

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

August 12, 2009

Department of Education
9890 South Maryland Parkway
Board Conference Room
Las Vegas, Nevada

MINUTES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON K-12 GOVERNANCE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken McKenna, Chair
Chris Wallace, Member
Dr. Cliff Ferry, Member

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Charlotte Hill, Member (excused)
Willia Chaney, Member (excused)

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction
James Wells, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative and Fiscal Services
Tom McCormack, Consultant, Office of Fiscal Services
Doris Arnold, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Public Instruction
Karen Johansen, Administrative Assistant to the State Board of Education

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. James E. Irvin, Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

None

1. Call to Order; Roll Call

Chairperson Ken McKenna called the Subcommittee on K-12 Governance meeting to order at 4:20 p.m. Roll call was heard and a quorum of three members was determined.

2. Review and possible recommendations by the Subcommittee regarding the governance and oversight of K-12 Education in Nevada to include, but not limited to, a review of: Senate Bill 330, Section 1 of Assembly Bill 505 and ACR 2 from the 2009 Legislative Session.

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction, provided the K-12 Educational Governance Structure flow charts to show the current structure and entities involved in K-12. He spoke about the need to focus on restructuring to improve student achievement. This could be accomplished with a better structure in the State, so teachers work with the principals, the principals work with the school districts and the districts work with the State Board of Education to develop regulations and programs to improve student

achievement. Dr. Rheault highlighted concepts of SB330 that included proposed changes to the structure of State Board of Education, eliminating most of the commissions and councils but retaining the Commission on Professional Standards and appointing the Superintendent's position by the Governor. He further discussed the drastic changes in the final reprint of the bill. Dr. Rheault suggested AB505 be included in the discussion of Governance. The bill addressed working on a better alignment between the K-12 system and Higher Education, requiring the Department and the Chancellor's Office to work together to develop the Career for College and Career Readiness Standards. Dr. Rheault stated the funding for ACR 2 is limited to 4 meetings and that it may not start until January, 2010.

Chairperson Ken McKenna shared an overview of the history of the Legislature and their dissatisfaction with State Board of Education. He explained the flow chart was created to have specific functions in the education system and had become unworkable. He asked, given the current situation, what changes the Board needs to implement in order to be the high functioning center of authority for education in the State of Nevada, and how can the Board effectively interact with the Legislature to improve student achievement?

Member Ferry and Member Wallace continued the discussion about being positive and making strides with the ACR 2 Interim Committee.

Chairperson McKenna asked for public comments of which Craig Stevens, Nevada State Education Association, stated he is happy to work through the process and appreciated being part of the conversation.

Chairperson McKenna stated he would like to make a recommendation on how to be involved with the ACR 2 Interim Committee. He suggested himself, or another Board member, attend as many ACR 2 meetings as possible to interact and be proactive with the members, then report back to the Board. Discussion continued regarding State Boards of Education that are 100% elected, and the fragmentation that occurs between the Board, the Legislature and the Governor's Office. The members agreed that if the ACR 2 Interim Committee does not meet until January, 2010, the Board will have more time to further discuss and formulate recommendations during the October and December meetings.

Student Representative Zhan Okuda-Lim, said he was hoping to bring the State Board, Educational organizations, Legislators, students and student presidents from across the State together in one place to openly discuss the issues and what can be done to improve education. He continued that his platform was Education First and he urged that all parties work cooperatively to achieve that goal.

Chairperson McKenna suggested the Subcommittee take a recommendation before the full Board that in order to improve student achievement in the State of Nevada that we as a Board actively engage with the Subcommittee authorized by Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 2 (ACR 2) Statutory Interim Committee on Education and other relevant Legislative committees, thereby working to achieve the Board model that creates with the concurrent regrouping of the work-arounds into the Board's purview with the ultimate authority, responsibility and accountability of supervising and improving the educational system of Nevada as the central policymaker and becoming experts on models of governance. Member Ferry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comments

Carolyn Edwards, Trustee Board Member of Clark County School District, and Legislative Chairwoman of the Nevada Association of School Boards, said she was thrilled this discussion was occurring and is looking forward to the retreat on Friday, August 14, 2009.

4. Adjournment

Seeing no further business, the Subcommittee on K-12 Governance was adjourned at 5:09 p.m. Thursday.