

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

January 15, 2009

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

MINUTES OF THE NEW BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION – January 15, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jan Biggerstaff, Member
Gloria Bonaventura, Member
Willia Chaney, Member
Dave Cook, Member
Dr. Cliff Ferry, Member
Christopher Wallace, Member
Craig Wilkinson, Member
Anthony Ruggiero, Vice President (arrived 10:05 a.m.)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ken McKenna, Member
Becky Childs, Student Representative

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Phyllis Dryden, Director, Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education
Bill Arensdorf, Director, Office of Fiscal Accountability
James Wells, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative and Fiscal Services
Donnell Barton, Director, Office of Child Nutrition and School Health
Rick Larsen, Director, Department of Education Fiscal Services
Connie Poulton, Assessment, Program Accountability and Curriculum
Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services
Frankie McCabe, Director, Special Education, ESEA and School Improvement
Doris Arnold, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Public Instruction

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. James E. Irvin, Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

Michael Digangi, Silver State Charter High School
Dan Shirey, Silver State Charter High School
Dr. Eugene T. Paslov, Silver State Charter High School
Alan Staggs, Silver State Charter High School

Steve Knight, Silver State Charter High School
Patty Knight, Silver State Charter High School
Edie Grub, Governing Body President, Silver State Charter High School

CALL TO ORDER; WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

In lieu of Vice President Ruggiero's absence at this time, Member Biggerstaff called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., with attendance as reflected above. Introductions including brief biographical sketches were heard from those individuals in attendance.

1. ORIENTATION OF NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Dr. Rheault provided an overview of the Department of Education and Department staff with the organizational charts beginning on page 10 of Board packets. He reviewed the K-12 Educational Governance Structure in Nevada beginning with the chart listed on page 25.

During Dr. Rheault's presentation, Vice President Ruggiero arrived at the meeting.

At approximately 10:40 a.m., Dr. Rheault called for a ten-minute break. At 10:50 a.m., the meeting resumed.

Deputy Attorney General Irvin introduced himself and provided an overview of Board ethics and the Nevada Open Meeting Law. He suggested a Nevada Open Meeting Law training session be held. He cautioned Board members about serial communication via e-mail. He stressed the importance of disclosing conflicts of interest.

At 12:15 p.m., Dr. Rheault called for an approximately one-hour lunch break. At 1:25 p.m., the meeting resumed.

Dr. Rheault reviewed NRS statutes regarding State Board duties and responsibilities. He noted Board members would be reimbursed for travel expenses only if Board members live fifty miles or more away from a meeting location. Dr. Rheault reviewed Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) related to K-12 education.

Vice President Ruggiero reviewed the Board's Mission as listed on page 71 and Board Principles and Ethics as listed on pages 81 and 82 of Board packets. Dr. Rheault reviewed Board Standing Rules and Procedures beginning on page 74. Discussion was heard about travel costs.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- **President – Cliff Ferry nominated Anthony Ruggiero as the 2009 Nevada State Board of Education President.** Hearing no further nominations, Dr. Rheault closed the nominations for President and called for a vote. **The nomination carried unanimously.**
- **Vice President – Dave Cook nominated Jan Biggerstaff as the 2009 Nevada State Board of Education Vice President.** Jan Biggerstaff declined the nomination.

Jan Biggerstaff nominated Cliff Ferry as the 2009 Nevada State Board of Education Vice President. Hearing no further nominations, Dr. Rheault closed the nominations for Vice President and called for a vote. **The nomination carried unanimously.**

- **Clerk – Craig Wilkinson nominated Christopher Wallace as the 2009 Nevada State Board of Education Clerk.** Hearing no further nominations, Dr. Rheault closed the nominations for Clerk and called for a vote. **The nomination carried unanimously.**

3. APPROVAL OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHARTER SCHOOLS' APPOINTMENTS

President Ruggiero announced the following Board members were appointed to the Subcommittee on Charter Schools based on their experience and interest in the subject:

Vice President Ferry
Member Biggerstaff
Member Wallace
Member Chaney - Alternate

Cliff Ferry moved to approve the appointments to the Subcommittee on Charter Schools. Jan Biggerstaff seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Edie Grub, Governing Body President, Silver State Charter High School, stated she enjoyed hearing the information provided during today's orientation.

