Private School Consultant is hired, site visits will be planned. Dr. Rheault reported that Dr. Barbee made site visits to the new schools on this agenda to assure the inspections are in place.

Member Chaney asked what authority the Board has over private schools, other than licensing. Dr. Rheault responded there is little oversight. They must have a license to operate approved by the Board and they need approval from the NDE. Member Chaney asked if private school students are required to pass proficiency tests. Dr. Rheault answered they are not required to take the state required test, however the tests are provided for many private high schools. Schools must request that their students be allowed to take the test. The primary reason is private school students will qualify for the Millennium scholarship by passing the high school proficiency exam.

**Member Hill moved to approve the consent agenda. Member Chaney seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

#### **Input for Agenda item #8, Approval of Springboard Textbook, Douglas County**

President Wallace asked for Public Comment for this item, which will be presented Friday.

Shaun Novice, English Teacher, Douglas County High School (DCHS), reported on her experience with the adoption procedure of SpringBoard. In August of 2009, Ms. Novice stated the English Department attended training for SpringBoard to prepare for the pilot at the tenth grade level. During the training, several eleventh grade teachers agreed to pilot SpringBoard to gain experience with the text. She stated that after a semester of piloting, Karen Heine, co-chair of the English Department, concluded the SpringBoard text was of poor quality. Ms. Heine was advised she must continue using the text and it was being recommended to the district office, before the pilot year was completed, as the new English text. The district office distributed an electronic survey regarding SpringBoard and committees were formed including one teacher, one administrator, one parent and the director of curriculum and instruction. Ms. Novice explained the teachers were not fairly represented and high school piloting committees recommended against adopting SpringBoard. However, the Douglas County School Board voted in favor of recommending the SpringBoard textbook.

Theresa Herup, parent of three children in DCSD, expressed her concerns regarding adoption of the SpringBoard curriculum. Mrs. Herup stated SpringBoard lacks vocabulary, grammar and writing instruction, therefore it would be a mistake to adopt the program. She said her daughter was awarded over \$35,000 in scholarship money based on her GPA and SAT scores due to the excellent teachers and education she received in the DCSD. Mrs. Herup added that without the exceptional teachers and their style of teaching, her daughter might not have had the opportunity to attend a four-year university. She asked the Board to consider the opposition to SpringBoard that many parents and English teachers are expressing.

Karen Chessell disclosed she is an employee of the Nevada Department of Education as well as a Douglas County School District Board trustee and she was at the Board meeting speaking as a school board trustee, on her personal time. Ms. Chessell read a letter in favor of SpringBoard

from Susan Van Doren, a Carson Valley Middle School teacher who could not attend the meeting. Excerpts from the letter state:

*SpringBoard is directly aligned with the Common Core Standards. It makes rigorous concepts the backbone of instruction for all students, not just those in advanced classes. It also gives structure and vertical alignment to departments like ours that have been operating for years under a lack of accounting and no common ground for meaningful collaboration. SpringBoard has helped me bring all of my students up to the depth of knowledge that I could previously only access in an honors class, and my students have responded with unprecedented enthusiasm and self confidence.*

Ms. Chessell stated the Douglas County School District Board spent many hours researching the curriculum, and they did not come to the decision quickly or without considering all points of view. She requested the State Board support their decision to implement the SpringBoard curriculum by adding the SpringBoard textbooks to the State's adopted textbook list.

Teri Jamin, Douglas County School District Board President, explained the issues brought today were heard and considered by the local board as the pilot program concluded. Many months and hours of consideration lead to a final vote in June 2010. Ms. Jamin reported that SpringBoard was chosen because it is a curriculum reaching all students at a rigorous level, and it is consistent with their strategic plan as well as the direction the State is moving with the Common Core Standards. She asked the Board to keep an open mind and consider all the facts.

**Continuation of Board Retreat, August 11-12, 2010, work session to discuss and finalize work plan goals to include specific strategies/tactics that will be used to accomplish the goals. Draft outline provided by Member Ferry.**

Dr. Rheault explained the Board would continue discussions from the Board Retreat concerning their Vision, Mission and Goals. He added it is not critical the Board finalize their discussions today, but continue to make progress and conclude their discussions in December.

