

COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

May 13, 2008

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

And

Clark County School District
5100 West Sahara Avenue
Second Floor – Room 242
Las Vegas, Nevada

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – MAY 13, 2008

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Caroline McIntosh, Chair
Melinda Brown
Bob Chesto
Debbie Duty Deery
LeAnn Morris
Roy Parker
Michele Paul
Dr. Keith Rheault

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services
Doris Arnold, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Public Instruction
Frankie McCabe, Director of Special Education, ESEA and School Improvement
Homa Anooshehpour, Consultant, Special Education, ESEA and School Improvement

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

There was no Legal Staff present.

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

Denise Benson, Lyon County School District
Anne Loring, Washoe County School District
Jim Barclay, Program Director, Washoe County School District
Rob Luna, Washoe County School District

1. Call to Order; Roll Call

Chairperson McIntosh called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m., with attendance as reflected above. A quorum of eight members was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was heard led by Commissioner Chesto.

2. Approval of Agenda

Keith Rheault moved to approve the agenda. Debbie Duty Deery seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

3. Update regarding Evaluation Contract for the 2007-09 Remediation and Innovative Grants including Legislative Committee on Education Actions

Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services, reported the contract for the SB185 programs evaluation was approved by the Board of Examiners (BOE). Changes to the contract were to allow the Legislative Committee on Education (LCE) to require staff to review the contract in two phases which included an evaluation of current 2007-08 projects and to allow the LCE to review the evaluation report in January. The contract amount was \$210,000, which was approximately half of the original amount. The evaluation would target continuation projects. She reviewed the evaluation process.

4. Project Summary Report of Progress, Discussion of Data and Relationship to Evaluation Contract

Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services, reported the next evaluation would require an analysis and synthesis of individual application progress reports. Requirements were delineated as: quantitative; qualitative; and optional items. She requested formative, assessment data at the site level be reflected in the progress reports, if available and to allow vendors to conduct an evaluation of programs.

Chair McIntosh requested clarification that significant gains would not be reflected in reports. Ms. Dopf replied yes. Impacts would be reflected in reports, but specific data would not be provided.

Dr. Rheault asked if input was being requested or was the report final. Ms. Dopf reported the progress report was final and no changes would be made at this point, but input was being requested from the LCE in order to “send a message” to sub-grantees that quantitative information was needed.

Chair McIntosh requested to know if previous exemplary samples could be provided to be used as templates for other districts. Frankie McCabe, Director of Special Education, ESEA and School Improvement, stated some samples could be found, but that most previous reports were incomplete, which was why quantitative information was needed. The document had been reworked with District input.

Commissioner Chesto commented that verbiage would need to be validated.

Commissioner Paul commented that trends would begin to be seen from the data collected.

5. Presentations by SB 185 Grant Recipients: Clark County School District – Orr Middle School and Valley High School; Possible Washoe County School District Presentations

Kevin Biesinger, Program Evaluator, Clark County School District, introduced students and administrators from Orr Middle School and Valley High School. Representatives from Valley High School explained how grant funding was used for a Student Advocacy Program and how the program has improved test scores.

Commissioner Rheault requested to know if the program had an affect on the drop-out rate. It was stated they did not have that information at this time. Dr. Rheault pointed out the program should have a positive affect on their drop-out rate.

Mr. Biesinger introduced representatives from Orr Middle School. Representatives explained how grant funding from SB 185 helped improve reading and writing skills.

6. Approval of 2007-09 Subgrant Amendment Requests received from School Districts

Homa Anooshehpour, Consultant, Special Education, ESEA and School Improvement, reported the following revisions to the Consent Agenda: (1) two Washoe County Schools were listed under the Clark County School District; (2) three cover letters were added; and (3) on page 11, “Spanish Springs High School” should be changed to Spanish Springs Elementary.

The Commission decided to pull the following schools for further questioning: Arbor View High School; Burk Horizon; Cannon Middle School; Decker Elementary School; Fremont Middle School; Lowman Elementary School; Martin Roy Middle School; McDoniel Elementary School; Paradise Elementary School; Robison Middle School; Tarr Elementary School; Warren Elementary School; Wengert Elementary School; Bonanza High School; Craig Elementary School; Givens Elementary School; Goldfarb Elementary School; Griffith Elementary School; Hickey Elementary School; Hyde Park Elementary School; Mojave High School; Squires Elementary School; Elko Grammar School; West Wendover Junior/Senior High School; and, Washoe County Consortium Grants No. 3, 4, 2 and 8.