Steve Knight, Silver State Charter High School, congratulated new Board members for being elected to the Board. He invited new Board members to visit Silver State Charter High School. Brochures regarding the school were made available.

Dr. Rheault announced Charlotte Hill from District 5 was appointed to the Board and would be in attendance at the March meeting.

At 3:15 p.m., President Ruggiero recessed the meeting to reconvene at 8:45 a.m. on Friday, January 16, 2009.

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

January 16, 2009

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

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING – January 16, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Cliff Ferry, Vice President
Christopher Wallace, Clerk
Jan Biggerstaff, Member
Gloria Bonaventura, Member
Willia Chaney, Member
Dave Cook, Member
Craig Wilkinson, Member
Anthony Ruggiero, President (arrived later in the meeting)
Ken McKenna, Member (arrived at 10:20 a.m.)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Becky Childs, Student Representative

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Phyllis Dryden, Director, Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education
Bill Arensdorf, Director, Office of Fiscal Accountability
Tom McCormack, Consultant, Office of Fiscal Accountability
James Wells, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative and Fiscal Services
Donnell Barton, Director, Office of Child Nutrition and School Health
Rick Larsen, Director, Department of Education Fiscal Services
Connie Poulton, Assessment, Program Accountability and Curriculum
Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services
Frankie McCabe, Director, Special Education, ESEA and School Improvement
Anne Davidson, Evaluation Consultant, Assessments, Program Accountability and Curriculum
Diane Mugford, Consultant, Assessments, Program Accountability and Curriculum
Carol Crothers, Director, Assessments, Program Accountability and Curriculum
Dr. Richard Vineyard, Assistant Director, Assessment, Program Accountability and Curriculum
Doris Arnold, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Public Instruction

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. James E. Irvin, Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Kazek, Head of School, Nevada Virtual Academy
Carol Andrew, Director/Principal, High Desert Montessori School
Joan Sando, Silver Sands Montessori Charter School
Marlo Tsuchiyama, Silver Sands Montessori Charter School
Jason Sando, Silver Sands Montessori Charter School
Patty Knight, Silver State High School
Edie Grub, Governing Body President, Silver State High School
Steve Knight, Executive Director, Silver State High School
Terry Care, Attorney, McDonald Carano Wilson representing Nevada Virtual Academy
Sharon Kientz, Director Nevada Virtual Academy
Brad Waldron, Clark County School District
Dr. Bryn Lapenta, Senior Director, Washoe County School District
Dr. Joyce Halderman, Clark County School District
Casilda Pagan, NQE
Don Lee, K-12

CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Due to the absence of President Ruggiero at this time, Vice President Ferry called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. Roll call was heard and a quorum of seven members was present. Vice President Ferry led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this time, President Ruggiero arrived at the meeting.

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Ruggiero welcomed new Board members to the Nevada State Board of Education.

Dr. Rheault announced Governor Gibbons appointed Charlotte Hill to the Nevada State Board of Education to complete the two-year term of former Board member Gregory Nance who resigned in August 2008.

President Ruggiero acknowledged there were concerns regarding the state of affairs in Nevada. He reported the Governor's Office distributed a letter regarding proposed budget cuts in education. President Ruggiero stated he did not want to react prematurely to budget cuts until after the Legislative session concludes and until after the Board has had a chance to discuss the outcome of the Legislative session.

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Rheault introduced Carol Crothers, Director, Assessments, Program Accountability and Curriculum, and Dr. Richard Vineyard, Assistant Director, Assessment, Program Accountability and Curriculum, to new Board members.

- **Update of the Special Legislative Session held on December 8, 2008** – Dr. Rheault reviewed budget cuts taken by the 25th Special Legislative Session affecting K-12 education as listed on page 132 of Board packets.

