

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

REGULAR MEETING

January 26-27, 2007

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 (1-26-07 arrived at 4:51 p.m.)  
Jan Biggerstaff, Member  
Sharon Frederick, Member  
Dr. John Gwaltney, Member (1-26-07 arrived at 4:45 p.m.)  
Dr. Merv Iverson, Member  
Greg Nance, Member  
Cindy Reid, Member  
Anthony Ruggiero, Member  
Madisen McGrath, Student Representative (1-26-07 arrived at 4:51 p.m.)

**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: January 26, 2007**

Faruk Taban, President, Coral Academy  
Ben Karaduman, Executive Director, Coral Academy  
Steve Knight, Silver State High School  
Edie Grub, Silver State High School  
Jamie Castle, Nevada Connections Academy  
Kirsten Mitchell, Nevada Connections Academy  
Dr. Dotty Merrill, Executive Director, NASB  
Sandi Foster, Washoe County School District  
Craig Kadlub, Clark County School District  
Rich Young, Vice President, State Assessments, Pearson Educational Measurement

Julie Whitacre, NSEA  
Gavin Parke, Representing Senator Reid's Office

**AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE January 27, 2007**

Dr. Dotty Merrill, Executive Director, NASB  
Judy Kroshus, Administrator for Team A  
Craig Kadlub, Clark County School District  
Sandi Foster, Washoe County School District  
Dr. John Hawk, Executive Director, Nevada State High School

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2007**

**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 4:30 p.m. with roll call reflected above.

**Flexible Agenda**

**Member Washington moved to have a flexible agenda. Member Reid seconded the motion, none opposed, motion passed.**

**Item 1 President's Report**

President Ferry discussed the advantages of the role of WestEd and the Board of Education. A history of WestEd was presented and discussion among Board Members as to the pros and cons of membership were discussed.

**Item 2 Elections**

Superintendent Rheault presided over the elections with the following results: President: Dr. Cliff Ferry; Vice-President: Marcia Washington; Clerk: Barbara Myers. All three were re-elected to their previous officer positions.

**Item 3 Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Dr. Keith Rheault provided a handout on Quality Counts 2007. Superintendent Rheault discussed the thirteen criteria for measuring success and the control, or lack thereof, the Department of Education has in the majority of the measurement criteria. He stated the items which could not be controlled supported the need for full-day kindergarten. The second item discussed were Legislative Activities. Dr. Rheault briefed the Board Members on current bill draft requests and the proposed \$60 million Empowerment budget that Governor Gibbons has on his agenda. Members discussed at length the pros and cons of managing the program.

Deputy Superintendent of Finance, James Wells, provided updated information on the Governor's proposed budget and the current status of the Department of Education's budget request. There was debate between Board Members and Deputy Superintendent Wells as to adequacy studies, revenues and bond issues.

**Item 4 Consent agenda**

**Member Washington moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Member Gwaltney, none opposed, motion passed.**

**Item 5 Recent Attorney General Opinion Regarding Open Meeting Law NRS Chapter 241**

Dr. James E. Irvin, Deputy Attorney General, gave a presentation on a recent open meeting law. An example was provided on the issue of ousting a person from a meeting for inappropriate behavior, offensive

and un-tolerated behavior. Dr. Irvin concluded his presentation stating that even if a question is asked, Members don't necessarily have to provide an answer.

**Item 6 Six Year History of Nevada K-12 School Enrollment**

Deputy Superintendent James Wells presented a six-year history of public education outlining student enrollment in private, home school, charter and public schools.

**Item 7 Update of Compliance Corrections of the State Board Sponsored Schools; Silver State High School and Team-A.**

William Arensdorf, Director of Fiscal Services and Consultant Tom McCormack provided the Board with an update on Silver State High School and Team-A Charter Schools. Both schools were non-compliant and given opportunities to correct their individual areas of concerns. Silver State High School had an issue with regards to Special Education. As noted, Special Education non-compliance issues were often difficult for charter schools and Silver State High School was working closely with Department of Education staff to correct non-compliance issues. Team-A had financial issues and was working closely with Department staff for resolve. It was noted that Department of Education staff is being stretched to their limit in the arena of assistance with charter schools.

**Item 8 Proposed Sponsorship of Coral Academy of Science, Las Vegas Charter School**

Member Reid, Chair of Subcommittee of Charter Schools, recommended Board sponsorship for Coral Academy Charter School. Member Reid updated the Members of the subcommittee meeting in regards to sponsorship. Representatives from Coral Academy were available for Member questions. Concerns involving the Department of Educations staffing ability to provide adequate assistance was discussed.

**Member Biggerstaff motioned to approve Board sponsorship for Coral Academy of Science, seconded by Member Frederick. None opposed, motion passed.**

**Item 9 Propose Addition of Ad Hoc Committee to Determine Recommendations for Consideration of Emeritus Status**

The Board decided to pursue the issue of Emeritus Status by forming an Ad Hoc Committee to determine if there was enough interest in moving forward. Member Biggerstaff was chosen as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee with Members Gwaltney, Washington and Vance as committee members to develop criteria for Emeritus Status.

**Item 10 Class-Size Reduction / Variance Report**

Superintendent Rheault discussed class-size reduction and variance issues facing Nevada. Current ratio's in classes K-3 stands at 15 to one. A 2005 law allowed variance for exceeding those rations. Seven districts have requested variances to the current ratios. Superintendent Rheault recommended the Board approve the requests.

