

Minutes of the Meeting

STATE OF NEVADA – DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

September 11, 2009

1. Call to Order; Roll Call; Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Luft, in the absence of President Lark and Vice President Votraw, called the meeting of the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to order at 9:54 A.M. in the Board Conference Room of the Nevada Department of Education Office in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Roll call showed the following Commissioners present:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Dr. Vern Luft, Commissioner
Bill Mendenhall, Commissioner
Ann O'Connell, Commissioner
Dr. Terry M. Owens, Commissioner
Brienne Thoreson, Commissioner
Nicholas Ungaro, Commissioner
Wendy Zastawniak, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Carol Lark, President – excused
Karen Votraw, Vice President – excused

STAFF PRESENT:

Christina Harper, Administrative Assistant to the Commission
Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services
James Kenyon, Assistant Director of Teacher Licensure

LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT:

Dr. James E. Irvin, Senior Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

Andre Yates, Clark County School District
Craig Stevens, Nevada State Education Association
Brenda J. Jones, Sierra Nevada College
Jerry Landwer, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Marilyn Sue Ford, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Nancy Sileo, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Peter Yeager, Educational Testing Service
DeShawn Reed, Washoe County School District

Dawn Huckaby, Washoe County School District
Marcy Edwards, Sierra Nevada College

It was determined that a quorum of the Commission was present.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Owens.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner O'Connell moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Mendenhall. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes: a) June 19, 2009

The following amendments were made to the June 19, 2009 minutes: Page 3, Item 6, third bullet, "The overall budget[s] cuts for state..."; Page 4, Item 6, 7th paragraph, 3rd line, "not [did not] pass..."

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to approve the June 19, 2009 minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Owens. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Fiscal Report – Review of Current Budget Account Balance

James Kenyon, Assistant Director of Teacher Licensure, reviewed the budget status report as of August 14, 2009. Mr. Kenyon stated that total revenues received to date are \$765,152.00. Commission expenditures total of \$2.88; expenditures for the Licensure budget total \$75,392.86; for an available funding total of \$689,759.14; and funding available from the Commission budget of \$12,139.12.

Mr. Kenyon stated that initial licensure applications were reduced from 2000 applications in 2008 to 500 applications in 2009.

Ms. Dopf stated that currently the Department is not concerned with the reduction in initial licensure applications due to the carry forward balance in the budget from previous years, but revenue reductions may need to be addressed in the future.

5. Update of Nevada Department of Education Activities

Ms. Dopf advised that the Department of Education staff have been working with Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) to process adopted temporary regulations in order for the Commission to hold workshops at this meeting and public hearings in October for permanent regulation adoption.

Ms. Dopf stated that Dr. Katherine Rohrer has been selected for the Program Officer III position, previously held by Donna Brothers, as supervisor of the Carson City Licensure Office.

Ms. Dopf updated that the non-active paper files in the Carson office have been packaged and sent via secured transport to Las Vegas to be imaged. Manpower has been contracted to complete the imaging process by March 2010, in an effort towards an electronic application process.

Ms. Dopf reported that an audit of the federal No Child Left Behind Title II training program will be conducted beginning September 15, 2009.

6. Establishment and Approval of Task Forces Necessary to Fulfill the Requirements of Legislative Requirements Imposed by the 2009 Legislature

Ms. Dopf reviewed the responsibilities of AB 425 which allows licensed individuals at specific grade levels to be licensed at another level; requires an individual to meet that grade level coursework requirements; have three years of teaching experience at that grade level but eliminates the student teaching requirement at the second level; and eliminated the teaching experience in another state for licensure reciprocity. AB 425 allows the Commission to develop regulations to address this issue. There is no specific timeline for the Commission to adopt regulations.

Ms. Dopf stated that AB 425 also requires the Commission to review reciprocity specific to special education and report to the Legislative Commission by January 1, 2010 on how to improve special education reciprocity and by July 1, 2010 the Commission is to identify what special education reciprocity regulations were modified and the reason(s) if no regulations were amended.

Ms. Dopf reported on the responsibilities of AB 428 which amended the Special Qualifications License and allows an individual with a bachelor's level degree (previously a master's level degree) to qualify for this license. Ms. Dopf advised that the Commission has the authority to prescribe and make more specific the requirements for an individual with a bachelor's degree within the regulation.

Ms. Dopf recommended that the Commission develop two task forces to discuss and provide recommendations to the Commission: 1) AB 425 and AB 428; and 2) AB 425 – Special Education.

Following discussion, Commissioner Mendenhall moved for the Commission to appoint three task forces: 1) AB 425 Sections 1 & 5; 2) AB 425 – special education; and 3) AB 428 – special qualification licensure, seconded by Commissioner Ungaro. The motion passed by a vote of 4 to 2.