Dr. Rheault discussed the mission of boards from the March 2010 NASBE newsletter, *State Boards: A Critical Link to Quality Education*. He stated the following paragraph sums up the importance and need of state boards:

*No matter what their individual mandates are, the responsibilities of state boards reflect two deeply held American educational values: the lay governance of education and the separation of educational policy making from partisan politics. While others in the policy making process tend to reflect specific concerns and more political perspectives, the state board is intended to serve as an unbiased broker of education decision-making, focusing on the big picture, articulating the long-term vision and needs of public education, and making policy based on the best interests of the public and the young people of America.*

Dr. Rheault suggested the NASBE statement is a positive reminder of the Vision and Mission of the State Board. Member Ferry drafted strategies for the Board goals to help start the discussion today and Dr. Rheault recommended the Board talk about the goals, strategies and tactics then bring suggestions back in December to fill in missing gaps.

President Wallace asked for input and ideas from board members to collaborate on ways to achieve their goals.

Member Ferry began the discussion by asking to review the wording in the Mission Statement the Board compiled during their Retreat. The intent was not clear the way it was written, and board members shared ideas to clarify their objective.

**Member Biggerstaff moved to accept the revised Mission Statement; *The Nevada State Board of Education , working in partnership with the Nevada Department of Education, school districts, families and the community, serves as an advocate and leader for all learners by adopting, implementing, and evaluating policies that promote educational effectiveness, productivity, citizenship and personal satisfaction which will enable students to be successful.* Member cook seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Further discussion continued with Board members about strategies for their goals.

Member Ruggiero recommended allowing professional staff at the NDE to develop performance measures with ways to achieve desired outcomes, rather than the Board discussing strategic plans for each goal. He suggested input from the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent would assist the Board in meeting their Vision, Mission and Goals.

Dr. Rheault agreed that was a good suggestion. Staff could develop specificity on Goals 2-6, devise strategies, tactics with expected outcomes, and recommend graduation rates for Goal 3. He suggested the Board determine how they can become more effective for Goal 1.

Member Ruggiero further stated staff could develop objectives and benchmarks for Goals 2-6 that have a percentage attached to them and then the Board can determine if the goals are reasonable and attainable. The Board would review their strategies and tactics annually, or more often if necessary.

President Wallace asked NDE staff to develop strategies and tactics for Goals 2-6 and present them at the December board meeting. Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services, commented the timing is perfect. The strategies will be part of the action plan included in the State Improvement Plan, which will be presented at the December board meeting. President Wallace asked board members to develop strategies and tactics for Goal #1 and submit them for discussion at the December board meeting.

Dr. Rheault added that when staff develops strategies they could be highlighted to indicate when direct board interaction would be required to accomplish the strategy, including consideration of regulatory changes to NAC.

Board discussion continued.

### **Public Comment**

Craig Stevens, Nevada State Education Association (NSEA), updated the Board about a National Education Association (NEA) professional development grant for Nevada. Ten Nevada schools in the current school year qualify for the School Improvement Grant (SIG). Schools must meet

specific requirements. The NEA is working with the federal government to provide federal funds for these schools. Nevada is one of 11 states NEA will be working with to turn around low achieving schools.

Member Ruggiero introduced State Board of Education Candidates for District 2, Annie Yvette Wilson and Jose Solorio.

Annie Yvette Wilson stated she was born and raised in Las Vegas, has a master's degree in social work and is a licensed social worker. She has taught all grade levels for at risk children, and is currently working with law enforcement as the homeless liaison for the Las Vegas police department.

Jose Solorio stated he is a business consultant with a master's degree in business and he worked for the city of Las Vegas. In addition, he was a member of the Clark County School Board in 1993-1994. Mr. Solorio acknowledged it is difficult to compose a Mission Statement, and after listening to discussions, he shared his suggestion for a board Mission Statement "*to better prepare students to successfully pursue careers in a more diversified Nevada economy within a competitive global environment.*" Mr. Solorio suggested the board might achieve more visibility by becoming partners with other school boards, the Legislature, and Nevada industry.

The meeting was recessed at 5:29 p.m. until Friday, October 8 at 8:30 a.m.

