

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

**November 10, 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:

Chris Wallace, President  
Gloria Bonaventura, Member  
Stavan Corbett, Member  
Sandra Metcalf, Member  
Craig Wilkinson, Member

In Carson City:

Dave Cook, Vice President  
Adriana Fralick, Member

In Elko:

Cliff Ferry

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Willia Chaney, Member  
Annie Wilson, Member  
Daniela Sanchez, Student Representative

**DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:**

**In Carson City:**

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Karen Johansen, Assistant to the State Board of Education

**LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:**

**In Carson City:**

Dr. Ed Irvin

**AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:**

**In Las Vegas:**

Jan Biggerstaff, former State Board of Education Member

Sam King, Grass Roots Lobbyist

Jane Newton

**In Carson City:**

Cy Ryan, Reporter Las Vegas Sun

Dotty Merrill, Executive Director, Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB)

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

President Wallace called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. with attendance as reflected above.

There was no public comment in Las Vegas, Carson City or Elko.

**State Board meeting to solicit public input regarding the Superintendent of Public Instruction candidate interview process and potential issues stakeholders would like candidates to address.**

Jan Biggerstaff, representing herself, said she thought the primary purpose of the State Board of Education was to select the Superintendent of Education, however, that duty was handed to the Governor during the 2011 Legislative Session. She added that public comment regarding the criteria for the interview process for the selection of the next superintendent would be as effective as moving deck chairs around on the titanic. She stated this governor would appoint a superintendent of public education that will support ending social promotion with no additional money for remediation, firing ineffective tenured teachers without consideration of negotiations and expanding virtual learning with no additional funding for equipment and teacher training. Most significant, he will appoint a superintendent that will support vouchers. Vouchers for private schools will present the same problems that this board has seen with Education Management Organizations (EMO's) who make a profit to sustain themselves. She asked whom would they be accountable to and who will supervise to assure funding is going to the students. She stated the Governor will thank you and consider your suggestions and then note that we all must work together to improve education and then appoint someone who fulfills his own requirements.

Sam King, Grass Roots Lobbyist, representing herself, questioned how much time the Governor has to devote to education when the economy is in such a mess. She said the criteria must be expansive when searching for the next superintendent. The superintendent is more than a CEO of a company, that person must have an educational background and an allegiance to the students and the community. The individual will need to understand institutional knowledge, understand the community and the players. She added much has been said about other states, what they have done and there have been perimeters and parallels drawn regarding Florida. Many comparisons have been made between Dade County and Clark County, but this is not Florida.

Jane Newton representing herself stated it is apparent the Governor is interested in modeling much of our future education reform on what has occurred in Florida. She said she hopes the Board will keep in mind that over the last few years Florida has been struggling to continue with their class size initiatives. Florida has never had class sizes over 40 students in core classes and they do not compare with classrooms in Clark County. Florida has had hundreds of reading specialists which resulted in higher test scores, but that is not a direct parallel to what Nevada has tried. She said she fears Nevada is following just a portion of a model too closely. Her hope is that the next superintendent is broadminded about what is going on in all states as well as the needs of Nevada's population.

There was no public comment on the item in Elko.

Dotty Merrell, Executive Director, NASB, said she wanted to provide input regarding the criteria and abilities of the next Superintendent of Public Instruction on behalf of Nevada School Board members. Ms. Merrell stated the superintendent must be able to communicate effectively, consistently and frequently with policy makers, particularly school board members around the state. She said the role of the superintendent during the legislative session is very important and Dr. Rheault has done a number of things over the course of his time as superintendent to build trust with legislators. She stated that from the school board perspective, they are hopeful the candidates selected for consideration by the governor will have that critical communication skill. She said it is important the position description include the individual has K-12 experience.

There was no public comment in Las Vegas, Carson City or Elko.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.