

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

**Thursday, May 9, 2013**

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

And

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

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**In Las Vegas:**

Elaine Wynn, President  
Allison Serafin, Vice President  
Stavan Corbett  
Alexis Gonzales-Black  
Kamryn Mock  
Mark Newburn

**In Carson City:**

Dave Cook  
Freeman Holbrook  
Richard Stokes

**In Elko:**

Kevin Melcher  
Thad Ballard

**DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:**

**In Las Vegas:**

Rorie Fitzpatrick, Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction

**In Carson City:**

Deborah Cunningham, Deputy Superintendent for Business Support and Services  
Karen Johansen, Assistant to the State Board of Education  
Monie Byers, Education Programs Professional  
Charlotte Curtis, Education Programs Professional  
Andre DeLeon, Education Programs Professional  
Richard Vineyard, Educations Programs Supervisor  
Mike Raponi, Director, Career, Technical and Adult Education  
Tom MacDiarmid, Education Programs Professional

**LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:**

**In Carson City:**

Carrie Parker, Deputy Attorney General

**AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:**

**In Las Vegas:**

Seth Rau, Nevada Succeeds  
Elissa Wahl, Nevada Homeschool Network  
Jerry Delucca, Educational Testing Service (ETS)  
Caroline McIntosh, Nevada Virtual Academy  
Monique Harris, Southern Nevada Children First  
Frank Woodbeck, Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR)

**In Carson City:**

Beth Wells, Nevada Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education (STEM) Coalition  
Laurie Anne Grimes, Nevada STEM Coalition  
Lindsay Knox, K-12 Inc.  
Ray Bacon, Nevada Manufacturing Association (NMA)  
Nicole Rourke, Clark County School District (CCSD)  
Daryl Drake, Council for Excellence in Education (CEE)  
Fred Boyd, CEE, Say Yes for Kids Community Compact  
Allison Combs, Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE)  
Mendy Elliott, ACT  
Scott Kampmeier, ACT  
Scott Frein, ACT

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. with attendance as reflected above.

Carrie Parker, Deputy Attorney General, provided information regarding public comment procedures. Board members have recently received requests from the public requesting that their written remarks be read into the record. Deputy Attorney General Parker clarified that public comment is reserved for people who are present at the meeting to address the public body. Under the Open Meeting Law

(OML), it is not appropriate for written comments to be read in public comment unless a member of the public body request that emails or other correspondence items are included.

### **Public Comment**

Elissa Wahl, Vice President, Nevada Homeschool Network (NHN), Board of Directors, Rise Education Resource Center requested the documents from the HSN be included in the meeting minutes (attachment A). Ms. Wahl stated that she and the HSN are against lowering the compulsory school age from seven to five. She requested that parents who are actively and diligently working with their children, and recognize their children aren't ready for kindergarten at age, be given the choice.

Ms. Wahl stated she is a well-educated mom, an active participant in the community, and entered kindergarten at age six. Her parents were public school teachers and recognized she was a young five and would not be best served by entering kindergarten at the age of five. Because of that decision she was able to maintain and excel at school without it being a struggle. Ms. Wahl asked that parents have the option and not mandate that all five year olds should be in kindergarten.

Ray Bacon, Nevada Manufactures Association (NMA), stated STEM is critically important from an employer's standpoint. Mr. Bacon said he listened to hearing last night in the senate education committee regarding AB288, to eliminate the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) end of course testing and bring in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). He asked that Nevada not lose sight of the issue to ensure students are employable. That means keeping the focus on Career and Technical Education (CTE) schools, so that even non-graduates have the necessary basic math, reading and problem solving skills.

Laurie Anne Grimes, Nevada STEM Coalition, provided a quote from President Obama, "If America is going to compete for the jobs and industries of tomorrow, we need to make sure our children are getting the best education possible. Teachers matter and great teachers deserve our support." President Obama announced that funds will be consolidated into a STEM teacher training program with expectations of training over 100,000 teachers in the next decade. A STEM Master Teacher Corps will be developed rewarding top math and science teachers who will become instructional leaders in the nation and in their communities. A STEM virtual learning network will connect educators to share ideas, teaching strategies and research and link a STEM innovation network to higher education with K-12 from state-to-state and at federal levels.