- **Update of the P-16 Council meeting held on December 16, 2008** – Dr. Rheault reported he was an ex-officio member of the P-16 Council, therefore, he attends meetings, but could not vote. He stated the annual report was listed on page 133 of Board packets. The Council was close to establishing a committee between the university system and K-12 to check on alignment of standards.

Member Biggerstaff asked if the State Board could form the committee in order to move forward. Dr. Rheault stated they may move in that direction because a committee needed to be in place in order to review the curriculum and testing. Member Biggerstaff suggested this issue be agendaized for the next meeting. President Ruggiero agreed.

Vice President Ferry commented that it was outrageous that a mission had yet to be established and added a mission for the P-16 Council had been developed in the past.

- **Update of the Council to Establish Academic Standards Meeting of January 6, 2009** – Dr. Rheault stated a report on grade level standards was made available to Board members. He commented that professional development of teachers needed to continue in order to make sure teachers know what standards and teaching methods were needed to complete standards at their grade level.

Regarding the Special Legislative session held in December, James Wells, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative and Fiscal Services, reported Senate Bill 2 was presented to advance the net proceeds of minerals collections by a year to schools thereby schools would receive two years worth of net proceeds in the beginning, but the sunset clause on collection after 2011 would decrease monies to zero at some point. He reviewed Department budget cut recommendations in the Status Report.

Dr. Rheault added a pre-session Legislative meeting to discuss the K-12 distributive school account budget would be held on January 27, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. and would be televised. He encouraged Board members to attend the meeting or to view the meeting on-line.

Mr. Wells noted the following Department budget cut recommendations had been approved: Elimination of four positions: Empowerment, Gifted and Talented Education; Parental Involvement, and Cultural Diversity; and, the elimination of the Norm Referenced Test and to maintain the Non-Title I school support teams.

3. REPORT FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

President Ruggiero stated he met with Jodi Stephens, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor, last night. He reported Ms. Stephens was not in attendance at today's meeting to present a report due to the preparation of the Governor's State of the State, but Ms. Stephens emphasized she wanted to continue working with the Board. President Ruggiero suggested Board members request specific information from the Governor's Office that they would like discussed during future meetings.

4. TIME: 9:00 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING and possible Board Adoption of Proposed Revision to Regulation Language for NAC 3839.670 – Credit for Specific Course Without Attending Classes

It was noted "NAC 3839.670" should read NAC 389.670.

Dr. Richard Vineyard, Assistant Director, Assessment, Program Accountability, and Curriculum, stated the proposed amendment to NAC 389.670 is to replace existing regulation to bring it into compliance with the current statute. He reviewed proposed changes as listed on page 139 of Board packets. He reported the

workshop had eliminated the specific passing score therefore Section 4 would read “minimum passing score”. He stated the recommendation was for the State Board to adopt the revised regulations as presented during today’s meeting.

Member Biggerstaff asked if there was language in the regulation that prevented a student from taking all classes in this fashion. Dr. Vineyard stated this regulation does not address that issue. There were other regulations that limited the number of credits a student could earn by taking classes outside the regular school setting. Dr. Rheault added school districts identify the number of credits a student could earn by taking classes outside the regular school setting. The State does not monitor the number of credits a student could earn in this manner.

Member Chaney asked if a counselor had to refer this method to a student or if a student could themselves request taking classes in this fashion. Dr. Vineyard stated that as far as he knew, students were given the option of taking classes in this method, but some school districts require a fee. Member Chaney requested clarification that a student could go directly to the school district to request taking outside classes. Dr. Vineyard stated that was correct, but most school districts require school staff to sign-off on a form stating that the student was eligible to take classes in this fashion. Dr. Rheault noted this was already an NAC code. Proposed revisions to the language would only specify requirements. He explained school districts would still determine if students were eligible for this type of learning method.

At 9:50 a.m., President Ruggiero opened up discussion to public comment. Hearing no public comment requests, President Ruggiero closed public comment at 9:52 a.m.

Member Cook made the following motion, seconded by Member Wallace:

That the Nevada State Board of Education adopts the proposed revisions to regulation language for NAC 389.670.

The motion carried.

