

ENGLISH MASTERY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 23, 2016

9:00 AM

Meeting Locations:

Video Conference from all locations

OFFICE	LOCATION	ROOM
Department of Education	9890 S. Maryland Pkwy Las Vegas, NV	Board Room 2 nd Floor
Department of Education	700 East Fifth Street Carson City, NV	Board Room
University of Nevada, Reno	1664 N Virginia Street Reno, NV	Knowledge Cntr, Room 110
Great Basin College	1500 College Elko, NV	Room MH 110

Call to Order

Council Chair Sharolyn Durodola called to order, from Las Vegas, the full meeting of the English Mastery Council at 9:20 A.M. on Monday, May 23, 2016.

Roll Call

Council secretary Susan Johnson conducted a roll call. **Quorum reached (11 members present)**

Council members present in Carson City: Steve Canavero, Denise Dufrene, Maija Talso

Lynn Manning John was present at Great Basin College, Elko

Rachel Salas was present at University of Nevada, Reno

Council members present in Las Vegas: Sharolyn Pollard-Durodola, Magdalena Martinez, Lorna James-Cervantes, Nancy Brune, Evangelyn Visser, Duncan Lee

Absent Council Members: Keith Boone, Edith Fernandez

NDE staff present in Las Vegas: Karl Wilson and Sophia Masewicz

NDE staff present in Carson City: Blakely Hume, Kulwadee Axtell, Jonathan Gibson and Susan Johnson

Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott was present in Carson City

There was no public attendance in Elko, Reno, or Carson City.

Ignacio Ruiz and Lupe Alicea from Clark County School District were present in Las Vegas.

Pledge of Allegiance

Lead by Chair Durodola

Public Comment #1

There was no public comment from Carson City, Elko, Reno, or Las Vegas.

Approval of Minutes - April 26, 2016 Meeting

Council reviewed the Minutes of April 26. There were no corrections to the Minutes.

Motion: Evangelyn Visser motioned to approve the Minutes as prepared. Magdalena Martinez seconded the motion. Motion carried and the Minutes were approved.

Approval of Flexible Agenda

Chair Durodola asked for a motion to approve a flexible Agenda.

Motion: Lorna James-Cervantes motioned to approve a flexible Agenda. Rachel Salas seconded the motion. Motion carried and a flexible Agenda was approved.

Clark County Leadership Presentation

An informative presentation was delivered by Dr. Ignacio Ruiz, Assistant Superintendent, Clark County School District, English Language Learner Division, on the approved Master Plan for English Language Learner Success. Dr. Ruiz explained the steps and process to create the ELL Master Plan and the many components of the Plan, Objectives and Plan for Success.

Sharolyn praised the thoroughness and sophistication of the Master Plan. Duncan Lee inquired about the participation from the Asian community and asked was there any special programs or focus from K-3 grades on language acquisition? Mr. Ruiz stated they reached out to as many people as they could and they will follow up and answer any questions posed from the Asian community regarding the Plan. He advised the ZOOM initiative will move to the ELL division and work will be done, as they align with the Master Plan and ALCA Model.

Magdalena asked Mr. Ruiz to describe what the Plan will look like in practice for the first 6-12 months. He stated the goal is to roll in approximately 80 schools in the first cohort and that ZOOM makes sense as part of the cohort. Mr. Ruiz stated they are targeting middle schools, due to the long term ELs.

Mr. Ruiz commented that working with higher ed is key to making sure they are aligned. There were other comments from Lorna and extended discussion regarding WIDA Models. Steve Canavero asked how will you know if the work is successful? Mr. Ruiz stated that they are identifying metrics and WIDA assessment is back so they will be looking at the baseline data. He added, the goal is to decrease the percentage of long-term ELs.

Report on TESL Subcommittee Progress of Recommendation 3.1

Sharolyn reiterated conversations with SBE member Victor Wakefield regarding the revisions of 3.1. Mr. Wakefield wanted to understand the structure of ARL Programs within the state. Sharolyn stated that after their conversations, it became clear that more time was needed to answer the question about the ARL institutes and that it would be best to present the revised Recommendation 3.1 data at the July SBE meeting, instead of at the June SBE meeting.

Blakely presented an update of the discussions with the NSHE institutions on May 19. He stated the purpose of the meetings with UNLV and UNR was to discuss common course numbering for ELAD courses, the names and core expectations for five specific classes. He advised the next steps are to have conversations with GBC and NSC about the common course content; identify the process for transition of the new standards; and reach an agreement with the State about the courses to be brought in and how they might differ within the institutions.

