

STATE OF NEVADA MEETING OF
The Commission on Educational Technology

Nevada Department of Education – Battle Born
700 E. 5th St.
Carson City, NV 89701

MEETING MINUTES

May 16, 2016

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Chairman David White called the meeting to order at 8:05am. Roll call was read, and the attendees present are as recorded below. It was noted that the meeting had a quorum.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

David White, Commission Chairman
Mike Amie, Commission Member
Irene Chachas, Commission Member
David Flatt, Commission Member
Gina Hoppe, Commission Member
Sena Loyd, Commission Member
Bruce Meissner, Commission Member
Ji Wang, Commission Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Assemblyman Paul Anderson
Steve Canavero, Superintendent
Senator Scott Hammond
Shanna Rahming, Commission Member

STAFF:

Kimberly Vidoni
Amanda Pinter
Evelyn Barragan
Andy Jorgensen
Mike Malone
Rheyanna McCoy

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dave Brancamp, Standards & Instructional Support Director, NDE
LeAnn Morris, Carson City School District
Janice Towns, Carson City School District
Mark Oakden
Gabriele Neumann, The Ferraro Group
Brian Saffle, Clark County School District
Marilyn Loop, Clark County School District
Sharon Heyman, Clark County School District
Tiffany Kelly, LCSD
Duane Barton, Elko County School District

Jacque Ewing-Taylor, UNR
Joe Johnson
Daniel Monk, UNR
Joan Jurgensen, State Public Charter School Authority
Sharyl Allen, White Pine County School District
Alan Medeiros, Lyon County School District
William Keady, Mineral County School District

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Chairman White asked for public comment. There was none.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF 03/29/16 MINUTES

Commissioner Flatt moved to approve the 3/29/16 minutes. Commissioner Chachas seconded. Motion carried.

4. PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE BIENNIAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

Chairman White turned the discussion over to **Dr. Jacque Ewing-Taylor**.

Dr. Ewing-Taylor introduced Daniel Monk, graduate research assistant. Mr. Monk started in mid-December, and she would like to acknowledge his work on the State Educational Technology Needs Assessment (SETNA). SETNA was designed to present the data gathered from the technology coordinators, teachers, and parents from each of the 17 districts throughout Nevada, and included Nevada's State Charter Authority. One of the main findings is in order to reach the 2018 bandwidth demand, the typical school district in Nevada will need to grow its bandwidth at least three fold. Another issue is the need for more money for technology, especially professional development opportunities for teachers, which are most critical. Teachers statewide generally feel unprepared to teach in classrooms where materials are mainly delivered on a device. Nevada teachers feel they are best prepared to teach with educational technology tools that are geared towards displaying information, like LCD projectors and smart boards and are least prepared to teach with tools that promote student engagement. As technology has increased in classrooms, teachers have become increasingly aware of what they don't know, and feel less prepared to adopt 21st Century teaching practices. The parent survey, which was available in English as well as Spanish, showed a greater number of parents feel schools are not meeting their expectations as it pertains to technology use in schools. One of the reasons could be that parents in general are much more aware of the need for educational technology and their children's need to use it in their daily lives. Though they share the same expectations, a greater percentage of Spanish speaking parents feel that their schools are meeting their expectations to educational technology use in schools than English speaking parents. In general, Nevada parents are unaware of the educational technology that is available to their students in the classroom. Finally, the Technology Coordinator survey told us that since 2012 there has been an increase of educational technology in middle and high-end classrooms. Technology Coordinators cite funding and bandwidth as their concerns with increased student device use, and are generally more concerned about supplying teachers with proper professional development than investing in additional educational technology. The following are the recommendations from SETNA 2016 findings:

- Assess the effectiveness of professional development opportunities that are offered to teachers in neighboring states
- Adopt significant professional development opportunities that are focused on best practices for integrating educational technology into lesson plans

