

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

Friday, January 26, 2011

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 REGULAR MEETING
(Video Conferenced)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Willia Chaney, Member
Craig Wilkinson, Clerk

In Carson City:

Chris Wallace, President
Dave Cook, Vice President
Gloria Bonaventura, Member
Willia Chaney, Member
Staven Corbett, Member
Cliff Dr. Ferry, Member
Adriana Fralick, Member
Sandy Metcalf, Member
Annie Yvette Wilson, Member
Zhan Okuda-Lim, Student Representative

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Carson City:

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services
Dr. Steve Canavero, Director, Office of Charter Schools
Tom Mc Cormack, Education Programs Professional, Office of Charter Schools
Allison Kellogg, Management Analyst, Office of Charter Schools
Angela Blair, Special Education, Education Programs Professional, Office of Charter Schools

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Robert Whitney, Deputy Attorney General

In Carson City:

Ed Irvin, Senior Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Las Vegas:

Heidi Arbuckle, Clark County School District
Latoyshia Parson-Bass, Willie H. Brooks SOAR Academy
Wendi Jensen, Somerset Academy
Andrew Platt, Renaissance Academy
Dave Price, Discovery Charter School
Tami Bass, Willie H. Brooks SOAR Academy
Kassandra Berger, Discovery Charter School
Hanifi Ogus, Coral Academy of Science
Kristine Miller, Committee to Form, Imagine Schools at Mountain View
Richard Boulware, Willie H. Brooks SOAR Academy
George Burns, Imagine Schools at Mountain View
Ralph Balland, Clark County
Nicole Rourke, Clark County School District
Dan Tafoya, Office of Charter Schools, Clark County School District

In Carson City:

Dr. Mary Ann Demchak, Vice Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) University of Reno
Gail DellaVedova, Parent
Melissa Mackedon, Oasis Academy
Heidi Gansert, Chief of Staff, Governor's Office
Willow Eissinger, Carson Montessori
Feyzi Tandogan, Executive Director, Coral Academy of Science
Fatih Ozer, Liaison, Coral Academy of Science
Mike Kazek, Nevada Virtual Academy
Mark Brandon, Liaison, Imagine Schools at Mountain View
Kimberly Maxson Rushton, Legal Counsel, Imagine Schools at Mountain View

CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Wallace called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. with attendance as reflected above.

Election of Officers

Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent of Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services conducted the election of officers.

- **President - Member Cook nominated President Wallace as the 2011 Nevada State Board of Education President. Hearing no further nominations, Member Ferry moved to close the nomination. Member Metcalf seconded the nomination. The nomination carried unanimously.**

- **Vice President - Member Wilkinson nominated Member Cook as the 2011 Nevada State Board of Education Vice President. Hearing no further nominations, President Wallace moved to close the nomination. Member Bonaventura seconded the motion. The nomination carried unanimously.**
- **Clerk - President Wallace nominated Member Wilkinson as the 2011 Nevada State Board of Education Clerk. Hearing no further nominations, Member Chaney moved to close the nomination. President Wallace seconded the motion. The nomination carried unanimously.**

Member Chaney moved to approve a flexible agenda. Member Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried.

President's Report

Member Ferry reported on his current health status and stated he is looking forward to working with the Nevada State Board of Education the next four years.

Approval of Consent Agenda

The Board approved the following Consent Agenda Items:

- A. Minutes:
 - December 9-10, 2010 Regular Meeting
- B. WestEd Appointments
 - Dwight Jones (to replace Walt Rulffes, thru 5/31/12)
 - Dr. Cliff Dr. Ferry (to replace Jan Biggerstaff, thru 5/31/11)
- C. Appointments to the Title I Committee of Practitioners
 - Karen Barreras - Private Schools
 - Brian Mello - Vocational Educator
- D. Appointment of the following Nominees to fill the current vacancies on the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
 - Karen Taycher - OSEP Funded State Parent Training Information Center (currently Nevada PEP)
 - Yvonne Brueggert - Office of Protection and Advocacy Agency (currently Nevada Disability Advocacy Law Center)
- E. Remaining .2 of a gifted and talented discretionary unit to the Washoe County School District
- F. 2011-2018 Elementary and Secondary Textbook adoption list adding Carson City School District Elementary Science Textbooks.