5. TIME: 9:15 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING and possible Board Adoption of Proposed Revision to Regulation Language for NAC 386.020 – “Charter School” defined; NAC 386.240 – Issuance of Written Charter to Applicant not Prepared to Commence Operation on Date of Issuance; Expiration, Effect and Contents of Charter; Supplemental Application; NAC 386.365 – Report of Data Required for Automated System of Accountability Information for Nevada; and NAC 386.370 – Final Budget

James Wells, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative and Fiscal Services, reported the following changes to the four NAC regulations regarding charter schools:

- For NAC 386.020 – a sentence was added defining a charter school as a local government.
- For NAC 386.240 – a subsection 7 charter would expire after June 30th of the second year after the charter was granted.
- For NAC 386.365 – electronic reporting of data in order to allocate distributive school accounts; all schools would also have to participate and have this operation up and running the first year of operation.
- For NAC 386.370 – provide further description of budget submission of a charter school and sponsorship by the Nevada System of Higher Education.

Mr. Wells stated staff’s recommendation was to approve temporary regulation changes.

At 9:55 a.m., President Ruggiero asked for questions from the Board and opened up discussion to public comment. Hearing no public comment requests, President Ruggiero closed the public hearing at 9:56 a.m.

Member Biggerstaff made the following motion, seconded by Member Bonaventura:

That the Nevada State Board of Education approves the temporary regulation changes to NAC 386.240, NAC 386.365, and NAC 386.370.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. TIME: 9:30 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING and possible Board action regarding Hearing of Petition and Recommendation for Revocation of the Nevada Teacher's License for Brett Storsved

Deputy Attorney General Irvin explained Mr. Storsved's attorney requested a continuance of this hearing until after the Legislative session concluded. Deputy Attorney General Irvin requested that the record reflect the Board was acting promptly on this matter. He suggested this item be pulled until the first meeting after the Legislative Session concludes. President Ruggiero heeded Deputy Attorney General Irvin's suggestion.

7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes:

- December 5-6, 2008 Regular Meeting

B. Approval of State Board Member Travel – Nevada Association of School Boards' New Member Orientation February 20-21, 2009, Reno, Nevada

C. Approval of Appointments to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

D. Approval of the Reappointment of Walt Ruffles, Superintendent of Clark County School District, to the WestEd Board of Directors for a three-year term beginning June 1, 2009 and ending May 31, 2012

Member Cook requested item C be pulled from the Consent Agenda for individual consideration. President Ruggiero agreed under the flexible agenda.

Member Biggerstaff moved to approve Consent Agenda items A, B, and D. Member Cook seconded the Motion. The motion carried.

Regarding Consent Agenda item C, Dr. Rheault stated staff recommendation was to have Susan Lacey continue her service on the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) given the fact that she has only served one year. Member Cook stated his only concern with Consent Agenda item C was to disclose that both he and Susan Lacey serve on the Sierra Crest Charter School Academy in Minden, but this should not preclude him from voting on the item.

Member Wallace moved to have Susan Lacey continue her appointment to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). Member Chaney seconded the Motion. The motion carried.

8. APPROVAL OF THE 2009 SUBCOMMITTEE ON TASK FORCE ASSIGNMENTS, ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS, AND APPOINTMENTS TO ORGANIZATIONS

President Ruggiero announced the following Board members were appointed to the following task forces/advisory councils/organizations:

Subcommittee on Charter Schools

Cliff Ferry – Chairperson
Jan Biggerstaff
Christopher Wallace
Willia Chaney – Alternate

SAIN (System for Accountability Information in Nevada)

Christopher Wallace

National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)

Anthony Ruggiero

Apple Initiative Task Force

Christopher Wallace – Chair
Anthony Ruggiero
Dave Cook – Northern
Gloria Bonaventura – Southern

Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB)

Dave Cook
Willia Chaney

Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE)

Ken McKenna
Christopher Wallace
Charlotte Hill - Alternate

K-12 Governance

Ken McKenna – Chairperson
Cliff Ferry
Charlotte Hill
Christopher Wallace
Willia Chaney