The following are the appointments to the Task Forces:

- 1) AB 425 – Section 1 & 5 – Chair Commissioner Owens and Commissioner Luft;
- 2) AB 425 – Special Education – Chair Commissioner Mendenhall; and
- 3) AB 428 – Special Qualification Licensure – Chair Commissioner Ungaro, Commissioners Thoreson and Zastawniak.

Ms. Dopf stated that she will appoint staff to work with each Task Force.

It was requested that Commissioners provide input and suggestions for membership on the three task forces. The task forces should include membership of school district and higher education employees.

7. Workshop to Solicit Comments for R086-09 – NAC 391.095 – Qualifications for License: Generally, Physical Education Elementary License; NAC 391.098 – Endorsements and New Section for Qualification for License; Physical Education Elementary License; Elementary K-8 Physical Education; New Section for Subject Area Minor Endorsements

Acting President Luft opened the workshop at 10:33 A.M. There were eleven individuals present.

Dr. Marilyn Ford, University of Nevada, Las Vegas and a member of the Elementary Licensure Task Force, reviewed the proposal and stated that the name of the regulation should be “General Elementary License” and to delete “Generally; physical education elementary license”. Dr. Ford stated that the proposed amendments in NAC 391.095 requiring eighteen credits, coincides with what nationally accredited universities currently require, but regionally accredited institutions may not require the eighteen credits. The amendments also separate the K-8 physical education into a separate endorsement.

Dr. Ford stated that the amendments to NAC 391.098 include a minimum of twelve semester hours. Upon questioning, Ms. Dopf clarified that these proposed amendments would not affect individuals with a current license and does not affect an individual’s license when it is renewed.

Commissioner Thoreson strongly recommended that a course in classroom management be added to the physical education endorsement requirements. Dr. Ford responded that at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, students enrolled in the College of Education take a classroom management course or the classroom management curriculum is embedded in the coursework.

Acting President Luft cautioned the Commission to not specify a course title within regulation, as course titles can change and may not match up exactly from university to university.

Commissioner Ungaro expressed concern with the number of credits required and suggested an amendment from sixteen to fifteen credits, as courses are usually three credit courses.

DeShawn Reed, Washoe County School District, stated that this proposal will be a benefit in conjunction with AB 425, as an individual could satisfy the minor requirements with K-8 endorsement if they have the three years of experience as they could also add a secondary endorsement in the minor area for that specific area and would be a tremendous benefit for the teacher and school district. Dr. Ford added that an individual

would have to add additional credits to obtain a major in order to teach at the secondary level.

Acting President Luft closed the workshop at 11:06 A.M.

Commissioner O'Connell moved to hold a public hearing on the proposal for elementary licensure and physical education endorsement at the October 23, 2009 Commission meeting, seconded by Commissioner Mendenhall. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Thoreson moved to add a course in "earth science" in the Minor Endorsement regulation, Section G – General Science, seconded by Commissioner Mendenhall. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Workshop to Solicit Comments for R047-09 - NAC 391.015 – Location of State Offices; Acquisition of Forms for Licensure

Acting President Luft opened the workshop at 11:15 A.M. There were eleven individuals present. There being no public comments, Acting President Luft closed the workshop at 11:16 A.M.

Commissioner O'Connell moved to hold a public hearing for possible adoption and permanent adoption of R047-09 at the October meeting, seconded by Commissioner Owens. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Workshop to Solicit Comments for R017-09 - NAC 391.075 – Renewal of License: Credits and Courses

Acting President Luft opened the workshop at 11:16 A.M. There were eleven individuals present. There being no public comments, Acting President Luft closed the public hearing at 11:17 A.M.

Commissioner O'Connell moved to hold a public hearing for possible adoption and permanent adoption of R017-09 at the October meeting, seconded by Commissioner Mendenhall. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Workshop to Solicit Comments for R018-09 - NAC 391.425 – Business and Industry Endorsement: Qualifications for Receipt and First Renewal – Ethnic Music and Ethnic Dance

Acting President Luft opened the workshop at 11:18 A.M. There were eleven individuals present. There being no public comments, Acting President Luft closed the public hearing at 11:19 A.M.

Commissioner O'Connell moved to hold a public hearing for possible adoption and permanent adoption of R018-09 at the October meeting, seconded by Commissioner Thoreson. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Workshop to Solicit Comments for R048-09 - NAC 391.057 – Conditional Licensure: Categories; Qualifications; Validity; Requirements Following Issuance; NAC 391.058 – Conditional Licensure: Prerequisites to Employment of Person; Assistance, Guidance, Training, Orientation and Evaluation of Person; Cooperation with Commission and Department; and New Sections for Out-of-State License; Out-of-State Categories; Qualifications, Validity; Requirements Following Issuance; and Conditional License: Out-of-State Categories, Qualifications, Validity; Requirements Following Issuance for the Alternative Route to Licensure Program

Acting President Luft opened the workshop at 11:20 A.M. There were eleven individuals present. There being no public comments, Acting President Luft closed the public hearing at 11:21 A.M.