Member Cook moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Member Fralick seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Report from the Governor's Office

Heidi Gansert, Chief of Staff, Governor Sandoval's office reported on the Governor's reform agenda that he spoke about during his State-of-the-State address. Some of the topics included block grants, ending teacher tenure, assuring students can read by the end of third grade, strengthening the charter school system, looking at a voucher program in schools and changing the structure of the Board of Education. Governor Sandoval supports a governor appointed Superintendent of Public Instruction as well as changing the structure of the State Board.

Student Representative Okuda-Lim stated he is worried that budget cuts to education will prevent further progress and cause Nevada to regress. Over the past few years, Nevada has made gains in reading, math and writing. The education system will face tough times due to class size increases and losing efficient teachers because Nevada is not able to pay adequate wages. Student Okuda-Lim stated he sent a packet to

the governor with a video about the Campaign For Our Future he organized with students across the state showing their concern about education and their future in Nevada.

Ms Gansert said we all want the best for the students in the State, and we know we can do better. It is time to make significant reforms so the next generation of students has greater opportunities.

Approval of Request for Variance from Class Size Reduction Requirements, 2010-2011 School Year
Ms. Dopf informed the Board that Dr. Rheault was at the Legislature this morning presenting the Distributive School Account and the Department of Education Budgets. In his behalf, Ms. Dopf provided an overview and background information on the state requirements for Class Size Reduction. She explained statute authorizing class size reduction indicates that school districts follow the class size figures set by specific grade levels. If the average is exceeded, the request to exceed with a variance will come before the State Board of Education. The class size figures for first grade are 18-1, second grade 18-1 and third grade 21-1 or a variance needs to be requested. Ms. Dopf detailed the 2010-2011 school year summaries of requests for variance from regular class-size reduction requirements, per NRS 388.700-710.

Member Fralick asked what occurs if the variances are not approved? Ms. Dopf responded that to comply with the law; the districts would have to meet the variations causing them a financial burden. In the past, the variances have been approved; because they are not egregiously over the tolerances.

Member Wilkinson commented that class sizes started at 15 students, but they have steadily climbed. He asked what is the cap, adding two or three students in a classroom makes a huge difference.

Ms. Dopf explained the Legislature sets the cap and tolerances, and they were never funded at 15-1, which was only a target. Funding has been cut in the school districts, and they cannot be asked to serve students without supplemental funds to reduce the class sizes.

Member Cook moved to approve the requests for variance from Class Size Reduction Requirements, 2011-2011 school year. Member Corbett seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Discussion of Special Education Advisory Committee Annual Report

Dr. MaryAnn Demchak, Vice-Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) reported on fiscal year 2010. The SEAC committee, mandated by federal law and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), serves as an advisory group to the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) and the State Board of Education.

Dr. Demchak listed the broad representation of members in SEAC. She commended the Special Education staff at the NDE, and recognized the importance of their support, especially Rorie Fitzpatrick, Director of Special Education, to SEAC.

Dr. Demchak noted there are five specific charges of the committee:

1. Advise the State educational agency of unmet needs within the State of children with disabilities.
2. Comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities.
3. Advise the State educational agency in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under section 618.
4. Advise the State educational agency in developing correction plans to address findings identified in Federal monitoring reports under this part.
5. Advise the State educational agency in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities.

During fiscal year 2010, SEAC held four meetings. Dr. Demchak's report includes the action, discussion and status that occurred for each action in the meetings.

Member Chaney asked how difficult has it been for SEAC to meet the needs of children with disabilities due to the economy. Dr. Demchak responded her question is addressed in the report. All due process copies and complaint reports are received by SEAC. If a student is not receiving services mandated, families have procedural safeguards to follow. The school districts are obligated to inform parents of their rights in an understandable way. She added Nevada does not receive many reports of student needs not being met.

Member Bonaventure inquired about the difficulty of finding employment for special education students after they graduate from high school.