Commission on Professional Standards in Education

Cliff Ferry
Craig Wilkinson

Special Education Advisory Council

Cliff Ferry
Jan Biggerstaff
Gloria Bonaventura – Alternate

Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools

Dave Cook
Charlotte Hill
Craig Wilkinson - Alternate

Commission on Postsecondary

Anthony Ruggiero (Rec. appointment)

Nevada Public Education Foundation Board of Trustees

Cliff Ferry
Jan Biggerstaff

WestEd Board of Directors

Jan Biggerstaff
Dr. Keith Rheault
Walt Ruffles

Ceremonies & Awards

Jan Biggerstaff

Nevada Indian Education Task Force

Gloria Bonaventura
Willia Chaney

Deputy Attorney General Irvin reminded Board members that two subcommittee members could not discuss issues related to their subcommittee if the subcommittee was made up of only three members.

During this agenda item, Member McKenna arrived at the meeting.

Member Cook moved to approve the appointments made by President Ruggiero. Vice President Ferry seconded the Motion. The motion carried.

At this time, President Ruggiero called for a 10-minute break. When the meeting resumed, President Ruggiero requested agenda items 11 and 12 be heard next.

11. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHARTER SCHOOLS FOR A POSSIBLE SUBSECTION 7 CHARTER FOR SILVER SANDS MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

Vice President Ferry reported the Subcommittee on Charter Schools recommended approval of a Subsection 7 Charter for Silver Sands Montessori Charter School.

Bill Arensdorf, Director, Office of Fiscal Accountability, reported the application was originally submitted to the Clark County School District for sponsorship who had declined to accept new applications for sponsorship due to the lack of adequate staff. The application was then submitted to the State Board for sponsorship. The proposal was for grades K-8, but the school would begin with grades K-5. Mr. Arensdorf explained a Montessori school grouped children by their particular level working in a more hands-on environment in combination with state standards, but with less emphasis on grades. Department staff was recommending approval of a Subsection 7 Charter for Silver Sands Montessori Charter School with the following conditions:

- To obtain a facility
- To obtain necessary insurance
- To meet health and safety regulations and requirements
- To provide more information regarding adjustment of salaries and benefits; purchase services; justification on special education purchases; and, a cash flow statement for both budget years

Mr. Arensdorf noted the school was aware of conditions and was willing to make the necessary adjustments prior to conversion. The school plans to open in the fall 2009, but new regulations passed today may alter the timeline.

Tom McCormack, Consultant, Office of Fiscal Accountability, added the final Findings of Fact for the school were listed on page 212 of Board packets. He noted all items were complete and compliant. He reported the expiration date for the Subsection 7 Charter would be changed from January 16, 2010 as listed on page 212 to June 30, 2011 due to the new regulations passed today.

Marlo Tsuchiyama, Founding Committee Chairperson, Silver Sands Montessori Charter School, stated representatives from Silver Sands Montessori Charter School were in attendance to request the Subsection 7 Charter for the School.

Joan Sando, Founding Committee Member, Silver Sands Montessori Charter School, thanked staff for their assistance during the application process.

Carol Andrew, Executive Director/Principal, High Desert Montessori School, thanked the Board for approving three Montessori schools in Nevada.

Member Cook made the following motion, seconded by Member Wallace:

That the Nevada State Board of Education approves a Subsection 7 Charter for Silver Sands Montessori Charter School.

The motion carried unanimously.

12. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHARTER SCHOOLS FOR A POSSIBLE SUBSECTION 7 CHARTER FOR NEVADA VIRTUAL ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL GRADES 10-12

Bill Arensdorf, Director, Office of Fiscal Accountability, explained Nevada Virtual Academy current has a charter for grades K-9 in distance education out of the Clark County School District. Nevada statutes require a separate application to add grades 10-12. The school has submitted a separate application for the high school grades to be taught under the same distance education model. He noted that, if the Board approved the request, the amendment would state that the new high school grades could begin with the next school year in the fall 2009. Mr. Arensdorf reported staff's recommendation was to bypass granting a Subsection 7 Charter and to grant a full charter to Nevada Virtual Academy because students were taught at home and because the school already has a facility to provide further teaching assistance for their current curriculum. Conditions for the full charter were an adjustment of teacher salaries and lease payments for computers and a more accurate amount of computers for additional students

Mr. Arensdorf noted conditions regarding the 2011 budget were not needed until 2010 and that a letter was submitted to Jim Wells agreeing on the administrative fee adjustment for the sponsor. Mr. Arensdorf clarified a new charter would not be granted; this would extend the existing charter to June 29, 2013.

