

June 23, 2016

**Nevada Department of Education
Council to Establish Academic Standards
Thursday, June 23, 2016 1:00 PM**

Meeting Locations:

Office	Address	City	Meeting Room
Department of Education	9890 S. Maryland Pkwy	Las, Vegas	Board Room (2 nd Floor)
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St	Carson City	Board Room

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

(Video Conferenced)

Council Members Present:

Las Vegas:

Sharon Beatty
Brent Husson
David Gardner

Carson City:

Nikki Haag

Dial In:

Senator Aaron D. Ford

Members Not Present:

Dr. Gary Shen
Becky Harris
Evelyn Allred

Department Staff Present:

Las Vegas:

None

Carson City:

Tracy Gruber, Assistant Director, Assessment, Data, and Accountability Management
Dave Brancamp, Director of Standards and Instructional Support
Peter Zutz, Director, Assessment, Data, and Accountability Management
Brett Barley Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement
Mary Holsclaw, Education Program-Social Studies
Sylvia Verdugo, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent's Office

Legal Staff Present:

Carson City:

Greg Ott, Deputy Attorney General

Audience in Attendance:

Yvette Williams, Chair of the Clark County Black Caucus
Nicolette Smith, Learning Facilitator
Joyce O'day

Agenda Item I- Call to Order

Chairwoman Sharon Beatty called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. per the attendance reflected above it was determined a quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEM II- Public Comment #1

Carson City:

No public comment.

Las Vegas:

No public comment.

AGENDA ITEM III- Approval of the Meeting Minutes from January 21, 2016 and March 7, 2016

Chairwoman Sharron Beatty asked the council to review and discuss the meeting minutes from January 21, 2016 and March 7, 2016. Chair Beatty requested corrections, amendment and clarification of the minutes. The Council agreed to hold the approval of the minutes until discussed and corrected with Chair Beatty. Being revisited on September 26th Council meeting. Deputy Barley seconded the modification of the meeting minutes to take place.

AGENDA ITEM IV- Approval of Flexible Agenda

MOTION: Member Brent Husson moved to approve a flexible agenda. Member David Gardner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM V- Council Members Comments

Chair Beatty read a newspaper article from April 20th Us News and World Report “It was stated that the Us news and world report issued its 2016 Nations best high schools and 15 Nevada high schools made the cut including ten in Clark County. She also noted that the 2015 rankings included nine Clark County schools. Chair Beatty congratulated the Reno schools including the Academy of Arts, Careers and Technology at Galena Reno high school, and the Advanced Technologies of Las Vegas, The West Career and Technical Academy, Veterans Tribute Career and Technical Academy, Boulder City High School, Coronado High School, Northwest Career and Technical Academy, West prep, Southwest Career, Technical Academy as well as Rancho High School, Member Beatty stated her Congratulations to those schools and pronounced, ” We do have things to be very proud of in the state of Nevada.”

Chair Beatty asked member Gardner if he had an introduction or comments:

Member Gardner introduced himself informing the Council that this is one of three educational chairs he is currently serving. Including the Advisory Task Force, Educator Correctional Development also the Technical Advisory Committee of the Clark County School district he recognized that he is very interested in Education especially K-12.

Chair Beatty asked Member Brent Husson if he had an introduction or comments:

Member Husson introduced himself as President of Nevada Succeeds giving a brief description of how all of their work is involved with K-12.

Chair Beatty asked Senator Ford if he would like to make any comments. He had none.

Member Hagg stated her position with Governor’s office with Boards and commissions for the state. She is a representative of the parents on the committee. Mentioning she has three children in Douglas County.

Brett Barley Deputy Superintendent gave his introductions.