Dr. Demchak replied the process is opening up by electronic communication, such as text messages and emails, to help track students regarding employment and post secondary education options.

Member Bonaventura asked what services are available for students with disabilities who are in prison. Dr. Demchak replied teachers are hired by the prison to provide services for students with disabilities who are incarcerated. Under the law, education is provided until graduation or until the age of 22. A student is entitled to an education provided by a licensed special education teacher through the prison system, if they are incarcerated, under the age of 22, and have not graduated from high school.

Action from Recommendations made by the Subcommittee on Charter Schools for a possible Subsection 7 Charter for Discovery Charter School.

Member Ferry reported the Subcommittee on Charter Schools unanimously approved to recommend a Subsection 7 Charter for Discovery Charter to the full board.

Dr. Canavero explained the process of receiving the applications for the benefit of new members. The charter school applications may be submitted once, at any time during a fiscal year. The most common time to receive the applications is the week prior to the deadline, September 1. Once the application is submitted to the NDE, 30 days is allowed to review the contents and deem it complete and compliant or incomplete and non-compliant. The NDE provides the liaison from Committee to Form with a letter of findings. They have 30 days to correct the application and re-submit following provided guidelines. Once the revised application is received, NDE has 30 days to make a final determination as to the completeness and compliance of the application. At the end of the review, NDE sends a letter of report to the liaison with the final assessment of completeness and compliance. All the charters here today are for subsection 7 charters, and it is common to approve applicants that are not ready to commence operation. The single most common provision for issuing a subsection 7 is a lack of a facility, which is true for all the applicants today.

Dr. Canavero explained NRS386.525 was recently changed to provide the Subcommittee on Charter Schools and the State Board with discretion when reviewing the charter application. The change was made in recognition that a complete and compliant application does not provide a thorough and rigorous evaluation of a potential school's merit. Additional information today is submitted for consideration based on NAC 386.203, which provides the NDE with authority to add additional information for the Subcommittee in the review of the applications

Member Cook disclosed that he is a part-time math instructor for Beacon Academy Charter School, sponsored by the State Board of Education and he will not discuss or vote on the item.

Dave Price, Committee to Form, representing the application, stated with an approval today they can move forward and locate a facility for an exciting project.

In response to Member Wilson's inquiry if at-risk students can enroll in the school, Mr. Price said they are encouraged to enroll. He added it is important for students to team with parental involvement, role models and mentors at the school.

Dr. Canavero said their application states they are not distance education, not primarily for at-risk students, and not vocational education.

The Subcommittee on Charter Schools moved to approve a Subsection 7 Charter for Discovery Charter School. The motion carried. Member Cook abstained.

Action from Recommendations made by the Subcommittee on Charter Schools for a possible Subsection 7 Charter for Oasis Academy Charter School.

Member Ferry reported the Subcommittee on Charter Schools unanimously approved to recommend a Subsection 7 Charter for Oasis Academy Charter School to the full board.

Dr. Canavero stated the school is located in Churchill County, serving grades K-8, and they plan to open in August 2011 with a projected enrollment of 255 students. They are not contracted with an Education Management Organization (EMO). Oasis Academy Charter School is not distance education, not identified for at-risk and not vocational education.

Melissa Mackedon, Liaison, Committee to Form, Oasis Academy, stated the school focus is project-based learning. Students will remain with the same teacher for multiple years in the core areas of reading and mathematics and will have an extended school year.

Member Cook disclosed that he is a part-time math instructor for Beacon Academy Charter School, sponsored by the State Board of Education and he will not discuss or vote on the item.

The Subcommittee on Charter Schools moved to approve a Subsection 7 Charter for Oasis Academy Charter School. The motion carried. Member Chaney was absent for the vote. Member Cook abstained.

Action from Recommendations made by the Subcommittee on Charter Schools for a possible Subsection 7 Charter for Renaissance Academy Charter School

Member Ferry reported the Subcommittee on Charter Schools unanimously approved to recommend a Subsection 7 Charter for Oasis Academy Charter School to the full board.

