

Minutes of the Joint Meeting
STATE OF NEVADA – DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
NEVADA STATE BOARD FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
AND
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

December 4, 2009

1. Introductions

Board President Ruggiero and Commission Vice President Votraw called the joint meeting of Nevada State Board of Education/Nevada State Board for Career and Technical Education and the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to order at 10:20 A.M. in the Board Conference Room of the Nevada Department of Education Office, Las Vegas and via video conference with the Nevada Department of Education Office, Carson City, Nevada.

Roll call showed the following State Board Members and Commissioners present:

STATE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Anthony Ruggiero, President
Christopher Wallace, Clerk
Jan Biggerstaff, Member
Gloria Bonventura, Member
Willia Chaney, Member
Charlotte Hill, Member
Craig Wilkinson, Member
Zhan Okuda-Lim, Student Representative

STATE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Dr. Cliff Ferry, Vice President
Dave Cook, Member
Ken McKenna, Member

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Karen Votraw, Vice President
Vern Luft, Commissioner
Bill Mendenhall, Commissioner
Ann O'Connell, Commissioner
Terry Owens, Commissioner
Brianna Thoreson, Commissioner
Nicholas Ungaro, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Carol Lark, President - excused
Wendy Zastawniak, Commissioner - excused

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction – Las Vegas
Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services – Las Vegas
James Wells, Deputy Superintendent, Fiscal Services – Carson City
Karen Johansen, Administrative Assistant to the State Board of Education – Las Vegas
Christina Harper, Administrative Assistant to the Commission – Las Vegas
Dr. Jerry Barbee, Director of Teacher Licensure – Las Vegas
James Kenyon, Las Vegas Office of Teacher Licensure – Las Vegas

LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT:

Dr. James E. Irvin, Senior Deputy Attorney General – Carson City

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN LAS VEGAS:

Nicole Rouke, Clark County School District
Jerry DuLuca, Educational Testing Service
Peter Yeager, Educational Testing Service
Brenda Jones, Sierra Nevada College
Andre Yates, Clark County School District

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN CARSON CITY:

Cy Ryan, Las Vegas Sun

It was determined that a quorum of the State Board and Commission were present.

The pledge of allegiance was led by President Ruggiero and Vice President Votraw.

State Board President Ruggiero introduced each State Board Member and Commission Vice President Votraw introduced each Commissioner the area of education they represent.

2. Presentation Regarding Services that the Educational Testing Service Provides; Teacher Licensure Exams for Teacher Licensure

James Kenyon, Las Vegas Teacher Licensure Office, stated that he coordinates the educator licensure exam program which includes the Praxis I and II with the Educational Testing Service (ETS) as well as the US/Nevada history and US Constitution exams.

Peter Yeager, ETS Client Relations Director and client relations for the western states, stated that he keeps a direct open line of communications with James Kenyon and the Nevada Department of Education to deal with issues as they arise in an effort to

improve the program. ETS is responsible for the exam process from exam development, creation of the exam, exam security and the administration of the exam.

Jerry DeLuca, ETS Group Director and responsible for all state client relations, presented via power point presentation. Mr. DeLuca stated that ETS provides quality exams to ensure that Nevada candidates have the academic skills to succeed in their teacher preparation program with Praxis I Basic Skills Assessments in Reading, Writing, Mathematics; Praxis II Content and Pedagogy Assessments and Subject Area tests and Principles of Learning and Teaching; and the ParaPro for Nevada paraprofessionals to ensure they are prepared in reading, writing and mathematics.

Mr. DeLuca reviewed the ETS Test Development Process which includes a national advisory committee with experts from across the nation and the use of national and state standards as a foundation in the development of the tests; job analysis surveys with a representative sample of professionals; expert test developers at ETS, multiple external and internal content reviews, fairness reviews, extensive quality control throughout the process; and the creation of new test forms to exacting specifications with security concerns.

ETS reviews all test titles on a five year cycle for alignment with national and state standards, to provide consistency with current and critical research, and psychometric soundness and legal defensibility. There is updating of the content to reflect "21st century" skills; developing tests with expanded categories for improved score reporting; and modifying test title to reflect state-specific needs.

Mr. DeLuca reported that ETS is working towards computer delivery of the Praxis II to be ready by Fall 2010; currently the Praxis I is available on line; score reports available faster and online – multiple choice test scores are now available in seventeen days, and candidate score reports are available via the Web; simplified fee policies to include one registration fee per test year - regardless of the number of tests taken and the automatic refund of fee for candidates who register for the same test prior to receiving their score report, and additional flexible registration options - as students can register up to a week before the test day with a guaranteed seat.

ETS provides the following free tools for success: 1) Test at a Glance; 2) General Information and Study Tips booklet; 3) Reducing Testing Anxiety booklet; 4) Online, interactive webinars, and coming soon an online Study Plan. ETS provides one-on-one attention for candidates requiring personal assistance. ETS also provides additional tools at a low cost: 1) in-depth study guides; practice tests; the "Big Book" to include full-length Praxis I tests and hundreds of Praxis II questions; 2) full day seminar candidate workshops; 3) PLT online tutorial; and new in 2010 - 4) interactive practice tests; 5) Praxis I online tutorial.

