

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

September 7, 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 SPECIAL MEETING
(Video & Audio Conferenced)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Chris Wallace, President
Willia Chaney, Member
Stavan Corbett, Member
Adriana Fralick, Member
Sandy Metcalf, Member
Craig Wilkinson, Clerk
Annie Wilson, Member
Daniela Sanchez, Student Representative

In Carson City:

Dave Cook, Vice President

Teleconferenced:

Adriana Fralick, Member
Cliff Ferry, Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Gloria Bonaventura, Member

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Carson City:

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Donnell Barton, Interim Deputy Superintendent of Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services
Rorie Fitzpatrick, Director, Office of Special Education, Elementary and Secondary Education and School Improvement Programs
Karen Johansen, Assistant to the State Board of Education
Lori Johnson, Executive Assistant, Superintendent of Public Instruction

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

In Carson City:

Dr. Ed Irvin, Senior Deputy Attorney General

In Las Vegas:

Robert Whitney, Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Las Vegas:

Terri Janison, Director of Community Relations, Office of the Governor's
Peter Petersen, Intern, Office of the Governor's
Gladys Pecinos, Parent Teachers Association
Craig Stevens, Nevada State Education Association
Sebring Frehner, Student Body President, Nevada State College, NSCNSSA
Yvette Williams, Clark County Black Caucus
Melody Nelson, Clark County Black Caucus

In Carson City:

Lindsay Knox, McDonald Carano Wilson Law Firm
Peggy Lear Bowen, Former State Board of Education Member

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

President Wallace called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m., with attendance as reflected above. There was no public comment.

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

Discussion of selection criteria and job description for the new appointment of the Superintendent of Public Instruction that the State Board of Education members will recommend to the Governor's office.

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction provided information regarding the selection criteria for the next Superintendent of Public Instruction. He discussed Florida's criteria for Commissioner of Education with the Board and pointed out that many of Governor Sandoval's priorities for the next Superintendent were implemented in the Florida recruitment.

Member Corbett commented using the Florida application is a good foundation to begin the conversation. He suggested the selection of the next Superintendent should be a community-

engaged process and he would like feedback from members of the community including stakeholder groups.

Member Wilson said she would like the next Superintendent to work closely with local school districts.

Member Cook agreed with Member Corbett's suggestion but said he was concerned there was not enough time available to receive community input. Dr. Rheault reminded the Board that during the August meeting, Dale Erquiaga, Senior Advisor, Office of the Governor, stated he wanted to have the application developed and ready by October 1, 2011, which is why this meeting to receive recommendations was scheduled today.

Member Corbett asked if there would be an opportunity to hold community meetings and provide additional feedback after October 1. President Wallace suggested the Board provide their recommended qualifications and criteria for the next Superintendent by October 1, and hold meetings with the public to develop interview questions that may be heard later.

Member Cook asked if finalizing a draft document listing qualifications for possible approval at the October 6-7, 2011, board meeting fits the timeline. President Wallace responded there should be enough time to solicit comments from stakeholders and the public, and then adopt the final recommended qualifications at the October board meeting.

Member Metcalf stated she thought it was a good idea to include related NRS 385.150 in the qualifications. Member Fralick and Member Ferry disconnected from the audio conference due to inadequate audio.

Member Metcalf moved to combine qualifications from the Florida search criteria with NRS 385.150 through NRS 385.250 and board member suggestions including public input as basis for the application for the next Superintendent. Member Chaney seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Discussion and possible approval of a liaison(s) from the State Board of Education to the Governor's office for the selection of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

Member Cook nominated President Wallace to be the liaison from the State Board of Education to work with the Governor's office in the search effort for the next Superintendent of Public Instruction. Member Corbett nominated Member Wilson as an alternate liaison. The nominations were approved.

President Wallace announced that Governor Sandoval appointed Teri Janison, Director of Community Relations, Southern Nevada's Office of the Governor as liaison to the search effort for the next Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Discussion and possible approval of a liaison(s) from the State Board of Education to the State Improvement Plan Revision Committee to include a five year strategic plan

President Wallace recommended appointing two liaisons to the State Improvement Plan Revision Committee and he nominated Member Cook from Northern Nevada. Member Metcalf nominated Member Corbett from Southern Nevada. The nominations were approved.

Dr. Rheault informed the appointed liaisons that new materials would be drafted and developed this fall. The Advisory Group will be organized by early November with meetings to follow.