**Member Biggerstaff moved to approve the presented report on class-size reduction / variance report as submitted by Superintendent Rheault, seconded by Member Reid. None opposed, motion passed.**

**Item 11 Review of Advanced Diplomas**

Discussion regarding the alignment of the advanced diploma to meet the requirements of the Millennium Scholarship and the No Child Left Behind standards were discussed in detail. Currently, the Gateway Project, used by Washoe County School District, mirrors the Millennium Scholarship requirements. Discussion by Members to bring the advanced diploma in alignment with the Millennium Scholarship were heavily discussed. There was an agreement to hold a public hearing / workshop at the March 2007 meeting in which mathematic requirements would be discussed.

**Item 12          Orientation Regarding Special Programs and Projects from John Janosek, Executive Director, Clark County Education Association**

John Janosek, Executive Director, Clark County Education Association, provided the Board with an overview of educational issues which could assist with Empowerment issues and programs that the Association sponsors for students in the Clark County School District.

**Item 13          Public Hearing and Possible Board Action Regarding Hearing on Petition and Recommendation for Revocation of the Nevada Teacher's License for Lori Ann Robinson**

A public hearing was held on case 06-01 for Ms. Lori Ann Robinson. Deputy Attorney General, James E. Irvin presented information in which the Board approved the suspension of the teacher license for Ms. Robinson for 91-days.

**Member Frederick moved to suspend the teacher license for Lori Ann Robinson for 91 days. Member Washington seconded the motion. (Member Nance was absent from the meeting at the time of the vote) none in attendance opposed, motion passed.**

**Item 14          Clark County Corrective Action Plan**

Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, explained Clark County School District had entered its third year of needs improvement, pursuant to *NCLB Section 1116(c)(3) and NRS 385.3771*. In a letter addressed to Clark County School District Walt Rulffes, from the Nevada Department of Education, in part, stated; As a consequence, the State, under *NCLB Section 1116(c)(10) and NRS 385.3773* must determine a corrective action for Clark County School District. Of the seven possibilities, the State of Nevada, Department of Education determined the *ii, "Instituting a new curriculum that is based on State and local academic content and achievement standards..."* would be the most effective for Clark County School District. NRS 385.337 Types of corrective actions for school districts; notice of corrective action and opportunity for hearing. (b) Instituting and fully carrying out a new curriculum that is based upon the standards of content and performance, adopted by the State Board pursuant to NRS 389.520, including, without limitation, the provision of appropriate professional development relating to the new curriculum.

**Item 15          Approval of Governance Task Force Recommendations**

Dr. John Gwaltney, Member of the Board and Chair of the Governance Task Force, encouraged Board Members to strengthen their knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of the State Board. There were no specific recommendations made to the Board.

**Item 16          District Improvement Plan Summary**

Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, presented an information update of the District Improvement Plans received from the school districts and reviewed by the Department of Education. Ms. Dopf outlined the identification of primary needs by disaggregated groups with a category breakdown of English Language Arts and Mathematics. Included were the priorities of goals reflected within the action plans. Copies of district plans were available for review.

**Item 17          Proposed 2007 Board of Education Meeting Calendar**

The following proposed calendar was approved by Board Members:

- Friday, January 26 and Saturday, January 27, 2007 Las Vegas
- Friday, March 16 and Saturday, March 17, 2007 Carson City (Joint Meeting with Board of Regents)
- Friday, May 4 and Saturday, May 5, 2007 Carson City
- Friday, June 29 and Saturday, June 30, 2007 Las Vegas
- Thursday, August 16, Friday, August 17 and Saturday, August 18, 2007 Carson City (Board Retreat)
- Friday, October 12 and Saturday, October 13, 2007 Las Vegas

- Friday, November 30 and Saturday, December 1, 2007 Las Vegas

**Item 18 Board Member Comments**

Member Iverson commented this was a very productive meeting. Member Biggerstaff thanked Member Myers for providing an opportunity at the December 2006 meeting to speak on behalf of Dr. Rheault and his reappointment. Member Ruggiero had positive comments on the task force and committee assignments. Member Reid welcomed new Members and asked the Board for more time efficient meetings. Member Myers discussed the Western Governor's University on-line program through Education Week. Vice-President Washington commented that in the Political History 2006 book, there was no mention of the Board of Education other than when the Board was first established. She thanked the Board for her re-nomination as Vice President. Member Frederick said she enjoyed her participation in the "Community in the Classroom" project and encouraged everyone to participate next year. Member Gwaltney congratulated the re-elected officers. Member Nance said his first Board meeting was fun and he enjoyed it very much. Student McGrath said she was interested in hearing more about the advanced diploma. President Ferry welcomed the new Board Members and agreed with Member Reid's comment about more efficient meetings.

**Item 19 Future Agenda Items**

A recap of items discussed at the meeting to be brought forth to the March 2007 meeting included a public hearing and workshop for the advanced diploma and mathematic requirements.

**Item 20 Public Comments**

Rich Young, Vice President, State Assessments, Pearson Educational Measurement expressed appreciation to the Board.

**Item 21 Adjournment**

**Vice President Washington moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Frederick, (Member Reid was not present for adjournment vote) none in attendance opposed, motion passed.**

The Nevada State Board of Education/Nevada State Board for Career and Technical Education adjourned their meeting at 3:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Approved by:

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

Transcribed by:

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Jean McGuire, Administrative Assistant III