AGENDA ITEM VI- Department Update

Brett Barley, Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement gave the department updates regarding the ESSA workgroups. He gave a description of the updated new federal law including how the “No Child Left” behind act has become “Every Student Succeeds Act.” He also described how the new ESSA law allows flexibility. He then proceeded to give a slide show presentation better describing the role of ESSA. The slide show included the Purpose of ESSA such as to improve upon and validate the Department’s existing operating vision. Advising the Department on aligning ESSA to serve the State Vision, Priorities, and Goals “5-Yr Strategic Plan” also to Identify Opportunities for ESSA to Support the Strategic Plan Refine/Determine aligned Strategies Plan as well as the Implementation of Essa’s Service to NV Priorities Themes. To be explored by the six workgroups as listed:

- Accountability
- Assessment
- English language learners
- Teacher and leader Quality
- School improvement supports
- Federal Funding Streams

These workgroups are the State’s plan to implement ESSA

(See attached link to view the full slide show. [Essa Back up Support Materials/.](#))

Chair Beatty then questioned Deputy Barley, about the text books and resources. She does not think that it has been consistently demonstrated that our text books and resources steadily support the standards for the accountability aspect to see if the students have learned. She is concerned about the text and what resources are available to students besides the teachers passing on the knowledge. She feels the children need a stronger understanding to knowing that support is there. Mentioning how very important it is.

Deputy Barley agreed, he stated that is one of the principle challenges of the workgroups and why they have been developed. They are meant to help build the work without taking on too much remaining and still remaining manageable. There will be manageable amount of change and will be broad enough to become catcher’s gloves for a whole host of all issues that may arise. Deputy Barley recommended that Chair Beatty and all Council members contact him if they would like to possibly join a workgroup to ensure that all issues are spoken about and being brought up building into the future workgroup conversations.

No Further questions in Carson or Las Vegas

AGENDA ITEM VII- Update and discussion of impact of AB 234 (Multi-cultural standards) on current Social Studies Standards

Discussion was presented by Dave Brancamp, Director of Standards and Instructional Support, Yvette Williams of Chair of the Clark County Black Caucus and Nicolette Smith Learning Facilitator.

Mr. Brancamp gave Members an update and over view on where the “Multi-cultural” standards are at and how they related to our current Social Studies Standards. Furthermore how possible action will include possible review and/or revision of the 2007 Social Studies Standards. Mr. Brancamp also assured Council that the Social Studies Standards found members of the community that represent the ethnic and racial diversity. In February they started the meetings with fifteen members, twelve females, three males; they met in April and again in May to discuss the Multi-Cultural standards.

There were no questions after Mr. Brancamp’ s introductions

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Mary Holsclaw, Education Program-Social Studies, was introduced and recapped what the group accomplished. She stated that looked at research dealing with how to approach their charge. The group researched what had been adopted in 2007 and the work done by Dr. James Banks providing details in how to define Multi culture education, respect and what diversity what it looked like in a class room. They also viewed the teaching tolerance report National Council Social Studies Guidelines created in 1991 and other general definitions provided by Keith Wilson and Dr. Clark at UNLV regarding Multi Cultural Education. This brought them to the conclusion that there are two definitions that build upon each other:

The definition of diversity is: the acknowledgment of and respect for the variations of race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, sexual orientation and social and economic status within our community. The second definition was regarding respect: Which was built upon the first definition involving appreciation celebrating & honoring the diversity of others in the class room and community life itself. She then showed power point slides showing more data and information that the group came discussed. Here is the link to view the whole PowerPoint given by Ms.Holsclaw. [Multicultural and Social Studies Standards Support Materials/](#)

Mary Holsclaw introduced Yvette Williams; Chair of the Clark County Black Caucus

Ms. Williams shared one of her favorite quotes by George Bernard Shaw “You see things and you say why, but I dream things that never were and I say why not.” She mentioned that it has been 12 years that they have been trying to get inclusion. She quoted Toni Morrison “In this country American means white: everybody else has to hyphenate.” Ms. Williams added felt as though that sentiment is shared by thousands of students across American. She was concerned by the lack of ethnic diversity of our text books. She felt as though even though our class rooms have been desegregated in Nevada for over fifty years she believed that our class rooms remain very much racially segregated. Ms. Williams noted that in our text books that electricity states its inventor is Thomas Edison. She explained that the text books should also include H Latimer. Ms. Williams presented his background and what part he took in the inventions and contributions to Electricity. Therefore he should be mentioned in our text books. She felt inclusion of facts like this would inspire our Nevada students to have people of color as role models; she went on to mention, Elijah McCoy, Garret Morgan, Dr. Patricia Bath and Dr. Daniel Hale Williams.

