

**NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
NEVADA STATE BOARD FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

REGULAR MEETING

December 1 - 2, 2006

Department of Education, Second Floor, Conference Room
1820 East Sahara, Las Vegas, Nevada

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Cliff Ferry, President
Marcia Washington, Vice President
Barbara Myers, Clerk
Dr. John Gwaltney, Member
Gary Waters, Member
Patrick Boylan, Member
Dorothy Nolan, Member
Dr. Merv Iverson, Member
Sharon Frederick, Member (Absent December 1, 2006, Present December 2, 2006)
Cindy Reid, Member
Madisen McGrath, Student Representative (Absent December 1, 2006, Present December 2, 2006)

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Jim Wells, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative and Fiscal Services
Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services
Doris Arnold, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Public Instruction
Jean McGuire, Administrative Assistant to the State Board
William F. Arensdorf, Director, Office of Fiscal Accountability
Tom McCormack, Consultant, Charter Schools, Office of Fiscal Accountability

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. James E. Irvin, Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE December 1-2, 2006

Craig Kadlub, Clark County School District
Carrie Ross, Nevada Connections
Ashley Friedman
Ryon Boylan
Isabel Boylan
Adrian Boylan
Julie Whitacre, Nevada State Education Association
Dr. Dotty Merrill, Executive Director, Nevada Association School Boards
Sandi Foster, Washoe County School District
Anthony Ruggiero, Member Elect
Jan Biggerstaff, Member Elect
Greg Nance, Member Elect
Kimberly King-Patrow, SNHAC
John Janosek, CCEA

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE (Con't.) December 1-2, 2006

Karen Taycher, SEAC
Jhone Ebert, CCSD
Jen Peterson, CCSD
Maggie Curlton, State Senate, District 2
Carrie J. Rose, NCA
Jennifer Ayers, CCSD
Luanne Wagner, CCSD
Dr. John Hawk, Executive Director, Nevada State High School

DECEMBER 1-2, 2006

Call to order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance, Approval of Agenda

President Ferry called the Nevada State Board of Education, Nevada State Board for Career and Technical Education Meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. on Friday, December 1, 2006, with roll call reflected above.

President Ferry asked for a motion to have a flexible agenda. Member Waters moved to have a flexible agenda. Member Boylan seconded the motion, none opposed, motion passed.

Item 1 President's Report

President Ferry postponed his presentation on WestEd until Member Myers was present. He informed the Board the P-16 Council was at a standstill. Political changes, a new Governor, convening of the Legislature and funding issues halted forward progression. He was hopeful a joint meeting with the Board of Education and Board of Regents would result in a joint statement addressing the P-16 Council. President Ferry informed the Board he spoke to the editor of the Reno Gazette Journal regarding a statement he made on the issue of the Education First Initiative. His statement was his personal opinion, not that of the Board of Education.

Item 2 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Rheault updated the Board on Legislative activities. He said the Interim Legislative Committee on Education reviewed results of ACR10, Adequacy Study, who forwarded the information to the full Legislature for discussion. Superintendent Rheault informed the Board that the School District Superintendent's Association and the Nevada School Boards Association presented a copy of the iNVEST 07 plan. Continuing with updates, Superintendent Rheault was asked to put together guidelines for the Committee on Education for a Beginning Teacher Induction Mentoring Program to include state criteria and key components. Superintendent Rheault calculated the cost of teacher loss exceeded \$1 million and the offset of cost per teacher was worth an investment to ensure new teachers receive guidance needed to remain teaching in Nevada. Bill Draft Request (BDR) 416 involves the creation of a council for assistance and coordination between elementary, secondary and higher education, and could become a statutory P-16 Council, supported by Senators Raggio and Cegavske. The council would be comprised of 15 members; the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Chancellor of the Board of Regents would serve as ex-officio members. The remaining 13 positions would include K-12 representatives, university representatives and business representatives. BDR 416 was designed to create a permanent council whereas the current agreement between the State Board of Education and the Board of Regents was not in statute.

