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

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

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 NEW BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Willia Chaney, Member Craig Wilkinson, Member

In Carson City:

Gloria Bonaventura, Member
Dave Cook, Member
Stavan Corbett, Member
Dr. Cliff Ferry, Member
Adriana Fralick, Member
Sandy Metcalf, Member
Christopher Wallace, Member
Annie Yvette Wilson, Member
Zhan Okuda-Lim, Student Representative

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Carson City:

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services
Donnell Barton, Director, Office of Child Nutrition and School Health
Carol Crothers, Director, Assessments, Program Accountability & Curriculum
Karen Johansen, Assistant to the Board

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

In Carson City:

Dr. James E. Irvin, Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

None

CALL TO ORDER; WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

President Wallace called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. with attendance as reflected above.

ORIENTATION OF NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction, welcomed the new members. Dr. Rheault reviewed the 2011 Nevada Education Data Book provided by the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) and the Nevada School Laws contained in the Nevada Revised Statutes Pertaining to Elementary and Secondary Education in Nevada. He provided an overview of the Department of Education (NDE) and reviewed K-12 Educational Governance Structure in Nevada.

President Wallace discussed using e-mail for board communication and suggested board members are interested in obtaining state e-mail accounts to be used exclusively for board communications. He asked Board Members to review their Board Packet in advance of meetings and informed them of the availability of a "paperless packet" on the NDE website. President Wallace discussed the purpose of Board Subcommittees, Task Force Assignments, Advisory Councils and Appointments to Organizations and suggested Board members select which they would like to serve.

Dr. Ed Irvin, Deputy Senior Attorney General, provided an overview of Board ethics and the Nevada Open Meeting Law. He cautioned Board members about serial communication via e-mail that may violate the spirit of the Open Meeting Law. He stressed the importance of disclosing potential conflicts of interest during board meetings.

Dr. Rheault reviewed Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) regarding State Board duties and responsibilities. Bill Draft Requests related to K-12 education coming up in the 2011 Legislative Session were also discussed. Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services, detailed the Nevada State Improvement Plan (STIP). The STIP is a statutory obligation of the State Board of Education to develop and annually revise. In addition, Dr. Rheault discussed some of the education budget issues that will be presented to the 2011 Legislature.

Dr. Rheault reviewed the Board's Mission Statement, Vision and Goals. He also reviewed the Board Standing Rules and Procedures and discussed board travel policy.

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

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MINUTES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHARTER SCHOOLS <u>Video Conferenced</u>

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Willia Chaney, Member Craig Wilkinson, Member

In Carson City:

Dr. Cliff Ferry, Chair

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Carson City:

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services
Dr. Steve Canavero, Director, Office of Charter Schools
Tom Mc Cormack, Education Programs Professional, Office of Charter Schools
Allison Kellogg, Management Analyst, Office of Charter Schools
Angela Blair, Special Education, Education Programs Professional, Office of Charter Schools

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Robert Whitney, Deputy Attorney General

In Carson City:

Dr. Ed Irvin, Senior Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Las Vegas:

Jeff Orton, Somerset Academy of Las Vegas

Clark Price, Discovery Charter School

Cheryl Lawrence, 100 Academy of Excellence, Las Vegas

Latoyshia Parson-Bass, Willie H. Brooks SoarAcademy

Gayle Jefferson, Somerset Academy of Las Vegas

Robert Howell, Academica Nevada

Tami Bass, Willie H. Brooks Soar Academy

Heidi Arbuckle, Clark County School District

Scott Walker, Somerset Academy of Las Vegas

Andrew Platt, Committee to Form, Renaissance Academy

Wendi Jensen, Somerset Academy of Las Vegas

Scott Hammond, Somerset Academy of Las Vegas

Susan Stewart, Explore Knowledge Academy Harvey Hollins, 100 Academy of Excellence

Richard Boulware, Willie H. Brooks Soar Academy

George Burns, Imagine School at Mountain View

Naomi Lewis, Imagine Schools at Mountain View

In Carson City:

Steve Knight, Executive Director, Silver State Charter School

Mark Brandon, Liaison, Committee to Form, Imagine Schools at Mountain View, Las Vegas

Melissa Mackedon, Oasis Academy

Eugene T. Paslov

Kimberly Maxson Rushton, Legal Counsel, Cooper Levenson

Shaundell Newsome, Imagine Schools at Mountain View, Las Vegas

Alan Staggs, Silver State Charter School

Dee Frewert, Space Science for Schools

Feyzi Tandogan, Executive Director, Coral Academy of Science, Las Vegas

Fatih Ozer, Liaison, Coral Academy of Science

Linda Dawson, Coral Academy of Science Reno

Char Christensen, Grandparent

Monique Giron, Parent

Lori Eustis, Parent

Diana Antonucci, Parent

Deonne Contine, Parent

Dario Ventura, Parent

Michael Anderson, Parent

Suzanne Anderson, Parent

Mary Covington, Parent

Carol Bertholf, Parent

Shari Bertholf, Parent

Monique Giron, Parent

Cathy Mercer

Melina Hashemi, Student

CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL;

Chair Ferry called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m. with attendance as reflected above.

Dr. Steve Canavero, Director, Office of Charter Schools, stated administrators and governing board members attended a focus group for the Authorizer Evaluation Grant conducted by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA). A report will be delivered in early March, which will provide formative practical guidance on strengths and priorities for improving the charter process with the NACSA principals and standards.

Consideration for recommendation concerning the Application status Review and possible approval of Discovery Charter School Subsection 7 Charter.

Dr. Canavero stated the mission statement of Discovery Charter School is; to promote a safe nurturing environment, which fosters student success through community involvement, progressive educational practices, and innovative use of technology. It will be located in Clark County serving grades K-8, they plan to open in 2011 and their projected enrollment is 255 students. They are not contracted with an Education Management Organization (EMO). Discovery Charter School is not distance education, not primarily for at risk students and not vocational education. It is NDE's recommendation to approve the application.

In response to Member Chaney's inquiry if they have a school facility, Dave Price, Discovery Charter School, responded they are constantly searching for a facility while they are waiting approval for a subsection 7 charter. He reported there would be a phase in program for seventh and eighth graders and they are focusing on project-based learning.

Member Wilkinson moved to recommend approval for a Subsection 7 Charter for Discovery Charter School to the State Board. Member Chaney seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Consideration for recommendation concerning the Application Status Review and possible Approval of Oasis Academy Charter School Subsection 7 Charter.

Dr. Canavero stated the mission statement from Oasis Academy Charter School is; Oasis Academy in partnership with its parents and community strives to instill in its students high standards for academic achievement, leadership, integrity and responsible citizenship. The Oasis Academy will create leaders one project at a time. Oasis Academy Charter School is located in Churchill County serving grades K-8, they plan to open in August 2011 and have a projected enrollment with a self-imposed cap of 180 students. The school is not working with an EMO. The curriculum focus has a traditional model of instruction for language arts and mathematics. Interdisciplinary project based learning approach will be used focusing on science and social studies standards for each grade level. They are not distance education, not identified for at risk students and not vocational education. They have identified two goals; increasing the opportunities for student learning and establishing appropriate measures for assessments in pupil learning. It is NDE's recommendation to approve the application.

Melissa Mackedon, Liaison, Committee to Form, Oasis Academy, stated there is excitement and interest in the community for the first charter school in Churchill County. They are focusing on project-based learning to insure students are prepared for the 21st century. Oasis Academy students will remain with the same teacher for multiple years in the core areas of reading and mathematics. One quarter of the year students will be involved in community service.

Member Chaney moved to recommend approval for a Subsection 7 Charter for Oasis Academy School to the State Board. Member Wilkinson seconded the motion. The motion carried

Consideration for Recommendation concerning the Application Status Review and possible Approval of Renaissance Academy Charter School Subsection 7 Charter.