**Member Corbett moved to approve a flexible agenda. Member Serafin seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Rorie Fitzpatrick, Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction, informed the Board that today's meeting is focused around three important priorities; the future and leadership role of the Department, current legislative education bills and a presentation about the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) theme for the May board meeting.

Elaine Wynn, President, noted that it is teacher appreciation week. Member Serafin stated that teachers work tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that all children have access to an excellent education. Teachers in Nevada deserve to be recognized and celebrated for their great work this week. Member Gonzales-Black added that as a former high school teacher, being a teacher is the

most rewarding and challenging profession one can pursue. This week is well deserved by all teachers who give their best to our kids.

President Wynn acknowledged that since the last meeting of the state board, former Superintendent James Guthrie resigned, and is no longer part of Nevada's education family. President Wynn stated that it was a great pleasure and privilege to work with him during his tenure. She added he is one of the most knowledgeable academic experts on education in the country and Nevada was very lucky to benefit from his guidance and input.

### **Consent Agenda**

A. Approval of State Board of Education Minutes

- January 25, 2013
- March 21, 2013

B. Approval of the following nominees to fill the current vacancies on the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Ken Higbee – State Juvenile/Adult Corrections

Mary Ann Demchak– Universities - North

C. Approval of Career, Technical and Adult Education (CTE) Standards for Animation

D. Approval of Dual Credit Courses Offered by Great Basin College to White Pine County School District to High School Students

E. Approval of Dual Credit Courses Offered by College of Southern Nevada and Nevada State College to Clark County School District High School Students

**Member Serafin moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Member Corbett seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### **Workshop to solicit comments on proposed amendments to NAC 390.040; recommendations for adoption of textbooks or electronic media; time for submission; effect of incorrect or inaccurate evaluation.**

President Wynn opened the workshop at 9:25 a.m. There were 6 individuals present in Las Vegas and 19 individuals present in Carson City.

Tracy Gruber, K-12 Mathematics Specialist, explained that the Board approves instructional materials and text books for Nevada. Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 390.040 states *a recommendation for the adoption of a textbook or electronic media must be submitted to the department of education in December, March or April to be considered by the state board of education*. The proposed change deletes the reference to dates with the rationale of eliminating barriers and allowing districts to facilitate an effective and efficient adoption processes. This change would allow the Board to adopt textbooks at board meetings throughout the year.

In response to member Serafin's inquiry whether the department has the capacity to adopt textbooks throughout the year, Ms. Gruber stated the Department has the capacity and would like to convene a team to review the content of submitted documents. There is no scheduled district adoption cycle; rather instructional materials tend to be adopted as funds become available. Ms. Gruber proposed the districts submit adoption materials to the Department 60 days in advance of Board meetings.

There was no public comment.

**Member Serafin moved to hold a public hearing at the June 13, 2013 State Board meeting on the proposed amendments to NAC 390.040. Member Corbett seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

President Wynn closed the workshop at 9:47 a.m.

### **Superintendent's Report**

- **Preparation for adoption of second set of regulations for Nevada Educator Performance Framework**

Interim Superintendent Fitzpatrick reminded the Board that a public hearing was held at the January 25, 2013 board meeting for the adoption of the regulations to implement the new teacher and administrator evaluation models recommended by the Teachers and Leaders Council (TLC). Portions of the regulation were adopted at that January meeting, and a second part of regulations will come back to the board for adoption following the legislative session. Senate Bill (SB) 407, *revising provisions governing the policies for the evaluation of teachers and school-based administrators*, has been moving forward towards passage.

The first set of regulations adopted set forward the content to be measured. Collecting and using the data is in the second set of the regulations that will come forward in the June public hearing.