Deputy Superintendent of Finance, James Wells, updated the Board on the Department of Education's budget status. Stating the information was preliminary and subject to change with the newly elected Governor's proposed budget. Mr. Wells stated federal funding sources had been approved but the Department of Education's proposed budget request had not fared as well with enhancements and special considerations. Mr. Wells identified specific department positions which were requested and the status of each during the budget process.

Item 3 Consent Agenda

With the exception of the October 2006 minutes, the Board voted to approve the consent agenda.

Member Boylan motioned to approve the consent agenda, with the exception of the October 2006 minutes. Member Nolan seconded the motion, none opposed, motion passed.

Item 4 Consider Adoption of State Board of Education Resolution Supporting iNVEST 07

Superintendent Rheault presented information to Board Members on iNVEST 07 and requested the Board's support. After discussion, the Board agreed to approve iNVEST 07 with the consideration of specifying three tenets:

- Districts must have adequate basic support
- District must have the capacity to attract and retain a quality work force; and
- Districts must have the means to increase instructional time and expand educational opportunities.

Member Gwaltney motioned to accept and support the iNVEST '07 document with the above listed modifications of the three tenets. Member Waters seconded the motion; motion passed.

Item 5 Recognition of the 2007 Teacher of the Year, Melanie Teemant

An award was presented by Superintendent Rheault to Melanie Teemant on behalf of the State Board of Education. Ms. Teemant is an English and Reading Teacher at Bob Miller Elementary School. Ms. Teemant explained a favorite project of the school children is called "Dancing for the Decades" in which the children research events, social structures and clothing of the 20th century. Pulling this research together, the children perform a song and dance for their local community. Adding the children learn while having fun and is a greatly anticipated event.

Item 6 Approval of Emeritus Status and Requirements

Member Gwaltney addressed the issue of Emeritus Status and possible requirements. He queried the Board for interest on this topic and it was decided that the current standing President of the Board should write a memorandum, after acquiring feedback from current Members, outlining requirements and bring a proposal to the next meeting.

Item 7 Discussion on Issues Related to Mathematic Requirements for High School Diplomas

David Brancamp, Mathematic Consultant for the Department of Education, presented issues related to the current mathematic requirements for high school diplomas. Superintendent Rheault explained there was a BDR proposing additional English, Science and Mathematic requirements for high school diplomas. Dialogue included the possible effects of raising required mathematic credits and the effect on other courses such as art, music or even dropout rates.

Item 8 Discussion on Process to Develop Local and Statewide Support for K-12 Governance Issues

There was no official discussion on this item.

Item 9 Receive and Review Update of Compliance Corrections of Three State Board Sponsored Charter Schools

William Arensdorf, Director, Fiscal Services, and Tom McCormack, Consultant, both with the Department of Education, presented a review of compliance corrections of three State Board sponsored charter schools. The three charter schools discussed were Nevada State High School, Silver State School and Team-A. General comments from Board Members involved the corrective actions and length of time to resolve non-compliance issues. Board Members questioned the number of charter schools the Board can sponsor and the ability of the Department of Education to handle additional requests. Superintendent Rheault explained there is no limitation as to the number of charter schools the Board can sponsor. He added Department of Education staff is doing their best with the workload but is understaffed.

Item 10 Approval of Superintendent's Evaluation and Possible Re-Appointment

President Ferry introduced discussion of the re-appointment of the Superintendent of Public Education. Dr. Rheault distributed a document describing his duties, goals and accomplishments.

Dr Rheault explained that February 28, 2007, will be his 3rd year anniversary as Superintendent of Public Instruction. He provided statutes for background information which outlined the general duties of the position of Superintendent. The first general duty is to execute, direct and supervise all administrative, technical and procedural activities of the Department of Education in accordance with policies prescribed by the State Board. Dr. Rheault provided three principles that he follows as Superintendent. For the most part, the top priority is to be able to provide information in a timely manner and not just quote what the statute says, but rather, use a reasonable approach to provide a response. He promotes, along with his staff, that the primary customers are the school district personnel and charter schools. Dr. Rheault believes in an open door policy. If someone shows up in the office, whether they are the public, the Governor, a parent, someone having a discipline problem, they can see him. Dr. Rheault has tried to adhere to those three principles within the last three years. It was through all this he has met the first general duty of the Department. He mentioned that the Department has had four or five federal audits, most recently a Legislative audit. There were findings; however, none of those findings were against the Department, rather recommendations for improvement. Most of the time, it's usually a matter of capacity of staff, time available or an interpretation of the law. The philosophy is there is more than one way to look at a law and Superintendent Rheault tries to be as flexible as he can, still within the confines of the law, to address what is being questioned. One challenge is mentioned in the third paragraph on page 3 of the document in that the description of his first duty has been expanded over the years to where probably half his time is spent on policies that are not prescribed by the State Board. Although he listed three broad priorities that he wanted to work on, if reappointed, one would be to address the issue of governance. Dr. Rheault thanked the Board for taking the lead in pushing the issue.