Dr. Canavero stated the mission statement for Renaissance Academy Charter School is; Renaissance Academy exists to utilize new technologies to their fullest in bringing a world-class education to Nevada's children. By incorporating the leverage of computers and telepresence, we fully engage students to make all students into excellent students. We create innovative educational programs to empower students of all social backgrounds and abilities to be high achievers in life and their communities. Renaissance Academy is located in Clark County, serving grades K-12, with plans to open August 2011 and has a projected enrollment of 750 students. They have contracted with K-12, Inc as their EMO to provide distance education curriculum. The school's purpose is to fill the missing needs of certain categories of at-risk students within the Nevada public education system. The three main categories of at-risk students the school would like to focus on are high school dropouts or students who are credit deficient and unlikely to graduate, teenage mothers or expectant teenage mothers, and students who are in families of poverty. The distance education program will address each population of students in a unique way. It is NDE's recommendation to approve the application.

Andrew Platt, Committee to Form, Renaissance Academy stated K-12 Inc is the best-rated online education system in the country. Their goal is for each student to receive a laptop with data plans allowing the student to have success with K-12 Inc wherever they live. The school has a vision of personal empowerment for academic success so students can achieve whatever life brings their way.

Member Wilkinson moved to recommend approval for a Subsection 7 Charter for Renaissance Academy Charter School to the State Board. Member Chaney seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Consideration for Recommendation concerning the Application Status Review and Possible Approval of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas Charter School Subsection 7 Charter.

Dr. Canavero stated the mission statement for Somerset Academy of Las Vegas is; to prepare students to excel in academics and attain knowledge through effective teaching and life-long learning. Somerset Academy is located in Clark County serving grades K-4, eventually expanding to K-8, plans to open August 2011 and their projected enrollment is 125 students for the first year. They contract with an EMO, Academica Nevada. The school is a replication of Somerset Academy Charter School, which has 20 schools operating in Florida and two in Texas. Their curriculum will focus on core educational skills, including reading and writing across the curriculum, critical thinking, math, science, health, social studies, the arts and physical education aligned to a model of best practices proven to meet the educational needs of all learners. Somerset Academy is not distance education, not primarily for at-risk youth and not vocational education. It is NDE's recommendation to approve the application.

Wendi Jensen, Committee to Form, Somerset Academy of Las Vegas stated they are excited about the school and the affiliation with Somerset Academy in Florida. Miami Dade County is the fourth largest school district in the nation, and Clark County is the fifth largest. They have similar issues and sharing the best practices will help the success of the Somerset Academy of Las Vegas. It is mandatory that parents commit a minimum of 30 hours of volunteer work per family per school year.

Scott Hammond, Committee to Form, Somerset Academy of Las Vegas stated he is a father of three, a teacher at Indian Springs High School and a member of the Nevada State Assembly. Mr. Hammond said he believes in choice for parents, and is looking forward to working with Academica Nevada and Somerset Academy.

Jeff Orton, Committee to Form, Somerset Academy of Las Vegas stated he is a Certified Public Accountant, a concerned parent, and wants to be involved in the education of his children. He said he is looking forward to the model Somerset Academy of Las Vegas has replicated in Florida.

Member Chaney moved to recommend approval for a Subsection 7 Charter for Somerset Academy of Las Vegas Charter School to the State Board. Member Wilkinson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Consideration for Recommendation concerning the Application Status Review and Possible Approval of Willie H. Brooks Soar Academy Charter School Subsection 7 Charter.