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Willia Chaney, Member  
Dave Cook, Member  
Dr. Cliff Ferry, Vice President  
Charlotte Hill, Member  
Anthony Ruggiero, Member  
Craig Wilkinson, Member

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Zhan Okuda-Lim, Student Representative (Excused)

**DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:**

**In Las Vegas:**

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Greg Weyland, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative and Fiscal Services

**In Carson City:**

Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services  
Carol Crothers, Director, Office of Assessment, Program Accountability, and Curriculum  
Steve Canavero, Director, Charter School Office  
Mike Raponi, Acting Director, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education  
Anne Davidson, Assistant Director, Evaluation Consultant  
Randi Hunewell, Consultant, Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education  
Karen Johansen, Administrative Assistant to the State Board of Education  
Lori Johnson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Public Instruction

**LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:**

**In Las Vegas:**

Robert Whitney, Deputy Attorney General - Las Vegas

**In Carson City:**

Dr. James E. Irvin, Senior Deputy Attorney General - Carson City

**AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:**

**In Las Vegas:**

John Hawk, Nevada State High School  
Kelsey Varwig, Nevada State High School  
Shannon LaNeve, Clark County School District  
Liz Verdi, Carson County School District  
Sandra Metcalf

Dr. Lisa Noonan, Superintendent, Douglas County School District  
Kerry Pope, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Douglas County High School  
Lyn Gorrindo, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services, Douglas County School District  
Sharla Hales, Board Member, Douglas County School District

**In Carson City:**

Karen Heine, Douglas High School  
Shaun Novich, Douglas High School  
Theresa Herup, Parent  
Elizabeth Leiknes  
Karen Chessell, Douglas County School District Trustee  
Steve Knight, Silver State Charter School  
Sue Cocking, Silver State Charter School  
Kurt Hildebrand, Record Courier Reporter

**RECALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL;**

The meeting was recalled to order at 8:32 a.m. with attendance as reflected above.

**Approval of Request for Dual Credit, Douglas County School District (DCSD)**

Nevada statutes state that dual credits must be for In State Institutions, and because Lake Tahoe Community College is in California, this item was not heard.

**Approval of SpringBoard Textbook Douglas County**

Lisa Noonan, Superintendent of DCSD, stated she was new to Douglas County as the superintendent, but has served in public education since 1983 as a teacher, principal, curriculum coordinator and assistant superintendent. She has 15 years administration experience with textbook adoption and implementation. Dr. Noonan said textbook selections are seldom embraced by all employees and she was accustomed to working with staff on successful implementation strategies that ease initial frustrations or doubts about selections. She noted points to consider during the presentation today:

- Dr. Noonan spent most of the 2009-2010 school year reviewing the curricula of east coast districts and states where student achievement and graduation rates are much higher than Nevada's. She sees changes on the national horizon that will include moving away from the traditional textbook to a more curriculum-based focus. SpringBoard aligns with the current Nevada State Standards as well as the new Common Core.
- SpringBoard meets the requirements under NRS for implementing Nevada's standards and provides a well-rounded and culturally sensitive content.
- There are many classrooms in Douglas County where students are enthusiastic about their learning using SpringBoard. A team from Washoe County that observed the program is interested in SpringBoard as part of their new "College Prep Academy."
- Dr. Noonan anticipates Douglas County will be a leader in the implementation of the new Common Core Standards and will be able to offer frameworks for raising rigor and college readiness with SpringBoard at the foundation of their work.
- Teachers and staff are sharing ideas about district overlay to connect all the dots. A tapestry that weaves Common Core, Critical Content, SpringBoard, Novels and Douglas Competencies are likely outcomes to the efforts for the next year.

Kerry Pope, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, DCSD, gave a brief overview along with a power point presentation to answer; What is SpringBoard?

- Standard-based instruction that reinforces content;
- Accessible activities that add rigor to content and to learning expectations;
- Defined learning strategies that help students learn “their way” and gain the critical thinking skills needed for academic success;
- Multiple opportunities for student collaboration, writing and presentation;
- Portfolio activities that measure student growth over the school year;
- Embedded assessments that allow students to demonstrate their ability to use appropriate learning strategies and apply their skills;
- Online end of unit tests developed by professional test writers to measure students’ knowledge and skills effectively;
- Professional development support through teacher workshops, on-site training, and ongoing teacher-to-teacher mentoring.