The second general duty Superintendent Rheault proposed was to employ personnel for positions approved by the State Board. There are about 140 employees in the Department who are probably the most dedicated out of any state agency. Dr. Rheault gave credit to his staff for being such dedicated workers. The main staffing issue is having the capacity to meet expectations. The Department keeps getting added expectations and responsibilities either from the Federal government through their programs or through state legislation. The capacity to respond to those responsibilities hasn't kept up with the expectations.

The second challenge Superintendent Rheault had was addressing the aging population of state employees. Every year he receives a report from department personnel and the current year was more alarming in that 41 percent of Department staff can retire in 5 years or less, many of them are less than three years from retirement. Considering half the staff could retire, that is a lot of experience, knowledge and operational efficiency that would be lost. This year, at least 3 individuals with 30 years experience retired.

A third general duty of the Superintendents position was the requirements to maintain liaison and coordinate activities with other state agencies. Superintendent Rheault believes he met that requirement, emphasizing that he works closely with the School District Superintendents Associations and the Nevada Association of School Administrators. He believes he has good contact with the Nevada State Education Association and meets with them regularly, along with the State PTA and anyone else who needs his assistance. He maintains that contact and availability with the Legislature and the Governor's office.

Unsure if all Board members were aware other of other duties Dr. Rheault has been assigned, he enlightened members that within the last few years there were a number of other assignments that have been assigned to the Superintendent, either in statute or as a Governor appointee. He explained that there were nine additional assignments that he attends. One example is the State Work Force Investment Board, which is a Governor appointed board, which oversees the workforce investment act and the funding through that entity. He is also on the WestEd Board of Directors, the Governing Board of University School for Profoundly Gifted which meets about four times a year. When looked at individually, there may be three or four meetings a year on each assignment but when combined as a whole, it adds up to 30 or 40 days if one attends every meeting resulting in a significant amount of time the superintendent would not be available for other duties.

Addressing page 4 of his handout, Superintendent Rheault said if reappointed, he would like to expand on those three areas and better position the Department and lead the state towards the goals outlined. The first one involves the K-12 structure in Nevada to be as efficient, effective and accountable as it can be. Presently, Superintendent Rheault stated he will support any structural changes that address that issue. The second area is to increase the capacity to adequately address the critical functions of the Department and the expectations of the State Legislature and the federal government. That would be accomplished primarily through increased staff and specifically the areas of school improvement, accountability, assessments and technology. He pointed out that these are critical areas at this point if the Department is going to carry out and meet every expectation that it has been asked to accomplish. The third area Superintendent Rheault discussed was that he wants to advocate and support legislation that will provide additional funding for high priority K-12 public education programs and services. He mentioned he would like to work on three areas; programs that address the achievement gap between Nevada students and support full-day kindergarten for all students.

The third area is to support any programs that would increase the availability and retention of high quality school personnel. Not just teachers, but administrators, counselors, nurses, librarians. This could be done through incentives such as a beginning teacher induction and mentoring program or signing bonuses. He stated if you don't have enough teachers that are high quality; the rest of it really doesn't make much difference.

Superintendent Rheault completed his presentation and asked for any suggestions if the Board felt he was off track or anything the Board wanted to make sure he works on as a top priority. Superintendent Rheault stated he enjoyed his first three years and would be pleased and honored to serve another three.