Dr. Canavero stated the mission statement for Willie H. Brooks Soar Academy is; to provide a holistic, comprehensive, high-quality preparatory education to young men that results in graduates succeeding in college. The school location is Clark County serving grades 6-8 expanding to 9, with plans to open in August 2011. Their projected enrollment is 240 students, expanding to 320. Willie H. Brooks Soar's motto is "Excellence without Excuse" and seeks to answer the call to reverse the poor graduation and college completion rates among young men in urban centers. The school also seeks to comply with NRS 386.580 (8) which states a charter school may form that is dedicated to providing services exclusively to pupils (b) which pose such severe disciplinary problems that they warrant a specific educational program, Including a specific design to serve a single gender. Willie Brooks is primarily for at-risk youth, is not distance education and not vocational education. It is NDE's recommendation to approve the application

Latoyshia Parson-Bass, Willie H. Brooks Soar Academy stated the school will serve at-risk male youth in grades 6-8. Studies indicate many males do not perform well in traditional schools and their decent with disciplinary problems begins around sixth grade.

Richard Boulware, Committee to Form, Willie H. Brooks Soar Academy, stated he is an attorney, the Las Vegas National Bar Association President and the Vice President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Las Vegas. He stated he has witnessed challenges on many levels facing young men in the community. A key element of these young men is a lack of educational support at a young age. There has been significant progress throughout the country in terms of all male schools targeting at risk schools that have community support.

Member Wilkinson moved to recommend approval for a Subsection 7 Charter for Willie H. Brooks Soar Academy Charter School to the State Board. Member Chaney seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Consideration for Recommendation Concerning the Application Status Review and possible Approval of Coral Academy of Science Charter School - Carson City Subsection 7 Charter.

Dr. Canavero stated the mission statement for Coral Academy is; to provide students with an education that is unique to their learning styles while ensuring high academic standards. The school location is in Carson City, serving grades 4-9 in year one, expanding to K-12; with plans to open in August 2011. The projected enrollment is 238 students. It does not have an EMO. The school design involves a comprehensive and continuing effort to realize five essential elements in an integrated manner; 1) rigorous curriculum, instruction and assessment; 2) leadership, governance and staffing; 3) parent and community involvement; 4) technology; and 5) financing. It is not distance education, not primarily for at-risk youth, and not vocational education.

Consistent with NAC 386.203 (3) (b) subsection 4, NDE reviewed the application and recommended to deny the application based on concerns of the fiscal management of their two existing campuses. The NACSA principals and standards specify that charter school applicants who are existing school operators should provide clear evidence of their capacity to operate new schools successfully while maintaining quality in existing schools as well as meet high standards of academic, organizational and financial

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success to earn approval for replication. The ability of Coral Academy to scale their model to three sites in a fiscally responsible manner is in question. Examining the history of Coral's replication provides context to the Subcommittee's recommendation. The NDE's concern is reflected in the apparent inability to scale the Coral Academy of Science to two sites and recommends against adding a third site until Coral Academy of Science-Las Vegas and Coral Academy of Science-Reno demonstrably improve their fiscal position.

Fatih Ozer, Liaison, Coral Academy of Science, stated the project is a replication of the Coral Academy Campus, Reno. He emphasized they were approached by the Carson City community because of Coral Academy of Science in Reno's success and their high achieving status for over a decade. The Reno school has achieved AYP since it was founded, and has received high achieving designation six times.

Linda Dawson, Coral Academy of Science, Reno, stated she has been a part of the founding process for Coral Academy of Science from the beginning and has watched student's blossom under the tutelage of the staff. It is their goal to prepare students for college with an emphasis on science and math. The small class sizes allow for more individualized attention with hands on learning. Coral Academy of Science has a high reputation, which inspired the parents in Carson City to contact the school for replication.

Monique Giron stated she contacted Coral Academy of Science to ask the school to come to Carson City. She is the parent of a fifth grade public elementary student and volunteers with the public school district. Monique stated she is dissatisfied with the sub-par public education her son is receiving adding she is impressed with Coral Academy because of the rigorous compressive curriculum offered along with their successful record of accomplishment. She asked that the application of Coral Academy of Science, Carson City be approved.