Ms. Pope stated SpringBook is a merger of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and English Language Arts that are in the Common Core but not in the current Nevada standards. Trainers from College Board have visited multiple times to work with teachers in three and four-day workshops. She added College Board is not a fly-by-night textbook company, it is a group that has been on the forefront of education rigor, they are a not-for profit organization, and the product is aligned with SAT, ACT and the Common Core State Standards.

Further explanation was given stating in 2007-2008; Douglas County High School began looking for a rigorous, relevant, vertically aligned English Language Arts Curriculum. Research was conducted and SpringBoard was brought to DCSD, and then piloted as a supplemental text in 2008-2009 for grades seven, eight and nine. High School teachers piloted SpringBoard in 2009-2010 for grades ten and eleven. In May 2010, the Douglas County School Board began to consider recommending SpringBoard for adoption. The school board listened to the pros and cons from staff, community members and teachers. Due to some board members being absent, a decision was made to bring SpringBoard back in June for a school board vote. At the June school board meeting the board voted 5-2 in favor of adopting SpringBoard as the textbook for Douglas County grades seven through eleven, piloting it in twelfth grade. It was also explained that provisions in NRS 390.140 – Final selection by State Board; exception for charter schools; accurate portrayal of cultural and racial diversity of society, had been met.

Sharla Hales, member of the Douglas County School District Board of trustees, stated she is speaking with the support of the full board of trustees. Ms. Hales discussed how SpringBoard provides rigor, relevance, excellent instruction and challenges all students across socioeconomic levels. Ms. Hales explained many hours were invested learning about the SpringBoard program by classroom observations and reports were heard about the adoption process. Testimony was heard from parents, teachers, students and community members; phone calls and emails from constituents were fielded. The Douglas School Board of trustees is confident the decision was made carefully, and asks the State Board to adopt SpringBoard as a state approved text.

President Wallace remarked the tenth grade committee voted 4-1 to not approve SpringBoard Level 5, tenth grade and yet it was approved. He asked for an explanation clarifying why the committee’s recommendation was not followed.

Sharla Hales responded that when SpringBoard was presented to the school board in May and June, it was acknowledged that the tenth grade committee did not approve the textbook. She added it was also acknowledged that an eleventh grade representative from Lake Tahoe did not stay for the second committee meeting, and a closer vote to not recommend SpringBoard to the school board probably would have occurred. The vote was 2-2; if the person had stayed, the vote would have been 3-2. The findings of the committee were presented to the school board along with the rating matrix, resulting in the school board deciding to continue moving forward with SpringBoard. The votes in all grades added up to 17-9, in favor of approval.

In response to President Wallace's inquiry if the adoption process met statutory requirements, Dr. Rheault responded the only issue is that the adoption was submitted late. Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) allows the State Board to grant exceptions to the time of the submission. Part of the timing problem was due to giving the school district extra time for discussion and public input as well as DCSD transitioning from an interim superintendent to a new superintendent. He added there were compelling reasons for the exception when it was brought to the State Board in August. The State Board has the right to delay, which it did in August, and that is the reason it is being heard today.

Further discussion occurred regarding the SpringBoard Textbook Curriculum.

### **Public Comment for adoption of SpringBoard**

Karen Chessell, Consultant, Family and Consumer Sciences, Nevada Department of Education and Douglas County School District Board trustee, stated she was on personal time and speaking as a school board trustee. She said the Board along with staff and the strategic planning team set a goal to increase rigor for their students. Research conducted to meet this goal brought them to the SpringBoard curriculum. Ms. Chessell asked for input from several teachers to understand the issues around SpringBoard. The following excerpt is from a letter Kimberly Turner, Elementary teacher at Carson Valley Middle School wrote; and helped her recognize why she wanted to support SpringBoard for their students:

*Although it has been a steep learning curve, SpringBoard has been the best curriculum I have used. I am not one to jump to conclusions, but I feel that after using the program for the majority of the year, I am qualified to make that judgment. These are the reasons I like the program:*