Mr. DeLuca stated that the new State Page web address is: www.ets.org/praxis/nv. The new website provides clear guidelines about requirements and enhanced information to

help Nevada test takers; easier for test takers to find information, and a new portal specific for higher education institutions.

Mr. DeLuca stated that Nevada's assessment program is based on the highest technical standards in the assessment industry. Mr. DeLuca offered to provide a more in depth and area specific presentation in the future, if either the Board or Commission, so desire.

Dr. Rheault explained that teacher licensure exams are legislative mandated to providing testing to all teachers and administrators in basic skills, teaching skills, pedagogy, and content; and ETS has been the provider of these exams. The relationship between the State Board and the Commission is that the Board passed regulations that oversee the accreditation of teacher education preparation programs in the State and there is an accreditation portion of the regulation that deals with the passing percentage of teachers with a passing rate of 80% which if not met could cause a further inquiry into that teacher education program to determine why the passing rate is not higher. There is a direct link from the teacher education programs, the cut scores for the exams and the issuance of a teacher license. All of the teacher education programs in the State have to report this information to the public under Title II by subject area.

Commissioner Luft stated that the results of the ETS exams serve as an assessment of higher education programs.

Board Member Ferry questioned if there is a correlation between teacher exam scores and teacher success. Mr. DeLuca responded that the score achieved on an exam does not predict if an individual will be a good teacher, but does determine the level of pedagogy knowledge of that individual.

Board Member Wilkinson expressed his appreciation for the on-line tools to help an individual study and also appreciates the seventeen day turn around for exam results.

The State Board and the Commission thanked Mr. DeLuca and Mr. Yeager for the ETS presentation and their time.

3. Overview

Process for Approval of Teacher Education Programs; New Teacher Standards – Update on INTASC; Licensure Regulations; Highly Qualified Teachers; and Ongoing Professional Development

Ms. Dopf provided an overview of the relationship between the State Board and the Commission relative to approval of teacher education programs and educational personnel licensure. The State Board of Education is a regulatory board and approves the State Standards which affect teacher preparation programs; has statutory program approval of teacher education programs which are set by teacher licensure requirements; and the authority to revoke an educational personnel license. The

Commission on Professional Standards in Education has the authority to set requirements for the issuance of an educator license.

State Board President Ruggiero suggested a joint meeting be set in the future and for staff to determine a date.

Ms. Dopf advised that the joint meeting be held after April 2010, as the INTASC Standards (Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium) are being revised. These are the standards for new teachers and the standards for our training programs being developed by a process through the Council of Chief School Officers (CCSSO). The current standards for new teachers were developed in 1992; that process is currently undergoing revision with a final meeting of the Committee in April 2010. The Department will receive the final recommendations for the INTASC revised standards and which could potentially impact the teacher training programs. Ms. Dopf stated that there will be the opportunity for the Board and the Commission to review the revised INTASC standards and suggested that the joint meeting be held following that review.

Ms. Dopf stated that it is important for the Legislative Committee on Education to be aware that the State Board and the Commission are working on a common vision for Nevada in terms of student expectations and setting teacher expectations to support meeting student needs.

Commission Vice President Votraw agreed to a joint meeting with the State Board and the Commission following the INTASC standards.

4. State Board Recommendation on K-12/Governance for the Commission on Professional Standards in Education

State Board President Ruggiero stated that the State Board considered different scenarios of the proposed K-12 governance structure and adopted the proposed recommendations for the K-12 governance structure and amendments. State Board President Ruggiero stated that the State Board recommended that the Commission remain intact.

Dr. Rheault provided a brief history of the Commission. The Commission was established, in statute, in 1989 for the licensing of educational personnel and governed by higher education, counselors, public and private school teachers and administrators. Dr. Rheault stated that the Commission is a properly functional commission with a funded half-time staff position.

State Board President Ruggiero stated that the Board likened the Commission to other professional licensing boards and wanted to keep the licensing governance with professionals in the field.

State Board President Ruggiero requested that the Commission support the State Board's position on ACR 2.

Commissioner Luft stated that as he completes his sixth year on the Commission, he appreciates the Board's position in retaining and maintaining the Commission. Commissioner Luft stated that he feels that the Commission has done a good job in updating regulations to keep in line with the educational requirements. Commissioner Luft stated that every expert on the Commission is needed in order for the Commission to operate efficiently and perform the licensure job it was legislated to perform.

Commissioner Luft encouraged every Commissioner to complete the ACR 2 survey and stated that this would be an avenue to support the State Board and their position on K-12 Governance.

Commission Vice President Votraw stated that she would like for the Commission to continue working together with the State Board of Education on educational issues of the State of Nevada.

5. Future Activities

The future activities are listed as follows:

- Staff will schedule a future joint meeting after April 2010.

6. Member Comments

There were no further comments.

7. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

8. Adjournment of the Joint Meeting

State Board President Ruggiero and Commission Vice President Votraw adjourned the joint meeting at 11:35 A.M.