Deonne Contine disclosed she is a Deputy Attorney General for the State of Nevada, adding she is the wife of a teacher and a parent of a first grader. She stated she supports additional choices in education for children, which lead to the Coral Academy application today. She urged the application for Coral Academy of Science to Carson City be approved.

Lori Eustis stated she is a concerned parent and helped initiate the movement to bring Coral Academy of Science to Carson City. She said over 200 children and 100 families, are on a list of people to bring Coral Academy to Carson City and urged approval of their application.

Chair Ferry stated the issue of interest in Coral Academy opening a school in Carson City and the quality of their program is not in question. The only issue before the board is one of financial stability.

Mr. Ozer explained the Coral Academy of Science in Las Vegas and Reno has their own governing body, their own budget and their own financial responsibilities. Further discussion occurred regarding the financial responsibilities of Coral Academy of Science with Feyzi Tandogan, Executive Director of the Las Vegas academy.

Dr. Canavero stated the concern is adding a fiscal load to a system that would put the school at risk. Once a corrective action plan is in place to bridge the budget with a contingency fund, the application can be resubmitted.

Member Chaney moved to recommend denial for a Subsection 7 Charter for Coral Academy of Science in Carson City to the State Board. Member Wilkinson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Consideration for Recommendation concerning the Application Status Review and possible approval of Imagine School at Mountain View Charter School subsection 7 Charter.

Dr. Canavero stated the mission statement of Mountain View Charter School is: to positively shape the hearts and minds of our students by providing them with an academically rigorous content rich curriculum, an environment in which character is modeled and promoted, and a community in which to build trusting relationships with others. The school location is in Clark County, serving K-2 with plans to extend grades at a future date, and plans to open August 2011 with a projected enrollment of 286 students. They are not distance education, not primarily for at-risk youth and not vocational education.

Consistent with NAC 386.203 (3) (b) subsection 4, NDE considered a report to review an application to form a charter school that seeks to engage in the comprehensive services of an EMO that currently contracts with a charter school sponsored by the State Board of Education and with a charter school sponsored by the Clark County School District.

Imagine Schools Inc. is an EMO as defined by NAC 386.033 and has active contracts with 100 Academy of Excellence, a Clark County School District sponsored charter school and Imagine School in the Valle, a State Board of Education sponsored charter school. The Committee to Form Imagine School at Mountain View intends to contract with Imagine Schools, Inc. for services in a manner nearly identical to Imagine School in the Valle leading to the examination of the EMO's performance.

Grounded in two years of substandard EMO evaluations conducted by the Governing Body of Imagine School in the Valle, the NDE recommendation is to deny the application for a Subsection 7 Charter.

Mark Brandon, Liaison, Committee to Form, Imagine Schools at Mountain View, Las Vegas stated they had an opportunity to review prior EMO evaluations and vetted the EMO on several occasions. He said they are confident with the EMO and have great communications with the Committee to Form at Imagine Schools at Mountain View. He said he supplied Dr. Canavero with a packet that [included testimonies from the parents of students at Imagine School in the Valle as well as Ron Grogan, President of the 100 Black Men, in favor of the school. He said the packet is available for review. Imagine is a proven EMO serving over 900 students with its program in Clark County. Mr. Brandon added he is a member of 100 Black Men, a mentoring group that is part of the 100 Academy of Excellence. He asked the Subcommittee to consider approval for a subsection 7 charter.

Shaundell Newsome, Imagine Schools at Mountain View, Las Vegas stated he is a member of 100 Black Men of Las Vegas and was on the original committee that brought Imagine Schools to the forefront. Several organizations of 100 Black Men around the country recommended Imagine Schools as a great partner to the Las Vegas chapter.

Kimberly Maxson Rushton, Legal Counsel, Committee to Form, noted the application before the subcommittee has been deemed substantially complete and compliant. She stated the Committee to Form would be the governing body over the school and would be responsible for the day-to-day operations. The EMO is there to assist with the development of the curriculum. The packet of information submitted for consideration today contains letters from the president of the governing board and principal of the 100 Academy of Excellence with several signed letters from parents of potential students at Imagine at Mountain View that address the academic excellence of their school, teachers and administrators. She asked the Subcommittee to approve the application for a subsection 7 charter based on the application being complete and compliant.

