

ENGLISH MASTERY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

9:00 A.M.

Meeting Locations:

Video Conference

OFFICE	LOCATION	ROOM
Department of Education	9890 South Maryland Pkwy Las Vegas, NV	Board Room
Department of Education	700 East Fifth Street Carson City, NV	Board Room

Call to Order

Blakely Hume, NDE Education Programs Professional called to order, from Carson City, the general meeting of the English Mastery Council at 9:22 A.M. on Wednesday, September 13, 2017.

Roll Call

Present

Council secretary Susan Johnson conducted a roll call. Quorum established (9 members present).

Council members present in Carson City: Laurel Crossman, Fares Karam, Maija Talso, Brett Barley, and Paula Zona.

Council members present in Las Vegas: Sharolyn Pollard-Durodola, Lorna James-Cervantes, Duncan Lee, and Lori Navarrete.

NDE staff present in Las Vegas: Karl Wilson.

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

Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott was present in Carson City.

Absent

Absent Council Members: Nancy Brune, Lilian Steger, Melissa Esparza, Lynn John, Barbara Harris, and Gladis Diaz.

There was no public attendance in Carson City or Las Vegas.

Pledge of Allegiance

Lead by Blakely Hume, Education Programs Professional

Public Comments #1

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

New Member Orientation

Karl Wilson, NDE Assistant Director, provided a brief orientation of the creation of the English Mastery Council, the purpose, the subcommittees, and the work and accomplishments.

Approval of Minutes – May 18, 2017 Meeting

Council reviewed the Minutes of May 18. There were no corrections to the Minutes.

Motion: Laurel Crossman motioned to approve the Minutes as prepared. Lorna James-Cervantes seconded the motion. Motion carried and the Minutes were approved.

Approval of Flexible Agenda

Blakely Hume asked for a motion to approve a flexible meeting Agenda.

Motion: Fares Karam motioned to approve a flexible Agenda. Lori Navarrete seconded the motion. Motion carried and the flexible Agenda was approved.

Election of English Mastery Chair

Blakely explained the EMC Chair's role and outlined the responsibilities of the Chair. Blakely opened the floor for nominations. Duncan Lee nominated Sharolyn Durodola for English Mastery Council Chair. Lori Navarrete seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. The vote to elect Sharolyn was unanimous. Sharolyn Durodola was elected Chair of the English Mastery Council for the 2017-18 term. The meeting was then turned over to Sharolyn. She expressed appreciation to all Council members for their work and accomplishments of the English Mastery Council.

Introductions: Review of 2017-18 Council Roster and Appointments

Sharolyn began introductions of the English Mastery Council members. Blakely detailed the three subcommittees within the Council, their charges, and the members of each subcommittee.

TESL Subcommittee Discussion

Sharolyn began with reviewing TESL Subcommittee work during the past year. She described the Council work that supported the mandated ELAD Endorsement. Sharolyn announced the creation of a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) which will be available on the NDE website. She also addressed the possibility of reviving the TESL Branch of the national organization in Nevada. One EMC goal this year will be to reach out and communicate information to others in the state who may be interested in reviving the TESL Organization.

ELAD Endorsement Discussion

Sharolyn discussed the possibility of holding a conference that focuses on building capacity in the state to support the ELAD Endorsement and what resources would be required? Sharolyn stated there is a fund through the College of Education that faculty can use for conferences and professional development. It was felt that a webinar would be more feasible, as participation costs would be eliminated. Another question to address -- how can the EMC support school administrators? Lorna commented that it is important for administrators to understand what quality instruction looks like for all students, and especially EL students. Lorna stated that a conference would provide opportunities for teachers and administrators, as well as fit with the teaching contract in Clark County where it would allow for advancement. Sharolyn added that the webinar could be designed as a series where there would be focus on a specific topic. Duncan also supported the webinar idea, instead of a face-to-face conference.

DPCP Subcommittee Update

Laurel Crossman, District Policy and Criteria Planning Subcommittee chair, stated that the three subcommittee members met for training, and then held two meetings, where they reviewed all 17 school districts and state charter authority policies. The four districts currently in compliance with the new criteria: Clark County, Washoe County, White Pine and Carson City. One subcommittee goal is to address how they can better support the districts. One possibility is to provide training to the school board members who will be attending the Nevada Association of School Boards Conference. Laurel announced there will be a conference held in January, and others throughout the year.

Blakely pointed out there was a recommendation from the subcommittee to add two new members to the DPCP Subcommittee. He suggested that each subcommittee meet at least twice throughout the year to complete work. Sharolyn commented that she would like to take part in the DPCP district review process. Fares asked when are the Frequent Asked Questions going to be available on the NDE Website. Blakely proposed having a discussion to determine if there are any other questions to add. It would be posted on the website after the November 1 EMC meeting.

Standards and Curriculum Subcommittee Update

Maija Talso provided an update on the Standards and Curriculum Subcommittee work. She discussed a plan to get working groups together to develop a statewide project. Maija reported that the Standards Steering Committee met on August 4 and stated that the first work group will meet on September 27 and 28. Karl described the events of the upcoming September meeting and work continuing forward. Lorna stated they will work together to make sure teachers understand how to utilize WIDA content objectives in their teaching. Maija proposed the idea of holding joint subcommittee meetings. Sharolyn agreed that joint subcommittee work would be beneficial. Sharolyn stated that her goal for the year is to produce tangible data and outcomes.

Nevada English Learner Exit Criteria

Karl stated that Nevada has been using the WIDA Assessment, required by Federal law, to annually evaluate how English learners are doing in terms of English language and proficiency. With graphs and spreadsheets, using old score scales and new score scales, Karl presented slides with information related to the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and the scoring and comparisons of the assessment. There were questions and a discussion regarding comparisons of scores.

2017-18 TESL Subcommittee Direction

Sharolyn reviewed the TESL FAQs list created by Jason Dietrich. It was suggested that the questions be separated into two parts: one for pre-service context and one part appropriate for in-service context. There were questions related to the practicum. Also, there were questions about how to navigate the TESL Endorsement criteria vs. the ELAD Endorsement criteria on the NDE website. Council members provided suggestions and ideas to make the list of questions more accurate and helpful, such as adding the question, why is the ELAD Endorsement being introduced in Nevada?

2017-18 Proposed EMC Schedule

Future EMC meeting dates and EMC subcommittee meeting dates were discussed for 2017/18. Blakely advised he will consult with the subcommittee chairs to schedule and hold meetings prior to the November 1 general EMC meeting.

Bret Barley expressed the concern that there should be a decision made to provide a recommendation to the State Board on October 12. Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott advised that a telephonic conference of the EMC could be held with physical locations designated, north and south, for public attendance, for the purpose of coming to a decision regarding a recommendation. DAG Ott stated that public comment #1 at the beginning of the meeting and public comment #2 at the end must be on the Agenda.

Public Comments #2

Emily Lin from UNLV Teaching and Learning Department stated she understood there were ELAD requirements for pre-service teachers before they complete their pre-service teacher education preparation. She asked if the Council has gotten feedback from providers indicating any challenges with the integration of the requirements of the pre-service teacher level. She stated she has gotten feedback from faculty stating they are experiencing challenges with attempting to integrate 12 credit hours into their existing program. Sharolyn stated there was a meeting at UNLV over the summer and it was felt that webinars with specific focus would be appropriate to discuss these issues. There was no public comment in Carson City.

Sharolyn announced that Dr. Lori Navarrete would like to join the TESL Subcommittee.

Adjournment

English Mastery Council Chair, Sharolyn Durodola, adjourned the meeting at 12:00 P.M.