Jim Wells clarified further information regarding the administrative fee adjustment was needed because it appeared there was an adjustment to the second year budget, but that a letter was received from the Regional Vice President explaining that had been due to cash flow because they were attempting to ensure that the school stayed in the positive cash flow.

Dr. Rheault noted the letter on page 218 of Board packets appeared to have denied the school's request, but that further information needed for compliance of their special education plan was received before the December 15th deadline. Discussion followed clarifying the new application would become apart of the existing charter.

Vice President Ferry reported the Subcommittee on Charter Schools moved to recommend approval to include grades 10-12 to their existing charter.

Terry Care, Attorney, McDonald Carano Wilson representing Nevada Virtual Academy, stated the school endorsed the recommendation of Mr. Arensdorf and Dr. Rheault's comments regarding the letter on page 218. He commented that Nevada Virtual Academy has had a relationship with the State Board for the past two years and was getting better therefore the school would respect any recommendation made by the Board. He noted Mike Kazek, Head of School, Nevada Virtual Academy was in attendance to answer any further questions.

Member McKenna stated he believed in the school and that it would be the wave of the future, therefore, he made the following motion, seconded by Member Cook:

That the Nevada State Board of Education approves a full charter for Nevada Virtual Academy for grades 10-12 and for grades 10-12 to merge with the existing charter with conditions as stated during today's meeting and for the existing charter to be extended to June 29, 2013.

The motion carried unanimously.

9. RECOGNITION OF THE 2009 MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARD RECIPIENT, GAYLE MAGEE, EMPIRE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, CARSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Rheault introduced one of the two 2009 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award recipients, Gayle Magee. He provided background on the Milken Family Foundation award. He stated Ms. Magee is a teacher at Empire Elementary School in Carson City and that her specialty is technology.

Ms. Magee stated she teaches first grade and provided examples of her teaching method with digital cameras. Ms. Magee also reported she teaches fourth and fifth grade after school and explained how she taught robotics.

President Ruggiero thanked Ms. Magee for her presentation and stated it was apparent why Ms. Magee received the award. At this time, President Ruggiero and Dr. Rheault presented Ms. Magee with her award and photos were taken.

Dr. Rheault added that it was an honor for Empire Elementary School to receive this award because the school had also received the Teacher of the Year award last year. He stated the second recipient, Carrie Larson, would be presented with her award during the next meeting in Las Vegas.

10. APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR VARIANCE FROM CLASS SIZE REDUCTION REQUIREMENTS, 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Rheault provided background information on the Class Size Reduction program for new Board members. He stated today's request was for the Board to approve variance requests as listed on page 185 of Board packets. He explained Nevada statutes require count day during the last week in September and that an accurate account of enrollment information needed to be submitted by November 15th therefore, the Board was not able to verify the information under the first meeting in January. He explained differences in class sizes in the Clark County School District and rural areas. Staff recommendation was to approve the variances as listed on page 185 and for Elko County listed on page 198. Dr. Rheault reviewed variances. He noted the state student/teacher ratio was 16:1, but that it was a district-wide average. Nevada statutes also allow class sizes to vary after count day.

Member Chaney asked for clarification that one additional student would be added to every class. Dr. Rheault clarified that was a part of the budget recommendation. He explained a Board variance needed to be requested if class sizes exceeded 16:1 or 17:1 in Clark County.

President Ruggiero requested to know what would happen if the variance was not granted. Dr. Rheault reported school districts would be notified the variance request was denied and that more teacher(s) need be hired to meet the 16:1 ratio, if that was the request of the Board.