Interim Superintendent Fitzpatrick suggested that department staff create an annotated brief highlighting important elements of SB 407 and include anticipated contents of the regulation to consider for adoption. In addition, if needed, department staff will be available to answer individual questions from board members.

- **Early Literacy Summit, Friday, May 10, 2013**

Interim Superintendent Fitzpatrick informed board members about the Early Literacy Summit that will be held at the Governor's office on May 10, 2013. The primary purpose of the summit is to celebrate the many literacy successes that Nevada has experienced and to enhance Nevada's Comprehensive State Literacy Plan. . The Literacy Summit will focus on the challenges of birth to grade 3. Representatives from the National Governors Association Center (NGA) for Best Practices will share a state policy framework they are developing to help states plan and implement comprehensive literacy strategies to improve third grade reading proficiency. Legislators and other policy makers have been invited and member Gonzales-Black will represent the State Board.

### **Discussion Regarding the Board's role in the Search Process for the Superintendent of Public Instruction**

Gerald Gardner, Chief of Staff, Governor Brian Sandoval's Office, discussed the process of the superintendent search for the Department. The position for the Superintendent of Public Instruction will be posted with the Nevada Human Resources Department and the position will be publicized in educational publications throughout the country. The timeframe of the posting is uncertain because of current legislative activities; the latest date would be in June.

The application process will be open until July 5. At that time, the Governor's Office will conduct the background search and review qualifications of the candidates. On July 15, a list of up to six candidates will be submitted to the State Board. Names of the potential candidates will be publicized

and each board member, independently, will review and consider the candidates prior to the July 25 meeting, when the Board will review and discuss the candidate's qualifications and application materials. The Board will vote to approve a list of three candidates that will be submitted to the Governor's Office pursuant to NRS 385.150(1). The Governor will then decide how to conduct the final decision making process. The goal is to announce the new superintendent by August, to be in place at the beginning of the new school year.

Judy Osgood, Senior Policy Analyst, Governor Sandoval's Office stated that the job posting for the next Superintendent of Public Instruction is identical to the job posting used for the search a little over a year ago. The duties and responsibilities are identified in NRS 385.175 and the application material would be received by the Governor's office.

Board members discussed and suggested additional qualification requirements required for the Superintendent of Public Instruction position, and they were accepted by Mr. Gardner.

### **Superintendent's Report**

- **Education Assessment Summit follow-up**

Interim Superintendent Fitzpatrick noted there was an Education Summit held in December where approximately 100 individuals discussed the state's education system. The board continued the discussion at the March board meeting when Dr. Stanley Rabinowitz provided a presentation regarding how to move the state forward towards a next generation assessment system.

The Department recently met with the Clark County Board of Trustees and discussed high school components including end course assessments and moving away from the HSPE towards an assessment of college and career readiness. The Department has worked with Assemblywomen Flores, Assemblywoman Dondero-Loop and Assemblymen Kirner and Anderson to move forward Assembly Bill (AB) 288. There is widespread endorsement of the bill that moves towards a system away from the HSPE. The HSPE is aligned to Nevada content standards; but it is a test of minimum proficiency and it is not sufficient to inform us as to whether students are college and career ready.

Interim Superintendent Fitzpatrick recommended adding an item to discuss assessments at the June 13 meeting following the passage of legislation. There is no requirement to rush to adopt an assessment prior to the start of the 2013-14 school year, but it would be good to get the infrastructure into place to implement the assessments in the 2014-15 year. The June board meeting would provide an opportunity for a presentation about the contents of the bill and it would also be an opportunity for staff to discuss a course of action with the board.

Board members continued a discussion around their decisionmaking roles regarding assessments.

- **Legislative discussion**

Deputy Superintendent Cunningham provided an overview of legislative bills. The Department is tracking 107 bills with less than a month left of the legislative session. Many of the Department budgets have closed with the balance scheduled to close on May 17. Significant budget items for the Department were approved including, two education program professional positions to focus on English Language Learning (ELL), a public information

officer, a webmaster, enhancements to the budgets for the Regional Professional Development Programs (RPDP) to support the educator performance framework and critical funds to maintain and upgrade the states Longitudinal Data System.