Ms. Williams discussed what the purpose of the Multi-Cultural Bill is and how it is supposed to integrate Nevada state bench marks so that social studies reflected the diverse racial makeup of Nevada students. Also how this is not an easy task nor should it be since it took over a decade for this Bill to become a reality. Ms. Williams’s noted that this new request for the Social Studies review does align with ESSA. Ms. Williams closed her presentation by quoting Margaret Mead “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

Nicolette Smith, Learning Facilitator introduced herself giving her background.

Ms. Smith stated a concern that has arisen about creating a document instead of creating new Multi-Cultural standards or an addendum to the current standards. But will become just one more thing for teachers to learn. She hopes that the teachers understand that the standards are the simply floor not the ceiling of that can be taught in the class room. The standards are the beginning of what can be but are definitely not the end. If we are able to integrate Multi-Cultural standards into the Social Studies Standards, we would have the opportunity to go into the class rooms and have a full understanding of what the potentials could be. Ms. Smith stated that we want students to be able to walk away from Nevada class rooms having a full understanding of not just themselves but how they relate to other people. Ms. Smith believed that moving forward we keep coming back to the same point: if we truly want to honor the understanding of the Multi-Cultural aspect of Education is important, it is important for students in Nevada to work with fully interrogated standards.

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Dave Brancamp, Director of Standards and Instructional Support, then asked the council.

“How do we move forward?” Where do we turn at this point?” Mr. Brancamp reiterated that they were asking the Council of Academic Standards for some guidance in taking the next step.

Senator Aaron D. Ford introduced himself. Senator Ford then gave an example relating to the current agenda items saying, “That in his home State of Texas that slavery had been written out of the text books.” When he inquired as to why that was, he was told that it was a state standard. He used this experience as an example of how curriculum can be used to indoctrinate and rewrite history in his opinion. He recognized that the Council has an opportunity for Nevada to incorporate all cultures into our school books and class rooms. Senator Ford is advocating and requesting that we allow Multi-Cultural standards the opportunity to be intergraded with our current Social Studies Standards so that we can have an appropriate curriculum for all cultures.

Member David Gardner expressed his concern of not having text books that will align with curriculum. He questioned if current texts are outdated.

Nicolette Smith, NWRPDP K-12 learning Facilitator informed the council that Multi-Cultural standards had been awarded resources from the Teaching American History Grant. Ms. Smith felt that they have hundreds of resources that have been created. Ms. Smith gave an example of teacher created curriculum currently used in class rooms. She understood that we are unable to purchase new text books but the teachers are able to bring in supplemental support to expand, enlarge, vivify and enrich the curriculum, showing what history actually did look like outside of just the text books provided.

Member Brent Husson asked for clarification of what role the Council has in the Multi-Cultural standards process, inquiring if there is anything in the standards today that is stopping the teachers from teaching Multi Cultural education or is it simply not the practiced because it is not in the books.

Dave Brancamp, Director of Standards and Instructional Support, explained the role of the Council.

Yvette Williams; Chair of the Clark County Black Caucus asked that the Council focus on the bill AB234 and note that the current standards are not teaching the diversity of different cultures.

Senator Aaron D. Ford reminded the committee that in August 23, 2013 it was voted on a 3 to 2 basis to recommend changes to the fiscal education standards. The Council removed diversity, Multi-Cultural appreciation and tolerance from those standards and he Senator Ford voted against it. He stated that, “This is an opportunity that he can rectify that initial vote made previously.”

Member Brent Husson asked a clarifying question. “He questioned whether or not there was alignment between the current standards and the new bill regarding diversity?”

Mary Holsclaw, Education Program-Social Studies representative answered Mr. Husson’s question.

By Stating the Multi-Cultural standards were not specifically delineated, she explained that the standards were written vaguely to give the teachers the ability to make curricular decisions. The initial standards were written to be broad enough that they were able to give the versatility; however, that has created inconsistency. They are now too vague and not explicit enough to make direct links and connections to the Multi-Cultural community. The new standards will ensure that the teaching of diversity will happen in every class room and give our teachers more clarity of what is expected.