Member Ferry stated Renaissance Academy is located in Clark County for at-risk youth, and it is a distance education program. Their projected enrollment is 750 students for grades K-12. The curriculum will be provided by K-12 Inc, which provides online curriculums throughout the country. Plans include a laptop for each student.

Member Cook disclosed that he is a part-time math instructor for Beacon Academy Charter School, sponsored by the State Board of Education and he will not discuss or vote on the item

Andrew Platt, Committee to Form, Renaissance Academy, said they are excited to bring K-12 Inc online curriculum to at-risk students that have non-traditional lives. He stated a key advantage of on-line education is the accurate assessment of students who are struggling. Teachers will have regular follow-up with students and their parents. On-line curriculum works very well for self-paced learning.

The Subcommittee on Charter Schools moved to approve a Subsection 7 Charter for Renaissance Academy Charter School. The motion carried. Member Cook abstained.

Action from Recommendations made by the Subcommittee on Charter Schools for a possible Subsection 7 Charter for Somerset Academy of Las Vegas Charter School

Member Ferry reported the Subcommittee on Charter Schools unanimously approved to recommend a Subsection 7 Charter for Summerset Academy Charter School to the full board.

Member Ferry stated the school will be located in Clark County serving K-4 and expanding to K-8 and plans to open in August 2011 with a projected enrollment is 125 students for the first year. The school is a replication of the Somerset Academy Charter School that has schools operating in Florida and Texas. They contract with an EMO, Academica Nevada, for educational services.

Member Cook disclosed that he is a part-time math instructor for Beacon Academy Charter School, sponsored by the State Board of Education and he will not discuss or vote on the item.

Wendy Jensen, Committee to Form, Somerset Academy explained they will affiliate with the Somerset Academy Charter Schools in Florida. Miami Dade County is similar in size to Clark County, and they believe their model will fit well in Las Vegas. The school will require a commitment from the parents of students to volunteer 30 service hours a year helping to create a community where parents will be very involved in the school.

The Subcommittee on Charter Schools moved to approve a Subsection 7 Charter for Somerset Academy Charter School. The motion carried. Member Cook abstained.

Action from Recommendations made by the Subcommittee on Charter Schools for a possible Subsection 7 Charter for Willie H. Brooks of Las Vegas Charter School

Member Ferry reported the Subcommittee on Charter Schools unanimously approved to recommend a Subsection 7 Charter for Willie H. Brooks Soar Charter School to the full board.

Member Ferry stated the school will be located in Clark County serving grades 6-8 with possible expansion to grade 9, and an anticipated enrollment of 240 students. This application is for at-risk young men only.

Member Cook disclosed that he is a part-time math instructor for Beacon Academy Charter School, sponsored by the State Board of Education and he will not discuss or vote on the item.

Richard Boulware, Committee to Form, Willie H. Brooks Soar Academy Charter School stated he supports this school for male students that have been left behind and need special attention. Many young men come into the criminal justice system and it then becomes difficult for them to become productive members of society. This school is created to intervene in the lives of men who have come to the attention of school authorities and need assistance. Community involvement is important to support these young men. Mr. Boulware said we will support them, believe in them and we want them to believe in themselves.

The Subcommittee on Charter Schools moved to approve a Subsection 7 Charter for Willie H. Brooks SOAR Academy Charter School. The motion carried. Member Cook abstained

Action from Recommendations made by the Subcommittee on Charter Schools for a possible Subsection 7 Charter for Coral Academy of Science Charter School - Carson City

Member Ferry reported the Subcommittee on Charter Schools unanimously denied recommendation of a Subsection 7 Charter for Coral Academy of Science Charter School to the full board.

Member Ferry stated a Coral Academy of Science Charter School is located in Reno and Las Vegas, and they are successful schools. This applicant is a separate school with a separate governing board. However, Coral Academy is a connected school with troublesome fiscal concerns.