Member Iverson commented on the last tenant of the first bullet in Superintendent Rheault's report, Nevada's K-12 policies programs and activities, specifically the statewide improvement plan. Member Iverson indicated the Superintendent can delegate the duties but would like to see this as an essential item.

Dr. Rheault responded to Member Iverson's comment stating that since the State Board just adopted the State Improvement Plan, and it being a chief policy, one that school districts will follow, the Superintendents position is to adhere to what is prescribed makes perfect sense.

Member Boylan commented that the job of the Superintendents doesn't pay as much as it should even though he had been against an increase in salary because of the taxpayers. Member Boylan added that Dr. Rheault should be paid more and wasn't sure why he would want to continue as Superintendent for another three years but added he was glad that Dr. Rheault would be willing to accept re-appointment. Member Boylan added he thought Dr. Rheault was very knowledgeable and thanked Dr. Rheault for being willing to accept working as Superintendent for another three years.

Member Gwaltney was pleased Dr. Rheault wanted to continue as Superintendent. He was amazed at what Dr. Rheault accomplished. The Board of Education needs to make a statement to the Legislature not to stick Dr. Rheault with so many additional responsibilities.

Superintendent Rheault commented that he will do a search of all bill draft requests that have the Superintendent's name in there so he can find out how many obligations are associated with his position. Pointing out that the Board is his employer and that their concerns with the Superintendent's outside duties take away from duties to carry out the policies of the Board.

President Ferry interjected that all the comments from the Board Members, in conjunction with the self-evaluation presented from Dr. Rheault, constituted his official evaluation and suggested that if any Board Member had comments and or improvements they would like Dr. Rheault to receive, the present time was sufficient for any recommendations and commendations. The following comments are part of Dr. Rheault's official evaluation.

Member Washington commended Dr. Rheault on all of his accomplishments and enjoyed working with him over the past three years. She offered her full support for reappointment. She added Dr. Rheault is very accommodating, as is his staff. She commended Dr. Rheault for advising his staff to follow through whenever a request was made. All staff are very knowledgeable and that was a compliment to Dr. Rheault due to his hiring very competent employees. Member Reid complimented and appreciated Dr. Rheault on his vast knowledge of education, the excellent job he has performed and offered her support for his reappointment.

Member Myers noted that on occasion constituents have called her with a problem and sent them directly to Superintendent Rheault for resolve because she knew that Dr. Rheault would take care of whatever issue was at hand. She commented that someone new may not have that special ability and that would be a loss for the Board and Department of Education alike. Member Myers added that new members should be allowed to comment on the Superintendent's re-appointment as they will be working with the person in this position as a newly elected board member. She encouraged input from the newly elected board members who were present in the audience for comment. President Ferry opened public comment so anyone who wished to speak on the topic of the reappointment of Dr. Keith Rheault as Superintendent of Public Instruction could offer their input. Member Nolan interjected that after working with Dr. Rheault for the past three years, she is impressed by his amazing intelligence and had learned so much from his direct, to the point, accurate answers. She added Dr. Rheault is kind and yet definite which are nice attributes and supports his reappointment.

Jan Biggerstaff, newly elected board member, stated the Board is blessed with having the best thing for kids in the state in the form of Dr. Rheault.

Anthony Ruggiero, newly elected board member, thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. Mr. Ruggiero stated he has sat in on several board meetings to grasp as much information as possible prior to his official board member responsibilities. He stated he observed Dr. Rheault always had an answer and had always been right-on to all the other board members questions. He looked forward to being a part of the board and having Dr. Rheault present makes him that much more comfortable and he welcomes working with him in the future. Craig Kadlub, on behalf of the Clark County School District, made it known that he was speaking on behalf of the District because he thinks Dr. Rheault is universally respected and very highly valued for the extensive knowledge he has and wanted to echo the good things that the Board has already noted about the State Superintendent. Dotty Merrill stated that during public comments she took the opportunity to say how fortunate the Board and school districts have been to have Dr. Rheault as the Superintendent. She believes that in the Legislative arena, he has been an incredible representative on behalf of public education across the state. As was remarked, he always has the information. If ever in doubt about the information, he is not afraid to admit it but always gets back to people with the accurate information. In Ms. Merrill's new position with the Nevada's Association of School Boards she said that Dr. Rheault works very closely with the superintendents and has a very productive relationship and is amazed how he can do everything that he does. His work ethic is one that cannot be found in many places. Julie Whitacre with the Nevada State Education Association echoed the comments that have already been stated and reiterated that it is very refreshing and nice to have a dependable resource for information at the level of Dr. Rheault. She and her association go to him quite often and have never been turned away; always a phone call answered, not only by him, but all of his staff.