Review of Proposed SBE Presentation

Blakely reviewed a draft presentation to be brought forward to the State Board of Education in July, once final. He stated the Council will be asked to provide feedback and ideas, and will approve the final presentation to the State Board. Blakely explained this presentation includes 3 to 4 months of research on ESL endorsements in the U.S. It includes history and context, concerns and requests expressed from the SBE, revisions to Recommendation 3.1, NSHE collaboration meeting discussion including the institutions' implementation process, Alternate Route to Licensure, EL demographics, and Nevada EL demographics. Blakely explained the outcome of the meetings with the four institutions, which he and Rachel attended and the meetings that Blakely and Sharolyn attended, in March, April and May.

Sharolyn stated that State Board member Wakefield asked "What is the over-arching message?". She clarified that mandating 3.1 is feasible. Duncan stated that it is imperative that the Council work with the State Board, as Clark County School District has a shortage of approximately 800 teachers. Vangelyn outlined some points that would be helpful for the State Board to understand the over-arching message: 1) talk about the revision and how it's more specific, and the inclusion of the ARL Program; 2) talk about the evidence of efficacy of an ELAD endorsement; 3) the ability of the teacher prep programs to incorporate the ELAD endorsement without disrupting the pipeline; and 4) ability to incorporate the ELAD into the ARL programs.

Lorna added positive comments toward these ideas. She supports the idea to wait until July to present to the State Board, so that the EMC can be best prepared to answer all questions. Nancy also supports the efficacy of an ELAD endorsement and would propose to emphasize the findings about the gaps that Dr. Ruiz mentioned in his presentation.

Motion: Nancy Brune motioned to move the presentation from the June State Board meeting to the July meeting. Duncan Lee seconded the motion. Motion carried and moving the presentation to the July SBE meeting was approved.

Future EMC Membership

Blakely read the current list of EMC membership and term expirations. He announced there will be a vacancy in one of the Chancellor appointed positions effective July 1, 2016. Blakely stated that a new individual, Laurel Crossman, will fill the Board of Trustee position. Two new individuals, Gladys Diaz and Barbara Harris, will fill the two school level administrator positions. Sharolyn expressed appreciation for service to Rachel Salas, who has resigned from the English Mastery Council, effective June 30, 2016.

2016-17 EMC Meeting Dates

Sharolyn announced the proposed future meeting dates, which are Thursday dates.

- ❖ Thursday, September 15, 2016
- ❖ Thursday, November 17, 2016

- ❖ Thursday, January 12, 2017
- ❖ Thursday, March 9, 2017
- ❖ Thursday, May 11, 2017

Karl explained that typically the State Board of Education schedules their meetings on Thursdays, therefore, the January, March and May EMC meeting dates may need adjustment, when the SBE schedule is announced.

District EL Policy Review Process

Karl explained that the EMC requested that NDE staff do a preliminary review of the district policies that had been submitted and bring information back to the EMC that would facilitate the work of the EMC in its statutory charge to review the EL Policy Plans and provide feedback to local Boards of Trustees and to the State Board of Education regarding the district EL Policies and Plans.

Sophia provided a summary of NDE work, referencing Policy/Plan Review Summary documents containing data from most Nevada counties and an activity. Sophia stated that two elements must be met: 1) meeting criteria, and 2) what does it look like for deep (?) implementation.

After completing the exercise, Lorna reported findings and commented on some of the data from the smaller counties. Evangelyn questioned expectations and intent. She stated that districts need more technical assistance and that good classroom assessments are the most important to be able to change classroom practice.

Jonathan provided information and commented on how the NDE staff summarized and concluded information provided by the counties. Jonathan explained the Home Language Survey and answered questions from the Council members.

Sharolyn expressed concern about the need for technical assistance to understand the process of using data to inform instruction or technical assistance that relates to how to identify scientifically based curriculum. She asked what were the next steps for the State and for the EMC in addressing the gaps within school districts? There was further discussion on the areas of concern and the possible next steps.

Motion: Magdalena motioned that school districts may receive initial feedback based on the data reviewed during the present EMC meeting. Maija Talso seconded the motion. Motion carried and the supply of initial feedback to the school districts was approved.

Nancy asked if there will be a deadline given for response to become in compliance with the laws. Karl stated they will be allowed summer and early fall 2016 to make revisions and take back to their local Boards. A webinar was discussed to provide technical assistance to smaller groups/district types and size.

Motion: Sharolyn motioned that the EMC, through support of the Department of Education, hold webinars to provide feedback related to the district policy summaries by district size. Lorna seconded the motion. Motion carried and the EMC will conduct webinars, through the DOE.

There was a concern of Open Meeting Law in relation to the webinars attendance. Deputy AG Greg Ott stated that if more than 9 EMC members attend, and there would be deliberation or interaction among Council members, there could be an issue with the Open Meeting Law. Greg stated the way to avoid this is to stay below number of quorum in attendance, or make certain Council members would not interact.

Public Comment #2

There were no public comments in Elko, Carson City, Reno or Las Vegas.

Adjournment

English Mastery Council Chair, Sharolyn Durodola, adjourned the meeting at 2:11 PM.