Deputy Cunningham stated significant budget items still remain to be approved; including all of the K-12 funding items, additional funding for ELL, additional funding for full day kindergarten and basic school support to schools that includes increases for enrollment growth, the growth and the cost of health insurance and increased funds for special education services provided to students with disabilities. The next major legislative deadline is May 17 when bills must be passed out of committee in the second house.

Deputy Cunningham provided summarizations for the following significant bills:

- AB288 – Removes the high school proficiency examination and establish end of course assessments
- SB182 – Provides full day kindergarten in public schools
- SB407 – Makes statutory changes to validate and implement the educator performance framework.
- SB447 – Makes changes to improve the governance of the regional professional development programs
- AB259 – Improves the governance of the P16 council to oversee the state longitudinal data system
- SB486 – Provides \$4 million dollars in one shot funds for the further development of the system
- SB345 – Proposes the creation of a STEM council

Deputy Cunningham stated a report about legislative action and what bills passed in the session will be presented at the June 13 board meeting.

The Board engaged in a discussion around legislative bills. .

### **Approval of Legislative Consent Agenda**

President Wynn explained that broad policy statements have been proposed for board member consideration and endorsement. The policy statements could be approved as a whole as a consent agenda item, or any policy statement could be pulled for further discussion, elimination or revision.

Member Cook requested Early Childhood Education be discussed as a separate item.

Member Ballard requested clarification on Educational Choice, and the Educator Effectiveness items.

Member Mallard requested further discussion regarding the Longitudinal Data Systems.

Member Gonzales-Black requested further discussion regarding the Education of English Language Learners.

President Wynn read, for the record, the balance of the policy statements to be approved in the Legislative Consent Agenda:

- **Assessment and Accountability.** The Board endorses a valid and reliable accountability system for PreK-12 students, educators, schools, districts, and the state, to measure and report the college and career readiness of all students
- **Administration in Public Schooling.** The board believes that all teachers, leaders and staff serving in the PreK-12 arena should operate with integrity and ensure that actions are designed to ensure positive student outcomes.
- **Career and Technical Education.** The Board endorses Career and Technical Education programs that are driven by career opportunities, needs, and the economic sustainability of Nevada.
- **STEM Education.** The Board believes all students should receive excellent instruction in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- **Students with Disabilities.** The board believes that all children, regardless of disability status, should receive and unbiased, high quality education that enables them to be college and/or career ready.

Interim Superintendent Fitzpatrick suggested a language change to correct a drafting error for the policy statement regarding Administration in Public Schooling to state: *The Board believes that all teachers, administrators and other staff serving in PreK-12 arena should operate with integrity and ensure that actions are designed to ensure positive student outcomes.*

**Member Gonzales-Black moved to approve the Legislative Consent Agenda policy statements for Assessment and Accountability, Administration in Public Schooling, Career and Technical Education, STEM Education and Students with Disabilities. Member Serafin seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

President Wynn opened a robust discussion with board members around policy statements provided for Early Childhood Education, Educational Choice, Education of English Language Learners, Educator Effectiveness and the Longitudinal Data System. The board members engaged in a discussion of concerns and proposed edits about each of the statements members had chosen to discuss separately and came to agreement about revised wording.

Interim Superintendent Fitzpatrick read, for the record, the changes board members proposed to the following policy statements:

- **Early Childhood Education.** The Board believes college and career readiness begins in early childhood and, therefore endorses developmentally appropriate early learning experiences, which should be available no later than age 5.
- **Educational Choice.** The Board believes that all children in Nevada deserve access to great schools and the option to attend a school that meets their individual learning needs and that appropriate accountability measures should be implemented to establish program success.
- **Education of English Language Learners.** The Board believes that second language learners are an asset to our state and must have access to unbiased high quality instructional experiences that support them in graduating college and career ready.
- **Educator Effectiveness.** The Board endorses a comprehensive educator effectiveness system to guide talent recruitment and development in order to increase the success of all students.
- **Longitudinal Data System.** The Board recognizes the need for a comprehensive Statewide Longitudinal Data system that informs P-12 education, higher education and workforce development and supports the development and maintenance of an interagency data system.

