

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

**December 9, 2010**

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

And

Department of Education  
9890 South Maryland  
Second Floor Conference Room  
Las Vegas Nevada

**MINUTES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHARTER SCHOOLS**  
*(Video Conferenced)*

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**In Las Vegas:**

Jan Biggerstaff, Chair  
Willia Chaney  
Dr. Cliff Ferry

**DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:**

**In Las Vegas:**

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Dr. Steve Canavero, Director, Office of Charter Schools

**In Carson City:**

Tom McCormack, Education Programs Professional, Office of Charter Schools  
Angela Blair, Special Education, Education Programs Professional, Office of Charter Schools  
Allison Kellogg, Management Analyst, Office of Charter Schools  
Karen Johansen, Administrative Assistant to the State Board of Education  
Lori Johnson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Public Instruction

**LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:**

**In Las Vegas:**

Dr. Ed Irvin, Senior Deputy Attorney General  
Robert Whitley, Attorney General

## **AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:**

### **In Carson City:**

Eugene Paslov  
Steve Knight, Director, Silver State High School  
Kathleen Conaboy, K-12 Inc.  
Christina Saenz, Carson City Montessori School

## **CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL**

Chair Biggerstaff called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. with attendance as reflected above.

## **Office of Charter Schools update and possible approval of the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) Principles and Standards.**

Dr. Steve Canavero, Director, Office of Charter Schools, conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding State Board sponsored charter schools and the charter applications processed this year for schools to open in 2011. Discussion included the following points:

- The ten State sponsored charter schools have had a significant increase in enrollment, at approximately 7440 students. Seventy-one percent of the students are enrolled in a distance education program.
- Of the ten charter schools, six have met Adequate Yearly Progress, one is high achieving, one is continued exemplary and two are in need of improvement.
- There are 13 new charter school applicants. Two are active subsection 7 charters, one is recommended for a subsection 7 charter, and two have voluntarily withdrawn. Seven of the applicants are complete and compliant and require action for a subsection 7 charter approval in January.

Dr. Canavero discussed the Office of Charter School's draft Vision, Mission and Goals:

- Vision: To be recognized as a national leader in highly effective charter school authorizing.
- Mission: To foster high-quality public school options offered through state board sponsored charter schools through deliberate authorizing practices that promote successful and innovative educational designs, fiscal soundness, and strong organizational viability.
- Goals:
  - Provide direct service/technical assistance to schools;
  - Act as a coordinated presence for state board charters at NDE;
  - Become a high quality authorizer.

Dr. Canavero gave an update on staff at the Office of Charter Schools. New to the Office are Angela Blair, Special Education, Education Programs Professional and Allyson Kellogg, Management Analyst. Dr. Canavero is currently recruiting for an Accountability Consultant.

Dr. Canavero discussed the Principles and Standards of NACSA, the role of an authorizer and stated Nevada was one of three authorizers to receive an Authorizer Evaluation Grant. He reported a site visit would occur in January by a team from NACSA to benchmark NDE practices against their standards. The team will advise areas where improvement is needed. Dr. Canavero said the results of the Authorizer Evaluative Grant would be presented to the Board in March, which will drive the application for a Strategic Planning Grant.

In response to Member Chaney's inquiry if there is a fee to become a member of NACSA, Dr. Canavero replied the annual membership fee is scaled to the number of schools a state authorizes. Nevada is a small authorizer, and the fee is approximately \$750.00.

Dr. Canavero stated the three primary reasons he brought this information to the Board today are:

- To engage in conversation and share guiding principles that can move charter schools in Nevada forward.
- To assure the Office of Charter Schools and the Subcommittee on Charter Schools share a vision for the future.
- Being a grant recipient of NACSA strengthens Nevada's position for the Charter Office receiving a Program Grant next year.

Dr. Canavero continued to discuss the Principles and Standards of NACSA. Dr. Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction, commented the timing was right to bring this information to the Board and become proactive. He explained after the NACSA report and analysis is complete, results would be brought to the Board for discussion. A decision may be made at that time. It is a systematic way to review that charter schools are completing what is required of them for renewals. There are 17 charter schools in Nevada in addition to 10 that are sponsored by the State Board. The objective is to ensure charter schools are operating effectively and students are learning.

Discussion continued.

Chair Biggerstaff asked, what is the purpose of the Board adopting the Principles and Standards of NACSA? Dr. Canavero responded the purpose is to improve instruction, to have high quality schools that excel in academic achievement with strong operational controls.

The members of the Subcommittee on Charter Schools decided to have further discussion after they receive the results from the NACSA report.

#### **Possible Approval of Summerlin Preparatory Academy Subsection 7 Charter**

Dr. Canavero stated Summerlin Preparatory Academy is seeking a subsection 7 charter in Las Vegas. It will serve grades K-5 with approximately 200 students. Their application was originally submitted and denied, and then was resubmitted again in July 2010. They are now deemed complete and compliant. Dr. Canavero said the recommendation is to approve a subsection 7 charter.

**Member Chaney moved to bring the recommendation for an Approval of a Subsection 7 Charter issued pursuant to NRS 386.727 for Summerlin Preparatory Academy to the full Board. Member Ferry seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

#### **Board Comment**

Dr. Rheault reported seven charter school applications will be coming to the Subcommittee on Charter Schools in January, and it will be important to have a quorum.

Chair Biggerstaff stated she is concerned about unscrupulous Educational Management Organizations (EMO) descending on the State. She requested the NDE and the Office of Charter Schools investigate common practices in authorizing EMO's around the country and bring a reasonable

recommendation to the March meeting on restricting the predatory practices of EMO's for charters or recommendations on how charter schools can be made aware of past practices of EMO's.

Chair Biggerstaff asked about the progress of charter schools that were incomplete and noncompliant at the October meeting. Dr. Canavero responded the schools were following up and making corrections where possible.

There was no Public Comment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.