Member Frederick quoted from the movie Ghost and say "Ditto" to all the comments that were made. Doris Arnold, Executive Assistant to Superintendent Rheault said that Dr. Rheault is the same everyday to everyone; excellent. He is a joy and pleasure and the best to work for. She appreciated his choice in selection of the Deputy Superintendent and agreed with other comments that he always calls people back, he never shuts his door and she truly appreciates him. Member Waters lightheartedly wondered whether a man who loves meatloaf and corndogs can live on a state budget. He supposed he could if he were Dr. Rheault. Member Waters sincerely stated that Dr. Rheault is a terrific Superintendent but more than that, he has been a terrific friend. What Dr. Rheault brings to his work is the fact he is so genuine. Member Waters went on to say that Dr. Rheault 'is who he is' and there is nothing phony about him and it has been a real privilege and honor to work with him and there is nothing too good that could be said about his work and he is a real asset to Nevada.

President Ferry asked about Superintendent Rheault's second major work plan priority which dealt with staff. He emphasized this priority and suggested that the Board assist Superintendent Rheault to ensure assistance is provided. President Ferry questioned why he did not discuss the P-16 Council during his presentation. Superintendent Rheault replied there was no specific reason for not discussing it other than councils, commission and other boards of that kind outside the realm were not specifically detailed. President Ferry then complimented Dr. Rheault's insight into people, education and a number of different things. President Ferry agreed with others in that when Dr. Rheault says he will call someone back, he does.

Member Iverson moved to re-appoint Dr. Keith Rheault as Superintendent of the Nevada State Board of Education/Nevada State Board for Career and Technical Education, Member Nolan seconded the motion, none opposed, motion passed.

A second motion was made by Member Iverson, seconded by Member Boylan to accept the self evaluation as the Board of Education's Evaluation of Superintendent Keith Rheault and to add a statement of restriction of duties to those relevant and to make the State Improvement Plan his first priority. None opposed, motion passed.

Item 11 Approval of Support Letter to Nevada Senator's Regarding the Apple Initiative

A letter of support to be sent to Nevada Senators in Washington, D.C. regarding the Apple Initiative was submitted on behalf of Member Nolan. An issue regarding a specific tenet was resolved and the resolution was approved to be presented on behalf of the Board of Education.

Member Gwaltney moved to accept the Apple Initiative letter with a correction in wording regarding one of the tenets. Member Iverson seconded the motion, none opposed, motion passed.

Item 12 Request for Dual Credit, Nevada State High School

Request for dual credits from Nevada State High School were presented by Superintendent Rheault. The Board approved the requested dual credits that were submitted with a comment from President Ferry regarding minor mistakes in a few course numbers.

Member Nolan motioned to approve submitted Dual Credits for Nevada State High School, seconded by Member Washington, none opposed, motion passed.

Item 13 Request for Dual Credit, Clark County School District

Request for dual credits for Clark County School District were presented by Superintendent Rheault. President Ferry observed that the request for dual credits differed from past requests in that the District listed the Nevada System of Higher Education, rather than individual institutions. Craig Kadlub said that it was his understanding that all NSHE courses had a common numbering system in place.

Member Myers moved to approve submitted Dual Credits for Clark County School District, seconded by Member Nolan. President Ferry and Members Frederick and Reid opposed the motion but the motion passed with a majority vote.