- *The material is engaging and student centered.*
- *The lessons build upon each other.*
- *Each unit starts with an overview of the unit, where the students will end up and what they will learn.*
- *The lessons consistently refer to the essential questions and end of unit-embedded assessments to provide context and scaffolding.*
- *I have seen more growth in my students this year than in previous years teaching English*
- *The springboard website has a wealth of information to help with implementation.*
- *The springboard editors listen to teachers, the materials are teacher created for what actually works in the classroom, not based on some abstract theory that sounds good, but is not practical in the day-to-day dynamics of the classroom.*
- *The entire program is both horizontally and vertically aligned. Each unit builds on the previous and each year builds on the previous.*

*SpringBoard expects much in my experience with the program this year; and the students have risen to the challenge.*

Ms. Chessell stated this is a huge change, a systemic change, and resistance is to be expected. However, she believes the SpringBoard curriculum offers all students the opportunity to develop the skill sets they will need to be successful in higher education, in their careers and as community participants. She asked the State Board to please, add the textbooks to the State Textbook adoption list.

Karen Heine, Department Chair, Douglas County High School, stated teachers were allowed to complete a survey, but only a few were allowed to vote. She added that after a meeting with Dr. Noonan, ten teachers spoke against SpringBoard, one spoke for it and two did not offer comment. Ms. Heine said there was not full support from the school board, Randy Green and Keith Roman voted against SpringBoard for a 5-2 vote. She said this is not an adequate program for a high school course of study, the rigor does not require students to perform and students require more guidance, assistance and direction than given by SpringBoard.

Member Ruggiero asked about NDE staff opinions regarding the adoption of SpringBoard.

Dr. Rheault responded NDE has not given an official opinion because the textbook adoption process is based at the local level; however, NDE staff does follow regulations for the adoption. He added, NDE and the State Board has discretion to decide if policy and regulations were met when approving the textbook adoption. After testimony and discussions are heard, not all teachers will agree. If the process was followed and the textbook was reviewed, evaluated and field-tested to address content standards, then the Board will determine whether to approve SpringBoard. Other districts are not required to use SpringBoard just because it is on the state textbook list.

Member Ruggiero replied he understood Board procedures regarding a decision for the adoption of SpringBoard, but he would rather defer to NDE staff who can give experience and additional information to make a decision based on pros and cons. He would prefer department staff present a breakdown of the issue with examples, and would like to hear input from students. Member Ruggiero concluded he did not have all the information needed to make a decision.

Dr. Rheault responded the NDE only has two English consultants, therefore department staff could not meet Member Ruggiero's request. The NDE relies on local teachers, administration and the board of trustees to review textbooks.

President Wallace suggested the two questions the State Board needs to answer are; does the SpringBoard textbook teach the standards and have they filled their statutory obligation with the adoption process? Dr. Rheault responded that in is his opinion this has been accomplished.

**Member Biggerstaff made a motion to approve the adoption of SpringBoard ELA Grades seven through eleven state textbook. Member Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried 8-1. Member Ruggiero opposed stating he needs more information and was not satisfied with the presentation today.**

### **Report from the Governor's Office**

There was no report from the Governor's office.

### **Approval of Request Dual Credit Courses for Nevada State High School**

Dr. Rheault stated the Nevada State High School Governing Board is requesting dual-credits from three institutions, the University of Nevada, Truckee Community College and Western Nevada College. The Nevada State High School Governing Board approved forwarding the request to the NDE for consideration by the State Board.

### **Member Hill made a motion to approve the request for Dual Credit Courses for Nevada State High School. Member Bonaventura seconded the motion.**

Member Ferry remarked the courses are very wide ranging and questioned the usefulness of them in Las Vegas as part of the Nevada State High School program.

Dr. John Hawk, Executive Director, Nevada State High School responded the courses were submitted in hope there would be a satellite campus; but that is not the intention at this time. New staff member, Kelsey Varwig, Recruitment Coordinator, is working on increasing the number of independent learners at the school. This provides students with an opportunity to take advantage of distance education courses.

Member Ferry asked if it was correct that most of courses on the list were not distance education courses. Ms. Varwig responded the online courses are general courses made available through Great Basin College and that a large portion of their students use in classroom as well as online courses. In response to President Wallace's question if all the courses listed were available online, Ms. Varwig replied yes.

