

**NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

**Thursday, January 21, 2016**

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

And

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

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

**Council Members Present:**

Las Vegas:

Sharon Beatty

Carson City:

Steve Laden

Nikki Haag

Dial In:

Senator Aaron D. Ford

Evelyn Allred

Members Not Present:

Dr. Gary Shen

Senator Becky Harris

**Department Staff Present:**

Las Vegas:

None

Carson City:

Janie Lowe, Interim Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement

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

Mary Holsclaw, Education Program-Social Studies  
Mayita Sanchez, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent's Office

Dial In:

Juan D'Brot, Sr. Director Research, Data Recognition Corporation  
Rick Mercado, Sr. Director Research, Data Recognition Corporation

**Legal Staff Present:**

Carson City:  
Greg Ott, Deputy Attorney General

**No Audience in Attendance**

**AGENDA ITEM I—CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 PM with attendance as reflected above.

**AGENDA ITEM II—PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**AGENDA ITEM III—ANNOUNCEMENT, CHAIRPERSON**

Janie Lowe announced that we have a chairperson appointed by Governor Brian Sandoval, Sharon Beatty.

**AGENDA ITEM IV—APPROVAL OF FLEXIBLE AGENDA**

Member Evelyn Allred moved to approve a flexible agenda. Member Steve Laden seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**AGENDA ITEM V—INFORMATION, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE MATH I AND MATH II END OF COURSE PROPOSED CUT SCORES**

Chair Beatty summarized the need to review the recommended cut scores as well as the impact data to secure a motion for consideration for the Nevada State Board of Education.

Tracy Gruber, Assistant Director, for the office of Assessment, Data, and Accountability Management (ADAM) acknowledged audio and PowerPoint presentation presented at the previous meeting, December 22, 2015 when the council was unable to establish a quorum.

Gruber reiterated and reminded the council of the items presented for their consideration and approval. She provided information concerning the math standards setting for Math I and Math II to help assist the Council to Establish Academic Standards in determining whether or not to approve the math cut scores that were proposed from the standard setting and the policy setting committee November of 2015.

The committee that was brought together with the new vendor, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), helped the Nevada Department of Education to facilitate the two standard setting meetings that occurred in November. Both Juan D'Brot and Rick Mercado, Senior Director Research of DRC were present on the dial-in to answer any questions.

Cut Scores were provided to Council Members.

Questions were addressed.

Member Allred expressed concern that the standards being set were different than standards for the end of course exams for the elementary and middle school exams.

Staff member Tracy Gruber, Assistant Director for Assessment, Data, and Accountability Management (ADAM) provided information in regards to determination of all high school math standards and ELA standard. She explained that what was being assessed were the achievement level descriptors made from test specifics contained within particular standards.

Member Laden asked if the State of Nevada was the only organization using DRC. Information as to why the Assessment is Nevada Specific was provided to Council Members by Tracy Gruber.

Member Laden voiced his concern with “public perception” of the final recommendation cut scores. Discussion and explanation was provided by Gruber in regards to the impact of participation and discussion in regards to confidence of the scores and that data is not an accurate representation of what is happening in the classroom.

Juan D’Brot, Sr. Director Research of DRC expressed that we had to continually remind ourselves and the policy review committee about the level of trust we really had in this data because of the operational fuel test situation in 2014 and student motivation under normal circumstance and whether or not it is a reflection of actual student performance.

Tracy Gruber highlighted a challenge that was faced during the entire standard setting process and reiterated how this is in comparison to other data and shows some progression that is not too far out of the comparison with other grade levels.

There was discussion on inconsistencies and the policy review committee deliberations on issues that had been presented.

Tracy referred to the trend data of the DRC PowerPoint which can be found through the Department and Council website.

Member Laden inquired in regards to classroom intervention and remediation and the Office of Standards and Instructional Support.

Member Allred stated for the record her concern with “throwing out standards” and question and discussion about review not only at a high school level but to include elementary and middle school level. There is further discussion highlighting the differences between End of Course (EOC) and High School Proficiency Examinations.

Chair Beatty questioned the appropriateness of the assessment needs to be looked at and how scores are not a reflection of student learning. Chair Beatty said Interim Assessments were helpful to both teachers and students in preparing them for the final assessment. Gruber pointed out how current cut scores and approaches will not be applied to the next assessment. Gruber reminded the group that there is no negative impact on not passing the assessment as 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Students who passed will not need to retake the assessment in order to graduate.

Member Allred pointed out that the percentage of students who passed the test, 27%, aligned with the projected pass for students taken the SBAC.

Member Laden asked about the number of times a student is given to pass the EOC as a level three or four. Gruber noted that they have three retests the State will pay for. Further discussion ensued between Member Laden and Gruber as to the affect it will have on statewide High School graduation rates.

No further discussion.

Call for a motion.

Member Laden moved to accept the cut scores as presented for the year 2015.

Member Allred seconded the motion.

Motion Passed, all in favor.

**AGENDA ITEM VI—INFORMATION, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO REVISE SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS TO ADDRESS AB 234 (MULTI-CULTURAL) REQUIREMENTS**

Dave Brancamp, Director of the Office of Standards and Instructional Support requested the council give permission to look at social studies standards and make necessary revisions. The driver comes from Senator Ford and Senator Harris, Assembly Bill 234, the multicultural aspect of the AB234. The bill asks that the Standards Council included multicultural education in standards and content and eventually in performance in social studies. If permission was given for the department to start the Department would consult with the community that represents the racial and ethnical diversity in Nevada. Mary Holsclaw, Education Programs Profession for Social Studies has already reached out to certain members in the community.

Mary discussed the framework that has been suggested, called the C3 Framework which deals with Civics and College and Career Readiness. Chair Beatty expressed concern that the C3 Framework is a separate issue from the Multicultural Orientation present in social studies.

Dave explained that there are two options. The members may request that the department just add the multicultural to the current social studies standards and that is all that would be looked at. The second option, while we are doing the multicultural section the committee may look at the other standards as a whole.

Chair Beatty asked the Council if they wanted to review the presented C3 Standards for inclusion in the Social Studies Standards or just consider the question regarding the current standards and add a multicultural perspective.

Member Laden asked when Social Studies had last been reviewed. He was advised that Social Studies as a whole had been reviewed in 2007 and the standards were up for revision. It was stated that the Department of Ed preferred to revise all the standards.

A presentation of the C3 concepts was made for possible inclusion in the standards. Chair Beatty reminded the Council that the legislative mandate for Social Studies includes only the subjects of history, geography, economics and government. The focus of development of the general Social Study standards

should be restricted to these areas. She voiced concern that the C3 inclusion added layers of focus which were not consistent with the legislative mandate. Subjects such as process orientation, psychology, sociology, anthropology and ELA standards should not be included.

There was no adoption of the C3 Framework.

No further discussion.

Senator Ford moved to add multicultural studies to the current social studies standards

Senator Harris seconded.

Motion passed, none opposed.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VII—SET CALENDAR AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Member Laden requested that the department provide a list of various standards that have been recently reviewed versus the ones that have not been reviewed in a long time or not re-examined.

The Council also requested a list of the standards for review.

The Council requested the Superintendent's Annual Report for 2016.

Discussed upcoming meeting dates.

#### **AGENDA ITEM VIII—PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public Comment

#### **AGENDA ITEM IX—ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 2:49 PM.