Member Chaney asked how many schools were at risk for not making their AYP. Dr. Rheault stated the district average was the only information taken into consideration at the state level.

Member Cook made the following motion, seconded by Vice President Ferry:

That the Nevada State Board of Education approves the variance requests for the 2008-2009 school year.

The motion carried with one opposition from Member Chaney.

Dr. Rheault added Board recommendations regarding class size reduction variances would be presented to the Legislature in a bi-yearly report. He noted the Legislature has not had a disagreement with Board recommendations in the past 18 years, but that the Legislature has had concern with team teaching, therefore, the Legislature has approved that school districts reduce team teaching by 2012.

President Ruggiero requested Member Wilkinson comment on this issue given the fact that he is a teacher in the Clark County School District. Member Wilkinson commented that the 17:1 student/teacher ratio was a good ratio for the district.

13. APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED DATE AND LOCATION FOR THE 2009 BOARD MEETINGS

President Ruggiero explained meeting locations rotated between Carson City and Las Vegas but that, due to the recent economic downturn, video conferencing would be more cost feasible. He suggested there be meetings held at the beginning, middle, and end of the year whereby all Board members attended the meetings in person.

The Board discussed the following possible meeting dates with meetings to begin at 3:30 p.m. on Thursdays and at 8:30 a.m. on Fridays:

Thursday, March 19, 2009 and Friday, March 20, 2009 in Carson City
Thursday, May 7, 2009 and Friday, May 8, 2009 in Carson City (possible video-conference meeting)
Thursday, June 25, 2009 and Friday, June 26, 2009 in Las Vegas (possible video-conference meeting)
Retreat - Thursday, August 13, 2009 and Friday, August 14, 2009 (tentatively)
Thursday, October 8, 2009 and Friday, October 9, 2009 in Las Vegas (video-conference meeting)
Thursday, December 3, 2009 and Friday, December 4, 2009 in Las Vegas (video-conference meeting)

Member Wallace moved to approve the meeting schedule as presented subject to change. Member Wilkinson seconded the Motion. The motion carried.

14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future agenda items include:

- Discussion of forming P-16 Council Committee
- Board member questions to the Governor's Office for further discussion at future meetings

- Charter Schools
- Discussion of an Ethics and Open Meeting Law Training Session
- NIAA Presentation by Eddie Bonin regarding the use of enhancement drugs in sports
- Update on Key Programs in the Assessment Program (May meeting)
- Discussion with the Nevada System of Higher Education regarding the need for remediation after high school

Vice President Ferry suggested agendaizing the “Depth of Knowledge” program. Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services, stated “Depth of Knowledge” was a small portion of the Assessment Program. She suggested an update on key programs within the Assessment Program.

Member Cook suggested agendaizing a discussion regarding the need for remediation for students after high school and why the Clark County School District has reduced their need for remediation for their students.

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comment requests.

Member Chaney thanked staff for Board and Department information during the New Board Member Orientation and stated she was looking forward to working on the Board. Member McKenna seconded Member Chaney’s comments.

Member Bonaventura thanked the Board and Department staff for their support.

Member Biggerstaff introduced Dr. Dotty Merrill, Administrator, Nevada Association of School Boards, to new Board members.

Member Wallace thanked staff for information received during yesterday’s orientation. He stated he was excited about serving on the Board.

Vice President Ferry stated he had no comments to make, but requested that Board Comments be re-instated on future agendas.

Member Wilkinson echoed Board member comments thanking staff for their assistance. He stated he was looking forward to working with the Board as a team.

Member McKenna made the following comment: “Thank you”.

Member Cook stated it was a pleasure to be back on the State Board of Education and that he was looking forward to working with all Board members. He commented that this was an important year and that he hoped the Board would re-gain its former prestige.

President Ruggiero thanked the Board for their support in voting for him as State Board President. He stated this was a good meeting with good discussion between Board members and that he hoped there were more such meetings in the future. He encouraged Board members to find out more information about their appointed subcommittees.

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.