Dr. Hawk commented they do not know what courses are offered online for any particular semester. One semester may offer a course that is not available the next semester because the classes fill up quickly. His goal is to offer students more opportunity to attend classes.

Member Cook, as a teacher for both online and classroom courses, clarified the course outline and description is the same regardless of the method of delivery, whether it is a lecture or online version, the class is the same. He added creating wider options between high school and college students is the direction we should be moving.

Member Ferry asked if the dual-credit approval would refer to only online classes in Nevada.

Dr. Hawk replied that is essentially, what they are asking for. Again, he stated he does not intend to open a satellite school. Dr. Rheault said 95 percent of the courses on the list would probably not be taken as a dual-credit course by students at Nevada State High School, however, a student may have a need for one of the courses and he advised to leave the list as it is.

Member Ferry said he understood college courses are filling up more now than in the past. He commented Dr. Hawk's letter for approval was not clear and should have stated, "the classes are filling up therefore we need to have more options", which would have made Dr. Hawk's intention clear.

**The motion carried.**

**WORKSHOP to Solicit Comments for Common Core Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts (Final Version)**

President Wallace opened the Workshop at 11:02 a.m. There were five individuals in attendance in Las Vegas and four individuals in attendance in Carson City.

Dr. Rheault stated that during the June 2010 board meeting the draft version of the Common Core Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts was approved to obtain additional points for the Race to the Top application. The final version of the Common Core Standards is now available. To assure Nevada was in line with the standards, the final version was unanimously approved by the Academic Standards Council on September 21, 2010 with only a few minor changes. A summary of changes from the draft to the final version, in both English Language Arts and Mathematics, have been provided. The final version will be available at the Public Hearing.

Dr. Rheault clarified this Workshop is for information and public input only and the Public Hearing will be heard in December for final approval. He further explained we are in a temporary period for regulations because of the upcoming 2011 Legislative session, which will require the Workshop and Public Hearing to be heard again next fall.

There was no public comment. President Wallace closed the workshop at 11:03 a.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING and possible Board Adoption of R132-10; New Regulations to NAC 389 – Health Science Standards**

President Wallace opened the Public Hearing at 11:03 a.m. There were four individuals in attendance in Las Vegas and three individuals in attendance in Carson City.

Mike Raponi, Acting Director, Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education presented Health Science Standards One and Two for a Public Hearing. No changes have been made to the standards that were reviewed at the August 2010 Workshop.

Randi Hunewill, Health Sciences Consultant, Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education, stated the reason there are new standards is that the Health Science programs in the State of Nevada are the fastest growing programs in Career and Technical Education. Health Care is the number one job demand in Nevada. Establishing these standards creates a framework for the districts that are actively developing curricula.

Member Biggerstaff asked if there will be teachers prepared to teach the standards. Ms. Hunewill answered yes; the team that worked on the standards consisted of members from Business and Industry as well as teachers from diverse fields. Teachers have been teaching without a set of standards and are thankful for help with their curriculum. Ms. Hunewill added these standards match the national health care standards for students and two to three trainings a year will be offered.

Mr. Raponi added that many of the teachers in Health Sciences have nursing credentials, which prepares them to implement the standards in the classrooms.

Member Cook disclosed, following ethics ruling 98-70, he has a significant relationship with a NDE employee who is the school health coordinator and will abstain from voting on this item.

Shannon LaNeve, K-12 Health Project Facilitator, stated that the Clark County School District is in full support of the Health Science Standards One and Two.

President Wallace closed the hearing at 11:13 a.m.

**Member Ferry made a motion to approve the Health Science Standards One and Two. Member Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried. Member Cook abstained.**

### **Approval of Science and Health Education Credit for Health Sciences**

Mr. Raponi stated they are seeking board approval for these skill standards to qualify for academic credit, following NAC protocols for school districts, insuring rigor is met.

Ms. Hunewell said that the Health Science Standards One and Two emphasize the rigor of academic education. A science teacher and specialists were involved when drafting the standards. She added in previous years, health science students in the State of Nevada have been the highest placing students on all the proficiency exams.

Member Cook disclosed he has a significant relationship with an NDE employee who is the school health coordinator and will abstain from voting on this item.