Joyce O’day community member remarked that in Elementary School Social Studies is being ignored and then in High School there are too many standards that are at times overwhelming. Ms. O’day noted that looking through new lenses would bring in the much needed diversity saying that we have this opportunity to make things right and that we owe it to the community and our children to make them all feel included.

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Member David Gardner felt as though we need to create a lesson plan that teachers can use to help them teach about other cultures accurately.

Nicolette Smith, NWRPDP K-12 learning Facilitator informed the council that all of the information mentioned earlier can be found at “projecttahoe.org”. It is all free and scalable so teachers do not have to buy extra resources.

Chairwoman Beatty requested that we pause and summarize where we are in the meeting. She reviewed the Assembly Bill summary and what it requires the Council of Academic Standards to do. Chair Beatty noted the importance of Multi-Cultural Education including without limitation information relating to the contributions made by men and women from various racial and ethnic backgrounds in the standards and contents in performance for social studies. She requested that the Council kept this in mind during the discussion. Chair Beatty believed that talking about the contributions of the various ethnic and racial groups would be of great value to the students and would give them a sense of pride and identity that has perhaps not been available to them in the past in the education system.

No further discussion.

MOTION:

Member Senator Ford moved to “Resubmit the standards for the revision and revamping of the Social Studies Standards to include Multi-Cultural Standards. “ Member Brent Husson seconded the motion. The motion carried, all in favor.

AGENDA ITEM VIII- Assessment Update

Peter Zutz, Administrator, Assessment, Data, & Accountability Management was unavailable therefore Brett Barley Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement spoke on his behalf.

Deputy Barley reported that Nevada had completed one of the Nation’s most successful testing administrations. He mentioned the struggle that we had with our previous vender resulted in two complaints against the previous vendor.

Deputy Barley Superintendent for Student Achievement shared the collected data.

- 35,000 students in grade 5th through 8th ,each grade level completed the Science assessments
- 26,000 students in 10th grade completed Science assessments.
- 23,000 students completed End of course English language Arts I Assessment
- 19,000 students completed End of course English language Arts II Assessment
- 39,000 students completed Math I
- 33,000 students completed Math II
- 700 students completed Integrated Math I
- 600 students completed Integrated Math II
- 38,000 students in grade 3 completed English Language Arts Summative Assessments
- Average of 35,000 students in 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th per grade completed online Assessments.
- About 36,000 student per grade level 3rd 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th completed online Math summative
- 29,000 students in grade 8th completed online Math summative.

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Deputy Barley gave a description of the upcoming time line regarding the end of course examinations, explaining that they are put through a lengthy process in which the assessments are to provide proficiency scores. The scoring and standard setting process must be completed before any recommendation can be presented to the Council to Establish Academic Standards. If the cut scores are approved on the upcoming September 26th 2016 meeting, then those cut scores can be presented to the Nevada State Board of Education on October 6th 2016 meeting with the approval of student reports then coming in November.

Chairwoman Beatty asked for clarification from Deputy Barley, she asked if in fact anyone has an idea how our Nevada students did on their recent testing.

Barley Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement explained that the Council will be presented with the reports from the data collected at the September 26th meeting.

No further discussion.

AGENDA ITEM IX- Set Quarterly Calendar and Future Agenda Items

Members discussed the upcoming meeting on September 26th: it was agreed that there were no scheduling issues with Council members present.

After further discussing the 2017 calendar there was a call to motion.

MOTION:

Member Brent Husson moved that in the 2017 Calendar year, Council to Establish Academic standards will schedule meetings for January, June, September and November. Member Nicki Hagg seconded the motion. The motion carried, all in favor.

Councilwoman Sharon Beatty inquired about the possible review of the Fine Arts Standards as a possible agenda item.

Barley Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement informed the council that the Fine Arts Standards should consider when and how it should take a look at Fine Arts. Dave Brancamp informed the Council that the last time the Fine Arts Standards were looked at was year 2000.

All Members approved to look at Fine Arts Standards in future Agendas.

AGENDA ITEM X -Public Comment#2

No Public comment

AGENDA ITEM XI -Meeting adjournment

MOTION: Assemblyman Brent Husson moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Sharon Beatty seconded. The motion carried, all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.