Keith Rheault moved to approve budget change recommendations for the Consent Agenda and the Never Approved items that were not pulled for further questioning. Debby Duty Deery seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Questions and answers were heard regarding further explanation of amendment requests for instructional supplies for the schools that were pulled for further questioning from the Consent Agenda.

Chairperson McIntosh stated she could not support allocating approximately \$23,000 for supplies for the Kagan Model for Decker Elementary School without further explanation. Commissioner Rheault and Commissioner Paul agreed.

Commissioner Paul expressed concern with allocating \$20,000 to Wengert Elementary School for out-of-state travel when speakers could be brought in for less money. Chairperson McIntosh agreed. Commissioner Rheault stated he would recommend approval of the grant on the condition that speaker(s) were brought in for that amount or less.

Michele Paul moved to approve items A through HH of the Budget Changes Recommended for Consent for Clark County School District minus Decker Elementary School and with the budget revision to Wengert Elementary School. Bob Chesto seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

At 3:30 p.m., Chairperson McIntosh called for a short break. At 3:35 p.m., the meeting resumed.

Questions and answers continued regarding further explanation of amendment requests for schools pulled for further questioning from the Items Never Approved.

Regarding Craig Elementary School, Chairperson McIntosh expressed concern with schools being dependent upon consumable supplies for programs. Commissioner Paul questioned if the amendment request would change the original intent of the grant due to the fact that the amendment request would remove tutoring.

Commissioner Deery pointed out Voyager was an intervention program. She questioned having a lot of printing for Voyager. The Commission decided to approve the Voyager expansion minus computer supplies.

Regarding Givens Elementary School, Commissioner Deery requested to know what was meant by a “cooling off” period. It was explained it was the interim period needed to bring retirees back.

Debbie Duty Deery moved to approve all Clark County proposed amendments with the exception of Craig Elementary School’s amendment request for computer supplies. Melinda Brown seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Michele Paul moved to approve Washoe County School District’s amendments for Desert Heights Elementary School; Huffaker Elementary School; and Spanish Springs Elementary School as presented. Debbie Duty Deery seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Regarding Washoe County’s Consortium Grant requests, Jim Barclay, Program Director, Washoe County School District, explained the ten percent rule was the evaluation cost added to the line item. Rob Luna, Washoe County School District, clarified they were requesting adding one-third funding to FY ’09 funding.

Commissioner Rheault pointed out this request was to use 2008 funding for FY 2009.

Commissioner Paul requested to know if schools could be added to the consortium grants. Commissioner Rheault stated that may be the request for the consortium grants.

Keith Rheault moved to approve Washoe County Consortium Grants No. 3, 4, 2 and 8. Debbie Duty Deery seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

LeAnn Morris moved to approve Elko Grammar School and West Wendover Jr/Sr High School transfer of funds. Michele Paul seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

With presentation information, Denise Benson, Lyon County School District, explained the request was to use roll-over funding from last year for Fernley High School, Silver Stage High School, and Yerington High School. Frankie McCabe, Director of Special Education, ESEA and School Improvement, noted information regarding the request was just faxed for review due to the fact that information was received today. Commissioner Rheault summarized by stating the request was to expand two half-times to a full-time.

Bob Chesto moved to approve Lyon County School District’s amendment requests for Fernley High School, Silver Stage High School, and Yerington High School. Debbie Duty Deery seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

7. Discussion regarding possible Best Practices Fair to be held during the Fall of the 2008-09 School Year to include timeline, location, format of the fair and participants

Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services, reported she needed direction such as venue and format from the Commission regarding the Best Practices Fair, but that a date not be set until they can learn of Dr. Reeves’ schedule. Commissioner Chesto and Commissioner Rheault suggested holding the Best Practices Fair in Las Vegas. Chairperson McIntosh requested to know if there could be a \$99 register fee for food. Ms. Dopf explained they would need to look at Commission funds to offset costs.

8. Future Agenda Items

Chairperson McIntosh reported the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, August 12, 2008 in Las Vegas.

Future agenda items include:

- Update on School Visits
- Update on Best Practices Fair

9. Comments from Public

There were no public comment requests.

10. Comments from Commission Members

Commissioner Rheault reported the \$8 million which had been reserved partly for new schools was a part of the budget cuts. Monies returned from other funding sources such as consortium grants totaled approximately \$9 million which totaled approximately \$17.5 million when added to the \$8 million in trust. The funding would not be spent for remediation. However, the trust fund could not be returned back to the State unless through Legislative action.

Commissioners Paul, Morris, Brown, Rheault, and Chesto thanked Department staff for the efficiency of the Grants presentation.

11. Adjournment of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Debbie Duty Deery moved to adjourn the meeting. Michele Paul seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.