- Explore new methods for assessing the educational technology skill levels of Nevada teachers
- Invest in upgrading the bandwidth in Nevada schools
- Monitor the ongoing progress of the schools that were awarded Nevada Ready 21 grant funding
- Provide more information to parents on the educational technology that their students have access to in their classroom

Chairman White thanked Dr. Ewing-Taylor and asked if there was any historical data that showed similar challenges last year. **Dr. Ewing-Taylor** stated that looking back through previous needs assessments; there have always been challenges with not being prepared to use the devices, although it is higher than it's ever been. Whenever new technology is introduced, teachers are going to have anxiety. **Chairman White** stated that he hopes the more recent graduates would feel more comfortable, and it would be interesting to measure those newer teachers. **Dr. Ewing-Taylor** agreed and stated that they do have that data, but with the timeline being so difficult, they don't have the time to pull and analyze that data. **Dr. Kim Vidoni** stated that the timeline is in legislation and the only way to change it would be to submit a request to the Legislature. **Commissioner Wang** thanked Dr. Ewing-Taylor and asked about the number of parents that responded to the survey. **Dr. Ewing-Taylor** stated that those numbers are listed in the report. **Commissioner Wang** asked if students were surveyed. He wonders if student's results will show they have a different experience. Maybe a key indicator of how we are doing with tech in state. **Dr. Ewing-Taylor** agreed and stated it would be nice to have that data to compare with the teacher, parents and Technology Coordinators. The concern is it would involve an institutional review board talking about vulnerable populations. In order to survey students there would need to be a more extensive review board process than have had before. All districts have their own IRB processes and they might be able to use those, but it would be something we could look into. Without an extended deadline, it would be impossible to do this with the brief amount of time we have allotted. **Commissioner Hoppe** asked how the parent survey was sent out. **Dr. Ewing-Taylor** stated that links to the survey were sent through Superintendents, Principals and the State PTA. **Dr. Vidoni** thanked Jacque and Daniel for their work, the recommendations are very useful with the endeavors we have right now. **Dr. Ewing-Taylor** then explained the revisions that have been made to the final version of the SETNA.

Chairman White asked for a motion to approve the Biennial Needs Assessment with revisions. Commissioner Flatt motioned. Commissioner Wang seconded. Motion carried.

5. PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON NEVADA READY 21:

Chairman White turned the discussion over to **Dr. Vidoni**.

Dr. Vidoni stated that at the last meeting, the commission approved funding to bring on Lisa Evans from Wexford. Lisa is the Performance Manager, and has conducted three of our state evaluations in the past. **Andy Jorgensen** stated he is happy to report that devices have begun shipping to schools, and Lisa will be designing feedback and be working with each school in the program to design feedback and to help us learn from the data gathered from teachers, students and parents. Wi-Fi systems are being designed, implementation plans are being finalized, and schools are upgrading internet connections. State sponsored charters in Las Vegas getting fiber optic internet connections. Mr. Jorgensen thanked Mark Oakden and his team for creating a great online course designed to get teachers thinking about 21st century skills and digital citizenship. This course was developed with input from other district colleagues. Three day long professional development summits are planned for later this week, hosted by Clark County School District. Four more face to face professional development summits are planned for

June, three in Carson City and one in Elko. Mr. Jorgensen invited all commissioners to attend any of the upcoming summits. The NV Ready 21 group will be hiring three more professional development experts to develop resources for teacher and coaches. There will be one located in Elko, one in Carson City and two in Clark County. **Commissioner Flatt** asked that an email is sent with all dates and times of these summits. **Dr. Vidoni** stated the grantees in general were very appreciative and excited to receive the additional funds that were approved by the commission last meeting. She then went over all of the monetary changes for the participating schools.