**Member Serafin moved to approve the policy statements in the second Legislative Consent Agenda for Early Childhood Education, Educational Choice, Education of English Language Learners, Educator Effectiveness, and the Longitudinal Data System. Member Corbett seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

**Information and Discussion on STEM Education including, but not limited to, issues associated with guidance to be provided to the STEM Council as proposed in SB345, with regard to the following and other considerations:**

- **What data should the Council be looking at to inform their thinking?**
- **What criteria should be examined to determine important and relevant coursework for STEM success?**
- **What conditions do we have now and what conditions should we be striving for in exemplary STEM-related outcomes?**
- **What kinds of criteria should be contemplated in making such distinctions?**
- **How can students, including gender and cultural diversity considerations, be encouraged to engage in STEM learning?**

Member Newburn conducted a PowerPoint presentation that provided an industry perspective of STEM and stated his entire professional career has been in the STEM industry. STEM jobs are predicted to be the fastest growing job sector for the nation and Nevada, and many current jobs will require more STEM education while a significant number of the current STEM workforce is expected to retire in the next decade.

Improving math and science scores would allow more students to enter the STEM workforce, and would increase graduation rates and reduce college remediation. Students inadvertently self select out of STEM fields in early middle school largely based on their perception of Math and Science. STEM advocates promote a set of techniques that have been shown to inspire students in STEM subjects:

- Incorporate Project Based Learning
- incorporates inquiry, experimentation, creativity, collaboration, innovation and is interdisciplinary
- expose students to STEM careers and professionals
- adds STEM based extracurricular activities
- needs rigorous curriculum
- needs teachers with deep rich content knowledge
- develops problem solving and critical reasoning skills
- makes Math and Science relevant

Member Newburn stated if SB345 passes, the State Board will have a unique opportunity over the next couple of years to take a leading role in STEM education. The bill will would create an advisory council on STEM that will be tasked with national and state best practices that will report to the State Board.

Frank Woodbeck, Director, Department of Employment Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) addressed the Board regarding workforce development and the importance of STEM education. He stated while working to provide a skilled workforce, he would like to reinforce their collaboration

with the Department of Education and the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) to utilize tools such as the IBM center of excellence to provide education and big data analytics and develop training curriculum for the sectors pursued by the Governor's Office on Economic Development.

Mr. Woodbeck said collective efforts will include:

1. A briefing of Interim Superintendent Fitzpatrick on the IBM center of excellence to provide an overview of the capabilities available and the vision for importance in education.
2. Explore incorporating other IBM divisions such as IBM's corporate citizenship and corporate affairs group to determine additional software or programs that are available for use in public education that will enhance teaching in STEM initiatives.
3. Seek to establish the center of excellence in advance of manufacturing to utilize capabilities to create curricula in conjunction with the community colleges for training and computer control processes for future manufacturing. He said a panel will be created to understand the demands of industry
4. Continue dialog with the State Board through the Department, NSHE and Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) to identify other opportunities as they grow.

David Crowther, Director, Raggio Research Center for STEM Education, stated that last year he was assigned a task to help schools transition to become STEM schools. The Nevada definition of STEM education focuses on active teaching and learning centered on relevant experiences, problem solving, and critical thinking processes. STEM education emphasizes the natural interconnectedness of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and their connection to other disciplines.