Item 14 Approval of the 2006 State Improvement Plan

Deputy Superintendent Gloria Dopf presented the 2006 State Improvement Plan (STIP), explaining the STIP was a work in progress but the elements remain compelling and consistent for organizational goals. Ms. Dopf identified what she acknowledged as an acronym "ADAPT"; Alignment, Data, Achievement, Professional Development and Target. Ms. Dopf highlighted areas such as qualified paraprofessional, assessment areas, career and technical education, best practices, goals, report accomplishments and data analysis. Indicating this document will carry out goals from the mission statement and will be used as a live document, changing and updating as information was received. Members concurred with the document with the addition of a 6th recommendation regarding K-12 would be the responsibility of the Board of Education.

Member Myers moved to approve the State Improvement Plan (STIP) with recommended change, seconded by Member Boylan, none opposed, motion passed.

Item 15 Submission of the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Report

Frankie McCabe, Director of Special Education, ESEA and School Improvement with the Department of Education and Karen Taycher, Chair, SEAC Advisory Committee, jointly presented a report entitled "Submission of Special Education Advisory Council". Topics of discussion included proposed federal language changes, teacher licensure timeframes, child count day, performance indicators, recruitment efforts, qualification specific to Special Education teachers, paraprofessional status and the complexity of federal laws involved with these issues. Comments, questions and concerns were received from Board members. Director McCabe was diligent in answering all questions and concerns the Board had regarding the broad range of topics included in her presentation.

**Item 16 Approval of State Board Task Force / Subcommittee Reports:
Curriculum Alignment Task Force and the Governance Task Force**

Member Myers, Chair, Curriculum Alignment Task Force, stated the Curriculum Alignment Task Force finished its last meeting by having met the goals assigned to the task force. Recommendations to five issues were voted upon by task force members and brought forth to the Board for approval.

Member Gwaltney moved to receive the report submitted from the Curriculum Alignment Task Force and authorize staff to implement the NAC provision and to move forward with the grade level report card and the rubric for textbook adoption. Member Reid seconded the motion, none opposed, motion passed.

Member Gwaltney, Chair, Governance Task Force (GTF) informed the Board that Senator Hardy was the sponsor for a Bill Draft Request (BDR) on behalf of the Board regarding Governance Task Force issues. Discussion on meeting with legislators was met with a warning by Deputy Attorney General James E. Irvin. Since the Governance Task Force was only made up of three members, any two members discussing GTF issues would constitute a quorum. Under the open meeting law, a quorum is a meeting that must be posted in accordance to law. Members of the Board agreed to increase the number of GTF members from three to five so no open meeting laws would be compromised.

Member Reid moved to appoint Member Frederick and President Ferry as two new members to the Governance Task Force. Member Iverson seconded the motion, none opposed, motion passed.

Item 17 Approval of the Proposed Date and Location for the January 2007 Board Meeting

The approval of a proposed date and location for the January 2007 Board of Education Meeting was discussed at length.

Member Myers moved to approve the first meeting to occur on January 26-27, 2007. Member Boylan seconded the motion, none opposed, motion passed.

Through a roll-call vote, the Board unanimously agreed to hold the first Board meeting of 2007 in Las Vegas rather than Carson City.

Item 18 Board Member Comments

There was discussion supporting the attendance of Board Members as a unified group to attend the State of the State Address in Carson City on January 22, 2007.

Item 19 Approval of Future Agenda Items

There were no future agenda items discussed.

Member Boylan stated that on December 6-7, 2006, he would be attending a Legal Ramifications of Schools on behalf of the Board. Although he will no longer be an official Member of the Board of Education at the next Board Meeting, he will forward an email of what he learned while attending the seminar.

Item 20 Public Comments

Craig Kadlub, Clark County School District, spoke about the favorable results of an audit conducted on the District which was mandated by AB580. The biggest recommendation was to see if the Legislature and builders would give land to build more schools in the Clark County area. Although not a savings but more along the lines of a cost avoidance and that federal dollars could not be redirected to general operating budgets. Mr. Kadlub stated the audit was thorough and comprehensive.

Item 21 Adjournment

Member Waters moved to adjourn the State Board of Education meeting, seconded by Member Boylan, none opposed, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Approved by:

Dr. Cliff Ferry, President, Nevada State Board of Education/
Nevada State Board for Career and Technical Education

Transcribed by:

Jean McGuire, Administrative Assistant III