Chairman White asked for a motion to increase the Nevada Ready 21 one-to-one grant fund for:

- **Elko CSD from \$1,121,906.20 to \$1,151,566.20 to cover additional expenses for the previously approved IT technician**
- **Mater Academy from \$340,220.04 to \$419,550.32 to cover additional expenses associated with including their 5th graders to the Nevada Ready 21 program.**

Commissioner Flatt motioned. Commissioner Chachas seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman White asked for a motion to decrease Lander CSD's grant award from \$346,880.78 to \$244,680.78 to remove expenses associated with a site-based coach and IT technician, and to add expenses for teacher professional development on project based learning. Commissioner Wang motioned. Commissioner Meissner seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman White asked for a motion to increase Elko CSD's WAN Infrastructure Grant from \$125,000 to \$209,500. Commissioner Chachas motioned. Commissioner Flatt seconded. Motion carried.

6. UPDATE ON APRIL 21, 2016 SUNSET COMMISSION HEARING:

Chairman White turned the discussion over to **Dr. Vidoni**.

Dr. Vidoni stated that the Sunset Commission Hearing was held on April 21st. **Commissioner Flatt** attended as the commission representative for **Chairman White**, with **Superintendent Canavero** in attendance as well. The Commission allowed **Dr. Canavero** and **Mr. Flatt** to speak about the Educational Technology commission, its history and accomplishments. They then opened the floor for discussion and questions. One question was about a previous report recommending the Educational Technology commission be eliminated and the reasons why the commission was not. This could not be answered. **LCB** will be doing some research to find out why the commission was not eliminated. The Sunset commission **Chairman** requested that the request submitted with the application is heard at a work session at a future meeting. The next meeting date has not been set; **Dr. Vidoni** will inform the commission once it is. **Chairman White** was happy to hear that everything went well.

7. UPDATE ON NEVADA BROADBAND TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES AND THE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH WORK GROUP:

Chairman White turned the discussion over to **Dr. Vidoni**.

Dr. Vidoni stated that the Nevada Broadband Task Force works closely with the Office of Science Innovation and Technology (OSIT). **Dr. Vidoni** is the chair for the education and outreach workgroup subcommittee, who are charged with making recommendations to improve and increase accessibility and connectivity across the state. Those recommendations will become part of an overall report that will be submitted to the Governor's office. Recommendations that were discussed during the workgroups meeting and brought to the Broadband Task Force were to add a position within OSIT that directly reports to the Governor's office. This position will facilitate the submission of E-Rate applications, help

districts get better pricing, statewide planning, and collaboration between district and charter schools. Another recommendation from the education workgroup is to create a future agency that would perhaps model Utah Education & Telemedicine Network. Utah has created a state agency that oversees everything related to school networking across the state. As a result, all but 4% of Utah schools are connected to the internet through fiber. By the end of year, Utah expects to have all schools connected. Also, Dr. Vidoni has been working with Brent Legg from Connected Nation to conduct a study on E-Rate practices across Nevada. The emphasis is on comparing Nevada's return to Utah's return, and comparing our connectivity to Utah and to other states. Geographically, Utah is very similar to Nevada and has been faced with similar challenges in delivering fiber to schools. The studies are expected in early August, and will be made available to the commission. OSIT, Connected Nation, and UETN have had some conversations about Nevada forming a partnership with UETN to improve Nevada's connectivity. UETN is perhaps the national leader in school connectivity, and they have expressed an interest in partnering with Nevada. Dr. Vidoni stated that if any commission members are interested in helping to improve connectivity in Nevada, she recommends attending the Broadband Task Force meetings, and express how important school connectivity is during their public comment. The Governor's strategic plan lists infrastructure improvements as the second goal of the state. **Chairman White** stated that he appreciates Dr. Vidoni sitting on this task force and keeping the commission updated.

8. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Chairman White thanked everyone for attending, and the presenters. No other comments.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT #2:

Chairman White asked for public comment. There was none.

10. SELECT DATE FOR NEXT MEETING AND POSSIBLE TOPICS:

Chairman White stated that the next meeting will be a face-to-face meeting on Monday, September 19, 2016 at 1pm.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman White entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Chachas moved to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35am.