Dr. Canavero explained NRS 386.525 states when a charter application is denied the State Board will include in the written notice the reason for denial and the deficiencies in the written notice. The applicant is granted 30 days after receipt of the written notice to correct deficiencies identified in the notice and re-submit the application. The application to form Coral Academy of Science-Carson City seeks to replicate an existing charter school program in Reno and Las Vegas. Based on principals and standards of the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA), a charter school applicant who is an existing school operator should provide clear evidence of their capacity to operate new schools successfully while maintaining quality in existing schools. In question is the ability of Coral Academy to scale their model to three sites in a fiscally responsible manner. Examining the history of Coral's replication provides context to the Subcommittees recommendation.

Member Cook disclosed that he is a part-time math instructor for Beacon Academy Charter School, sponsored by the State Board of Education and he will not discuss or vote on the item.

Fatih Ozer, Liaison, Coral Academy of Science stated a large group of parents contacted Coral Academy of Science to open a school in Carson City. An application submitted on September 1, 2010 was deemed incomplete and non-compliant. The issues were corrected, the application resubmitted and then deemed complete and compliant, including a portion on the budget. Mr. Ozer explained the Carson City school is a separate entity and has no connection to the Las Vegas school's budget and he has no knowledge of their budget. The only financial connection between the Reno and Las Vegas schools is a consultant worked for both Coral Academies, and his fees were paid by both schools. He stated Coral Academy had a balanced budget last year despite a seven percent budget cut.

The Subcommittee on Charter Schools moved to deny a Subsection 7 Charter for Coral Academy of Sciences Charter School. The motion carried. Member Cook abstained

Action from Recommendations made by the Subcommittee on Charter Schools for a possible Subsection 7 Charter for Imagine School at Mountain View Charter School

Member Ferry stated Imagine School at Mountain View is located in Clark County serving grades K-8, starting with K-2 and planning to increase at a future date. They plan to open August 2011 with a projected enrollment of 286 students. They are not distance education, not primarily for at-risk youth and not vocational education.

The Department's recommendation was to deny the application because there has been two consecutive years of dissatisfaction and negative views regarding the EMO at Imagine School in the Valle. A packet of letters and documents that was part of the application was not received by the Subcommittee or staff yesterday. The Subcommittee decided to not make a recommendation for the application until the packet is available for discussion with the full board today.

Dr. Canavero reviewed the report on the Mountain View. The Committee to Form Imagine School at Mountain View intends to contract with Imagine Schools, Inc for services in a manner nearly identical to Imagine School in the Valle. Because the applicant intends to contract for services with an EMO already serving schools in Nevada, evidence of the EMO's performance should be examined. NAC 386.405 (5) requires a plan of corrective action if the EMO is not performing in a satisfactory manner. For school years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010, three of the five areas evaluated of the EMO performance did not met the standards and expectations of the job. The governing body of Imagine School in the Valle requested Imagine School, Inc to respond with a corrective action plan for the areas of unsatisfactory performance. The recommendation to not approve the application is grounded in the desire to see Imagine Schools Inc serve those schools where the governing body chooses to contract with Imagine Schools, consistent with the governing body expectations, prior to approving another school that intends to engage with this EMO's services.

Member Wilkinson disclosed he has a connection to 100 Black Men who mentor at Wendell Wilson Elementary school where he is a teacher. He said that should not affect his voting on the issue.

In response to Member Chaney's inquiry if Imagine School in the Valle made the requested corrective actions for 2009-2010, Dr. Canavero replied NDE would not know until they receive the evaluation in June 2011.

Member Cook disclosed that he is a part-time math instructor for Beacon Academy Charter School, sponsored by the State Board of Education and he will not discuss or vote on the item.

Member Chaney commented it is unfair to make a decision without all the information. It is not known if corrective action was taken at Imagine School in the Valle and that is a different school than Mountain View, whose application is complete and compliant. Their curriculum and record of accomplishment is good and she added the application should be considered for approval. Dr. Irvin reminded the State Board that they passed regulations that include considering the performance related to EMO's and the processes described to Dr. Canavero.

Further discussion occurred.

Ms. Dopf clarified that the evaluation referenced earlier is between the governing body and the EMO. The access to the evaluation is through the governing body upon request; it is not forwarded to the NDE. The NDE does not monitor the corrective action between the governing body and the EMO.