Discussion regarding the October 6-7, 2011 State Board of Education Meeting

The Board agreed to hold a one-day regular meeting on Friday, October 7, 2011.

Public Comment

Terri Janison, Director of Community Relations, Office of the Governor, stated she was happy to accept the responsibility to work with the Board as the liaison for the Superintendent search. As former President of the Clark County School District, she assisted in their search for Superintendent. She introduced Peter Peterson, who is a political science major at UNLV and an intern in their office. He has agreed to help with administrative tasks. Ms. Janison said she appreciates the process will be open and transparent with community input. She added the Governor's office will not be meeting with any potential candidates and recommended the board do the same in an effort to remain clear and transparent.

Craig Stevens, Nevada State Education Association, read comments for the record:

NSEA believes that our next State Superintendent must not only be a respected voice for public education, but must be an outstanding advocate for all the public schools in Nevada. Nevada's next Superintendent must speak for all communities within the system and do it with character and honesty.

As this state begins the search for its new head of the public school system, NSEA wishes to encourage the State Board to be as inclusive as possible when it comes to who is doing the search. Don't just ask for the opinions of the local Superintendents and their elected boards. We ask that you include not just the administration of our schools but the educators themselves as to what they seek in their leader

NSEA is happy to have had a great working relationship with the previous Superintendents of this state, and look forward to that continuing in the future. It is our hope that NSEA be included in the group, committee, or whatever mechanism you use to search out candidates, as all community interests should be heard and have a seat at the table. I firmly believe that this important first step is critical to ensure that all parties have buy-in to the changes that must occur within our state's borders.

NSEA represents nearly 28,000 education employees throughout the state and can be a great resource as to what educators are looking for in a new Superintendent. While the decision should not be based solely on what educators think, it is important that the education community pull together in order to decide the future of our state.

Education reform will be a major topic when it comes to who will lead our public schools after Dr. Rheault retires. This Board needs to insure that only candidates Who will advocate for both kids and educator should be considered. Education is about collaboration, choosing the next Superintendent should be no different. Whoever is Nevada's next Superintendent, they will face some severe political challenges. This board must use every resource available to find the person who

can best navigate these waters, to use their knowledge, skills, and influence to bring all parties together in order to improve our public schools. What better way to start this process than to bring all interested parties together to find this individual. While it is true the Governor may choose who the next Superintendent is, this Board can make sure that candidates have the proper background, collaborative skills and temperament for the job. However, I stress, this search should not be made alone. Teachers, support professionals, parents, and all interested parties should have the responsibility of finding the best candidate possible.

NSEA is always available to participate in such an endeavor, and I am here today, to let you know this, in a public forum, that we very much would like to participate in whatever way this Board deems appropriate.

Yvette Williams, Caucus Chair, Clark County Black Caucus, said she wanted to show support and weigh in on behalf of their 400 members and the challenges and disparities of underperforming schools in Clark County. She said she also serves on the Clark County Superintendents Education Opportunity Advisory Committee and has had the chance to look at the challenges the district has faced over the years. Ms. Williams expressed hope this is another door opening for children who are facing disparity and not getting quality education.

Gladys Recinos, State Member of Nevada PTA, said she wanted to show support and include input from the membership of 19,000 parents in their organization. She asked if the requirements being considered for the qualifications for the next Superintendent would be made available to the public before the meeting. President Wallace stated they would be available in the October Board Packet posted on the NDE website prior to the October 7, 2011 board meeting.

Sebring Frehner, Student Body President, Nevada State College, and founding board member of the Capitol Club: Nevada Student Coalition for K-12 and Higher Ed Students, encouraged the Board to be transparent and open, and to work with community groups in the search effort for the next Superintendent. He said he has observed communities, parents and stakeholder groups become more involved in Nevada's education system and added their participation in the Superintendent search is critical to improve education in Nevada.

Peggy Bowen, Former State Board of Education Member, stated she is concerned about actions of the Nevada Legislature at the request of the Governor regarding the composition of the State Board of Education and the appointment of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. She said she researched the Nevada Constitution, and is concerned the intent of a 1953 and 1956 constitutional amendment regarding the Legislature and the duty of the Board to appoint the Superintendent has been lost or misinterpreted. She requested the State Board of Education request their Attorney General to investigate whether the Legislature overextended their authority because it did not follow the intent of the original legislation in 1956. She added it is not a simple bill passage, but was a change of intent of a constitutional change; the State Board composition is meant to be non-partisan and they are meant to appoint and evaluate the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.