Dr. Crowther listed proposed purposes for STEM education compiled by Roger Bybee, Science Educator:

- Knowledge, attitudes, and skills to identify questions and problems in life situations, explain the natural world and designed world, and draw evidence based conclusions about STEM related issues;
- Understanding of the characteristic features of STEM disciplines as forms of human knowledge, inquiry, and design;
- Awareness of how STEM disciplines shape our materials, intellectual, and cultural environments; and
- Willingness to engage in STEM related issues and with the ideas of science, technology,, engineering, and mathematics as a constructive, concerned, and reflective citizen.

Dr. Crowther discussed teaching instruction in K-12 classrooms and meeting diversity needs in Nevada. He stated that Science Education and STEM Education research is burgeoning with examples of programs that accelerate academic language learning (contextual and kinesthetic) along with more traditional modes of rote learning that reinforce academic language. He suggested working STEM education for all students that can be reached in Nevada, not just some of the students.

Beth Wells, Executive Director, Nevada STEM Coalition stated the Nevada STEM Coalition is a statewide grassroots non-profit of over 38 organizations with many individuals representing business, education, community and government. Their vision is that all Nevada students are provided with the inspiration and opportunity to obtain the necessary skills in STEM to be productive in their personal work and civic lives. They look forward to the day when Nevada produces the skilled and innovative workforce required to develop an internationally competitive and diversified economy that attracts key industries to our state. The organizations major accomplishments include raising over \$1million

and hosting the 2009 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Reno where over 1500 of the world's best and brightest students representing 55 countries across the world to compete for millions of dollars in scholarships. They then raised \$100,000 and hosted the first statewide STEM summit in March of 2012 in Las Vegas.

The summit resulted in a report documenting some of the needs and recommendations of STEM educators. Late in 2012 they raised \$25,000 and hosted two workshops representing educators and business people around the state to identify goals for 2013 based on the results of the summit. Their third workshop to identify guidelines for classroom STEM practices and STEM schools is funded and scheduled for August 2-3, 2013. Nevada Department of Education staff will be serving on the planning committee for that event. Ms. Wells said Nevada's business and industry are experiencing critical shortages of workers with content skills in STEM. They cannot find workers with skills in higher level thinking, innovation problem solving and team work.

Ms. Wells stated many educators are saying they need more teacher training and ongoing support. Analysts indicate teachers do not have enough content knowledge in the sciences and mathematics. There is much anecdotal evidence that if kids are not interested by 4<sup>th</sup> grade in science and mathematics, it is very hard to get them interested in high school or even middle school. Ms. Wells stated the Nevada STEM Coalition supports SB345 that would create a strategic plan for the state.

Member Newburn opened dialog around the discussion questions, and stated the questions are focused on SB 345 which will create the Advisory Council on STEM. The council will include members from the Department of Education, NSHE, DETR and the Office of Economic Development

Member Newburn stated he would like to see the P-16 Longitudinal System move forward and that Nevada needs to map school techniques to follow whether students in higher education are going into STEM fields.

President Wynn stated that she is impressed with the Nevada STEM Coalition and their expertise. The coalition has invested time, energy and work to make STEM a priority in the state and it would be good if they could work with the Council being created in SB345. Member Newburn responded that the Advisory Council created by SB345 will be tasked with selecting a non-profit organization, specifically designed to help them gather data and complete tasks.

Deputy Superintendent Fitzpatrick stated SB345 would require the Advisory Council to submit to the State Board of Education, a written report which includes recommendations concerning the instruction and curriculum in courses of study in science, technology, engineering and mathematics in public schools in Nevada. The State Board would also adopt regulations to carry out the Councils recommendations.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Member Corbett suggested an agenda item to discuss recognition about education successes that have occurred in schools and as well as recognizing members of the education community. He stated we cannot have enough good information and praise around the positive things that have occurred within our community.

Member Cook inquired about the American Heart Association who presented an item at the December meeting regarding a bill to promote chest compression as a required health standard. He also inquired asked about creating personal finance standards as an outcome from the 2009 legislature. He suggested a board presentation on both items. Deputy Cunningham responded that a Legislative Action Report on the bill will be provided at the June 13 meeting.

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 P.M.