Commissioner O'Connell moved to hold a public hearing for possible adoption and permanent adoption of R048-09 at the October meeting, seconded by Commissioner Ungaro. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Discussion and Confirm the Location for the October 23, 2009 Commission Meeting and Determination of Video Conference

The Commission discussed holding the October 23, 2009 meeting via video conference between the Department of Education Offices in Carson City and Las Vegas. Mrs. Harper advised that she has received requests from outside agencies and individuals to hold meeting via video conference due to a decrease in travel budgets.

Commissioner O'Connell moved to hold the October 23, 2009 meeting via video conference in Department of Education Offices in Las Vegas and Carson City, seconded by Commissioner Ungaro. The motion passed unanimously.

The northern Nevada Commissioners will attend the meeting in Carson City and the southern Nevada Commissioners will attend the meeting in Las Vegas.

13. Information and Discussion Regarding the Possibility of Adding Korean/Filipino/Tagalog to NAC 391.131(m) – Single- Subject Majors and Minors to Foreign Languages

Andre Yates and James Yoder, Clark County School District, requested that the Commission consider holding a workshop to amend NAC 391.131 to add foreign languages Korean and Filipino/Tagalog as a Single-Subject Major and Minors. Mr. Yoder advised that there are schools within the Clark County School District requesting this type of endorsements, and with Korean being identified as one of the a critical language area by President Bush, as the government is now seeking individuals with the ability to speak Korean for government positions.

Dr. Marilyn Ford, UNLV, requested that the Commission also consider adding Hebrew language as this is being requested by the private Hebrew schools to have licensed teachers in this area.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to direct staff to draft amendments to NAC 391.131 to add Korean, Filipino/Tagalog, and Hebrew as a foreign language endorsement and post for a workshop at the next meeting, seconded by Commissioner Owens. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Status of Provision of the Nevada School Law, Nevada Constitution and US Constitution Coursework and Assessment

Ms. Dopf stated that this was placed on the agenda because at a previous meeting, a member of the public discussed the possibility of providing coursework to be available online relative to the requirements of the examinations. Ms. Dopf advised that NAC 391.030 authorizes the Department of Education or a "representative appointed by the Department" to administer the examinations. Since the mid 1990's the Department of Educational Leadership at the University of Nevada Reno (UNR) has been the appointed representative of the Department of Education to administer the examinations. During the past 14 years, the Department of Educational Leadership has administered the examinations in an effective and efficient manner.

Ms. Dopf stated that in a letter, dated August 31, 2009, from Superintendent Dr. Keith Rheault to Dr. Gus Hill at the Department of Educational Leadership at UNR, approved the request to increase the first exam fee from \$15 to \$25; increase the second and third exam costs to \$10 to \$15; and increase the cost to administer a special administration from \$50 to \$75. The effective date of this approval of cost increases is January 1, 2010.

Ms. Dopf stated that she did discuss, with UNR, the possibility of researching the idea of administering the examinations on-line for future examination administrations and the cost for on-line examinations and assessments.

15. Future Agenda Items

The following items were noted to be on the October 23, 2009 agenda:

- Public Hearings for all regulations that were adopted as temporary regulations for possible permanent adoption and the Elementary Licensure proposed changes;
- Update from Task Forces for AB 425 – Sections 1& 5, AB 425 – Special Education, and AB 428 – Special Qualifications;
- Department of Education Update; and
- Workshop for the NAC 391.131 – adding Korean, Filipino, and Hebrew language endorsements.

16. Comments From Public

Dawn Huckaby, Washoe County School District, recommended that the Commission hold future meetings via video conference, even if the Commission meets in one location, due to a decrease in their travel budget to attend meetings.

17. Comments from Staff

There were no staff comments.

18. Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner O'Connell stated that she received an e-mail with four questions regarding the background investigative process of an individual applying for teacher licensure in the State of Nevada. Ms. Dopf will respond to the e-mail.

Acting President Luft requested that an appointment of a task force to review the secondary math endorsement be placed on the next agenda. Dr. Luft stated that there may be an issue with the phrase requiring finite mathematics, because at UNR finite mathematics is integrated in other math courses.

Acting President Luft stated that in his discussion with Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), regarding the proposed elementary education licensure regulations, he indicated that there was already a K-12 physical education, art and music endorsement. LCB questioned what regulation allowed this. Acting President Luft requested that the staff review and report if there is a regulation to allow an endorsement to be added onto a K-12 license and the basis for offering special endorsements on a K-12 license, specifically in the areas of administration, physical education, art, and music endorsements. Acting President Luft stated that in a review of the regulations, special endorsements can be added onto a K-12 in the areas of physical education, but not in music and art. Depending on the report from Dr. Barbee at the October meeting, the Commission may need to revise regulations regarding this issue.

19. Adjournment of Commission Meeting

Member O'Connell moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 Noon, seconded by Commissioner Ungaro. The motion passed unanimously.