Dr. Rheault stated there is a specific regulation the Board adopted that allows for academic credit for occupational courses. To receive a credit for graduation the student must complete both Health Science Standards One and Two. Dr. Rheault said he strongly recommended the Board consider and approve the Health Science credits. If the State Board approves the standards, they will go to the local boards of trustee to decide if they will allow them in their district.

**Member Chaney made a motion to approve the Science Credit and Health Education Credit for Health Science One and Two Standards, LCB file R132-10. Member Wilkinson seconded the motion. The motion carried. Member Cook abstained.**

### **Report from prospective candidates for Governor**

President Wallace reported the Board extended an invitation to candidates for Governor, Rory Reid, and Brian Sandoval, or their staff, to speak about their plans for education in Nevada. Brian Sandoval's office was unable to attend. Cindy Reid, former State Board of Education member and wife of candidate for Governor, Rory Reid, attended.

Cindy Reid, representing Rory Reid, gave background on their Education Plan. At the beginning of the campaign, they spoke with various members of the education community including administrators, parents, teachers, and principals to gather information to formulate their Education Plan. They reviewed practices in other states that were working well, and could be used in Nevada. Rory Reid's campaign is excited about the plan but recognizes there are many education needs to be addressed in Nevada. Ms. Reid explained inter-connected plans have been developed including a budget plan, higher education plan, energy and economic plans that will

correspond with their education plan. Rory Reid's platform is, "*we cannot change Nevada's economy until something is done about Education.*" Ms. Reid said they spoke with business leaders in Nevada who are concerned about education, adding it is difficult to recruit businesses to Nevada, partially because executive families do not want to move due to Nevada's poor education ranking,

In response to President Wallace's question if Rory Reid supports the recommendations made by the ACR 2 committee to streamline governance in education, Ms. Reid responded yes, that is part of their Education Plan. President Wallace inquired if Rory Reid is familiar with the work of the Blue Ribbon Task Force, and NDE's commitment to enact reform from the Race to the Top application. Ms. Reid answered yes; stating they have met with members of the panel that assisted with the Race to the Top application.

Member Cook asked for reassurance from the campaign that NDE is not a target for elimination or a decrease in staff. Ms. Reid assured Member Cook that the NDE is not only vital but is the backbone of education in Nevada. She remarked Nevada has the smallest Department of Education in the country and works with lean funds.

**PUBLIC HEARING and possible Board action regarding Hearing of Petition and Recommendation for Suspension or Revocation of the Nevada Teacher's License for Catherine M. Miller**

Dr. Rheault recommended the Board follow the Settlement Agreement and General Release and Order for Catherine M. Miller, for violating assessment policies. The recommendation is a 40-day license suspension. Ms. Miller has been charged with unprofessional conduct; breaching the security and confidentiality of the questions and answers to the 2010 administration of the Criterion Reference Test. There were fourteen, fourth-grade, English as a second language students involved. The school district dismissed Ms. Miller as a teacher, and a 40-day license suspension is being requested.

Dr. Ed Irvin, Counsel for the Department of Education, stated it appeared there was inappropriate assistance for the fourteen students. The petition says Ms. Miller was terminated, however, during the negotiations it was brought to his attention that she was put on administrative leave without pay. He stated 40 days license suspension from the date of the incident is appropriate. She was a very experienced teacher relating to reading and English language learners, and she made an understandable mistake. He stated the recommendation is appropriate and asked the Board to follow it.

**Member Cook made a motion to follow the recommendation contained in the Settlement Agreement for a 40-day suspension for the teacher license of Catherine M. Miller. Member Biggerstaff seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

**PUBLIC HEARING and possible Board action regarding Hearing of Petition and Recommendation for Suspension or Revocation of the Nevada Teacher's License for Maria Sandra Jimenez**

Dr. Rheault stated this is a Settlement Agreement and General Release and Order for a testing violation. This violation is more egregious because it concerned the principal of a school.

Principals are the leaders of the school and have full oversight and authority to assure these violations do not occur. Maria Jimenez was a principal at a charter school, Mariposa Academy, in Washoe County. She is charged with unprofessional conduct as a principal with breeches in security and confidentiality regarding questions in the fifth grade proficiency examination in reading. A 125-day license suspension is recommended. Maria Jimenez no longer works at the charter school and is no longer working within the K-12 system in Nevada. Dr. Rheault said he recommends the Board approve the agreement.