Mark Brandon, Liaison, Imagine Schools at Mountain View Charter School, stated it is important to note the Committee to Form is not blind to the issues raised by the NDE. They met with Imagine Governing Boards and had discussions with administrators and parents as an informed committee. Mr. Brandon said they are confident that Imagine Inc is a suitable EMO. Their application is substantially complete and compliant; the only concern raised is an evaluation of one school due to a breakdown in communication between the board and a former Imagine Inc representative. The Committee has discussed, deliberated and determined that Imagine Inc is the right fit for their school.

George Burns, Committee to Form, Imagine School at Mountain View, said the Committee to Form has met numerous times and it is very comfortable with Imagine Inc. He added he has worked with budgets for 20 years and was responsible for the budget financial plan for Mountain View. The budget is based on the numbers from Imagine School in the Valle because they are following that model.

Kristine Miller, Committee to Form, Imagine Schools at Mountain View stated she has been an active participant from the beginning, making bylaws, mission statements and attending Charter School Alliance workshops and trainings. Imagine Inc sponsors yearly trainings where governing boards train on the philosophy of Imagine Inc. The governing board and Imagine Inc have a common goal, educating Nevada students through encouraging, motivating, training and teaching the students to become productive members of the community.

Kimberly Maxson Rushton, Legal Counsel, Committee to Form stated that at no time has Imagine Inc committed a violation of their contract with a public school. The evaluation completed by Imagine School in the Valle indicates a need for better communication. The EMO provided a substantive response regarding the evaluation, and since then has worked with Imagine School in Valle to develop a new campus with a possible expansion. She asked the board to consider the poor evaluation of Valle is not grounds for denial of the application for Imagine School at Mountain View. There are 40,000 students attending Imagine schools in the United States, 900 in Nevada, receiving positive educational experience.

Member Chaney moved to approve the application for a Subsection 7 Charter for Imagine Schools at Mountain View. Member Corbett seconded the motion. The motion carried. Member Cook abstained.

Approval of the proposed dates and location for the 2011 State Board Meetings

President Wallace discussed the proposed dates for the 2011 State Board Meetings. All meetings will be video conferenced and board members will be available in both Carson City and Las Vegas.

- March 17-18, 2011 (Thursday and Friday)
- May 12-13, 2011 (Thursday and Friday)
- June 23-24, 2011 (Thursday and Friday)
- August 10-12, 2011 (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)
- October 6-7, 2011 (Thursday and Friday)
- December 8-9, 2011 (Thursday and Friday)

Member Metcalf moved to approve the proposed 2011 dates for the State Board meetings. Member Bonaventura seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction, reported on recent meetings he attended with Governor Sandoval, as well as recent budget related meetings he attended. He met with former chancellor of the Washington D. C. School District, Michelle Rhee at a meeting with Governor Sandoval. Dr. Rheault said they discussed Governor Sandoval's education plan that includes a proposal that school districts be given a letter grade on how well they are performing as well as progression toward growth models for the school districts. In response to Governor Sandoval inquiring if Average Yearly Progress (AYP) will be discontinued, Dr. Rheault responded it is still a federal mandate to report AYP.

Discussion of Governor's recommended Budget and 2011 Legislative Session Education Bills including but not limited to Senate Bill 11 (SB11), Senate Bill 14 (SB14), Senate Bill 39 (SB39)

Dr. Rheault gave details on a legislative budget meeting he attended earlier in the day that included all the budgets for the Department of Education. The Distributive School Account (DSA) and three pass-thru budgets, including state programs were discussed first, and then the remaining 17 budgets were discussed. The NDE combined with K-12, receives the largest funding in the state, and 155 employees at the NDE receive .83 percent of total state funding and a total of the \$10 million in funding for operations.

The discussion included what the accurate budget reduction percentage might be for education. Another discussion included creative funding to meet requirements by taking capital expenditure reserves at the school district level to offset loss of state money. The block grant program that includes non-categorical funding described as flexible money school districts can use to meet requirements that include class size, gifted and talented and kindergarten was addressed. The block grant flexibility is still in a conceptual form in the Governor's office. Dale Erquiaga, Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor suggested meeting at the NDE with school district superintendents in the near future to discuss the pros and cons, and what is workable with block grants, to bring to the Legislature.