Member Wilkinson disclosed he is a PE teacher at Wendell Williams Elementary school and the 100 Black Men organization mentor at the school every Wednesday. He said it should not affect his voting.

Member Chaney stated she supports the school and acknowledges there was a communication break down with the governing board and decision-making. She explained the important issue is for parents to have a school choice for their children and said the curriculum and budgeting has been successful. Member Chaney asked what corrective action was taken to resolve the communication problems that were ongoing for two years.

Mr. Brandon responded they took a proactive approach in developing Imagine schools at Mountain View. They spoke to board members from Imagine at Valle School and 100 Academy to address concerns. Imagine in the southwest region has worked on communication with their EMO, which is key.

Chair Ferry clarified that the Committee to Form Mountain View Academy is separate from the problems at the Imagine in the Valle School, and their two consecutive years of negative evaluations of the EMO.

Dr. Ed Irvin, Deputy Attorney General pointed out the Subcommittee has previously dealt with these issues. He explained member Chaney was referring to information from prior hearings, and that is relevant because the information is related to the EMO and the NDE recommendation to deny the application due to negative evaluations. Mr. Irvin reminded the Subcommittee is only considering the subsection 7 charter approval. Dr. Irvin inquired if the packet Ms. Rushton referenced was received by the Subcommittee or staff.

Ms. Rushton stated the packet of information and letters was sent to Dr. Canavero in preparation for the meeting today. Dr. Canavero and staff stated they did not receive the packet.

Chair Ferry stated he is not ready to make a decision regarding the application.

Chair Ferry moved to continue the discussion to approve a Subsection 7 Charter for Imagine School at Mountain View with the full board tomorrow. Member Chaney seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Rushton stated she would provide copies of the packet and the EMO evaluation of the 100 Academy of Excellence for the board meeting tomorrow.

Public Comment

Michael Anderson, Parent, agreed with the personal reasons to bring Coral Academy to Carson City. He asked the Subcommittee to consider the proposed campus is not a subset of the existing campus in Las Vegas. He pointed out any potential financial troubles and failures in the Las Vegas school would not necessarily cause a downfall in the Reno or the proposed Carson City School. The numbers are improving and Reno is in the black. Choices are limited in Carson City and Coral Academy shows excellence.

Suzanne Anderson stated she is a parent of four children in the Carson City School District. Her son is a gifted student in fifth grade and reads at a seventh grade level. She said she was advised the school would have him reading at his level but he is not. Consequently, she spoke to the Principal, the head of the reading programs and wrote letters, with no response. Her son has not been challenged; he is bored and is now acting up. She implored the Subcommittee to reconsider their approval of Coral Academy in Carson City.

Monique Giron stated she is a parent of a fifth grade student. She suggested a prospective Coral Academy in Carson City would be independent of the school in Las Vegas. Ms. Giron noted the public schools are not meeting the needs of students performing above grade level, and asked that the problem of limited curriculums be addressed.

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Cathy Mercer stated she is a parent of five children. She stated she does not have a gifted child but needs a choice for her middle school child who is falling through the cracks and not being challenged

Cheryl Lawrence, Vice President of PTO 100 Academy of Excellence said she has a gifted child in kindergarten and his needs are being met. Arrangements have been made for him to attend reading and math at different levels. The school has turned around with new teachers and curriculum.

Naomi Lewis stated she has been with the 100 Academy and Imagine schools since 2006. Communication and parent involvement has improved. Notifications regarding testing, school activities and projects are received by parents, which results in their involvement.

Harvey Hollins, 100 Academy of Excellence, Mentor and 100 Black Men stated he has been mentoring for three years and the school has turned around.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.