Dr. Irvin, Counsel for the Department of Education, agreed the analysis leading to the 125-day suspension relates to a more egregious situation. He stated this is very close to an intentional act with the intention to increase scores for Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) purposes. The principal contacted students and suggested they make changes to their test booklets. Dr. Irvin suggested the 125-day suspension is appropriate.

Member Biggerstaff stated that when Nevada decided to use test scores as an evaluation of teachers, it opened the door to situations of this nature and it needs to be stopped right now. She recommended revoking the license of those in charge who commit testing violations.

Dr. Irvin stated if the Board does not agree with Summary Suspension presented, it would be terminated. It is not binding on the Board, however, if not accepted they would need to start over with the case. He suggested 125 days sends the message and he strongly supports the recommendation. He added Ms. Jimenez was admonished at Mariposa Academy, she resigned and the 125-day license suspension will follow her in Nevada.

**Member Cook made a motion to follow the recommendation contained in the Settlement Agreement for a 125-day suspension for the teacher license of Sandra Jimenez. Member Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried 8-1. Member Biggerstaff opposed.**

**Approval of the NRS 386.610 Annual Report concerning State Board sponsored charter schools and description of administrative services provided by Department staff to State Board sponsored charter schools.**

Dr. Steve Canavero, Director, Office of Charter Schools reported the Annual Performance Audit provides an analysis of the findings of charter school performances. He explained the details and process of the audit, which took place between February and June 2010. The NDE sends a draft of findings to each school in May and then the school has an opportunity to correct specific issues. The final report is compiled in June 2010. He said he expected all nine-charter schools to correct the non-compliant matters in each of their audits. Dr. Canavero stated nothing in the audit rises to the level of recommendation for revocation.

Member Cook disclosed that he is a part-time employee at Beacon Academy; a state sponsored charter school, and will abstain from voting.

**Member Biggerstaff made a motion to approve the NRS 386.610 annual report concerning the progress of each charter school sponsored by the State Board and description of administrative services provided by the NDE staff to State Board sponsored charter schools. Member Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried. Member Cook abstained.**

**Board Discussion on 2011-2013 Biennial Budget and update of new Bill Draft Requests since the last State Board meeting**

Dr. Rheault reported he attended a meeting with his fiscal staff and the State Budget Office last week. The biennial budget was submitted for the department with 10 percent reductions, and those reductions were met without eliminating staff. If further cuts are required beyond the 10 percent submitted staff would be subject to layoffs.

Dr. Rheault said there are approximately 550 Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) for the 2011 Legislative Session. He discussed BDR 257 from Washoe County School District – *Revises provisions governing discipline and probationary periods of employees of school districts*. Currently there is a two-year probationary period and this BDR sets a mandatory three-year probation period. Clark County School District has BDR 304 – *Revises statutory formula for K-12 public school funding to provide for weighted pupil funding based upon the cost of providing educational services to specific categories of pupils*. Dr. Rheault explained he supports this BDR, regarding a weighted pupil funding formula. Clark County's, BDR 302–*Makes various changes intended to ensure that high school graduation is a community priority*. He stated it is called the Graduation Priority Act (GPA), and while he does not agree with everything in the GPA, he supports increasing graduations rates that are being discussed in the BDR.

The NDE and Board submitted four technical BDRs to make a few language changes. All four were approved and forwarded and will be written into bills. They are BDRs 438, 439, 440 and 507.

**Board Member Comment**

Member Hill suggested the Board recognize the accomplishment of Student Representative Zhan Okuda-Lim in being appointed to the Blue Ribbon Task Force, and having his article published in the NASBE publication. In addition, he was recently elected President of the Youth Legislature.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Future Agenda Items**

President Wallace suggested discussing the date for the January board meeting at the December meeting.

Member Biggerstaff requested a Charter School Subcommittee meeting in December.

Member Ruggiero asked if the Governor's Office has narrowed down the search to replace Board Member McKenna. Dr. Rheault said the Governor's office is moving forward and that applications were being collected. Member Ruggiero asked for another update before the December meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.