Dr. Rheault reviewed three Legislative Bills. Senate Bill 11 is a Clark County School District bill that revises the distributive school account. Currently, per pupil spending is the same for all students. This bill introduces the concept of weighted per pupil enrollment for certain categories of students, smaller school districts and schools. Students would need to be counted as special education, English as a second language, Title I, gifted or career tech students. Students cannot be counted in more than one category.

Senate Bill 14 is a Senate Youth Legislature bill. Student Representative Okuda-Lim, Chairman, Nevada Youth Legislature stated he gave a presentation on SB14 at the same December Board meeting the Board adopted the Common Core standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics. Youth Legislators are

concerned that teachers may not know the best methods to teach to the adopted standards. Senate Bill 14 requests the NDE and State Board to draft model curricula for grades K-12 in English Language Arts and Mathematics and then teachers would use the model curricula to draft their lesson plans and teach to the standards.

Dr. Rheault said the Legislature will be looking for direction and leadership from the State Board regarding SB39. It is a Washoe County bill and there will be additional, similar bills the Board will be able to review. Teacher tenure and dismissing ineffective teachers is addressed in the bill. It is anticipated there will be a great deal of discussion regarding teacher tenure and revising provisions governing the probationary periods of teachers and administrators. Similar bills will also include determining how much of a teacher's evaluation will be based on student achievement.

Approval of Board Strategies, Engagement/Tactics and Policy/Tactics

Ms. Dopf explained the Board adopted a Vision and Mission statement along with six Goals during their August retreat. After the goals were adopted, the Board began to identify strategies that would move the goals forward. A draft document was compiled by staff on behalf of the board to identify strategies and create a discussion of tactics, which are specific to the strategy. It was decided at the December board meeting that new board members be given an opportunity to review the draft document and determine if they are in agreement with the strategies and tactics to carry out the Vision, Mission and Goals.

Member Wilkinson move to approve the Board Strategies, Engagement/Tactics and Policy/Tactics. Member Cook seconded the motion. The motion carried. Member Stavan was absent for the vote.

Process to consider a non-voting, ex-officio/liaison position to the State Board of Education designated for a Nevada Board of Regents representative.

President Wallace suggested moving forward with a discussion to consider a non-voting, ex-officio/liaison position on the State Board of Education for a Nevada Board of Regents Representative, and for the State Board to reciprocate with a State Board ex-officio Liaison for seamless K-20 communication.

Member Cook made a motion to move forward with discussions to consider an ex-officio liaison position to the State Board. Member Bonaventura moved to second the motion. The motion carried.

Future Agenda Items

Member Bonaventura requested an overview of the Special Education Department. Member Okuda-Lim requested the Board formally adopt a position on SB14. Member Corbett suggested inviting Governor Sandoval, the Majority and Minority Leaders and the Education Chairs of the Assembly and Senate Committees to speak at the March board meeting.

Public Comment

Steve Knight, Director, Silver State Charter School and Board Member of Carson City Montessori updated the Board about Silver State Charter School purchasing property for their school. Mr. Knight reminded the Board that Charter Schools have limited ability to cut costs. About 85 percent of funding is in salaries, 10 percent is in renting facilities and the rest in operational costs. He stated the Carson City school population is down 300 students, it already has two Charter Schools, and he cautioned about opening too many Charter Schools in a community during a flat economy.

Board Comment

Member Wilkinson congratulated the new board members and said he was looking forward to working with them in the next two years.

Member Chaney shared the same sentiments and welcomed the new board members.

Member Wilson and Member Metcalf thanked the Board for the welcome

Member Corbett said he is looking forward to working with each board member.

Student Representative Okuda-Lim welcomed the new board members. He explained the process of how the Student Representative is selected for the State Board. The representative comes from the Nevada Association of Student Councils, by first being a member, then being elected by his peers. Okuda-Lim was re-elected for a second term and his last board meeting will be May 2011.

Member Cook welcomed the new board members and said he was happy with the process today.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.