

Minutes of the Meeting

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

May 21, 2010

Call to Order; Roll Call; Pledge of Allegiance

President Owens called the meeting of the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to order at 9:21 A.M. via video conference in the Board Conference Room of the Nevada Department of Education Offices in Carson City and Las Vegas, Nevada.

Roll call showed the following Commissioners present:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Dr. Terry Owens, President
Nicholas Ungaro, Vice President
Dr. Vernon Luft, Commissioner
Bill Mendenhall, Commissioner
Brienne Thoreson, Commissioner
Wendy Zastawniak, Commissioner
Dr. Jeffrey Geihs, Commissioner

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Karen Votraw, Commissioner – excused

STAFF PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services
Christina Harper, Administrative Assistant
Katherine Rohrer, Licensure Office

STAFF PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Dr. Jerry Barbee, Director of Teacher Licensure

LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Dr. James E. Irvin, Senior Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN LAS VEGAS:

Andre Yates, Clark County School District
Nancy Sileo, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN CARSON CITY:

Peter Yeager, Educational Testing Service

Anna Savala, Washoe County School District

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

The pledge of allegiance was led by President Owens.

President Owens welcomed Dr. Jeffrey Geihs to the Commission, as the administrative representative member. Dr. Geihs stated that he currently is a high school principal in the Clark County School District serving on special assignment in the fundraising arm of the Public Education Foundation as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Dr. Geihs stated that he has been with the Clark County School District for sixteen years.

Each Commissioner introduced themselves and the area of education they represent.

Approval of Agenda

President Owens stated that it has been requested to withdraw Item #10 by the presenter.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to approve the agenda with Item #10 withdrawn, seconded by Vice President Ungaro. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: a) March 26, 2010 Meeting

The following corrections were made to the March 26, 2010 minutes: Page 4, 3rd paragraph, 2nd line, clarification "...providing responses, the comments range from negative to positive and with only a few individuals providing responses one has to be cautious about how the results are interpreted." Page 6, 4th paragraph, 1st line, "Dr. Barbee stated that when the Licensing Office[s] receives...; 4th line, "...decision up to the District based upon the [Districts] District's specific needs..." Page 7, 4th paragraph, 2nd line, "[needs] need to be updated..." Page 7, 6th paragraph, 1st line, "Commissioner Luft moved to appoint a task force to review [at] the Career..." Page 8, 5th paragraph, 4th line, "...[amendments] amendment should be reviewed..."

Commissioner Luft moved to approve the March 26, 2010 meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Thoreson. The motion passed unanimously.

Fiscal Report – Review of Current Budget Account Balance

Dr. Barbee, Director of Teacher Licensure, reviewed the budget status report as of April 30, 2010. Dr. Barbee stated that total revenues received to date total \$1,559,480.25. The Commission's expenditures total \$5,771.84; expenditures for the Licensure budget total \$1,043,690.48; for an available funding total of \$515,789.77; and funding available from the Commission budget of \$6,370.16. Dr. Barbee stated that the budget is within the parameters of the work program for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Update of Nevada Department of Education Activities

Ms. Dopf reported that the Department of Education's Deputy of Finance and Administration James Wells has been offered and accepted a new job as the Director of the Public Employees Benefits Program and will be leaving at the end of May. Ms. Dopf stated that this is an unclassified position and Dr. Rheault is looking to quickly fill this position.

Ms. Dopf reported that there has been an incident at the Southern Nevada Teacher Licensure Office with the theft of two television monitors and other equipment. The Department is in the process of replacing the video conferencing equipment that was stolen, currently there is one television monitor to hold video conference meetings.

Ms. Dopf stated that the ACR 2 Committee and the Legislative Committee on Education, after holding work sessions, will be producing work session documents that will identify the bill draft suggestions for the next legislative session. This will be available for the Commission to review at their next meeting.

Ms. Dopf stated that on April 23-25, 2010 the Department held the annual Mega Conference, state training conference, in conjunction with International Center for Leadership in Education, at Lake Tahoe which was well attended by over 500 participants. Outstanding schools and educators were recognized at this Conference. Ms. Dopf stated that the Department hopes to be able to continue this type of statewide training, such as this Conference next year.

Ms. Dopf stated that the Race to the Top application must be submitted to the Federal Government by 4:30 P.M. on June 1, 2010. Ms. Dopf stated that this has been a very active process with a large participation and engagement by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force. The Race to the Top funding could total \$175 million over a four year period. Ms. Dopf stated that once the Race to the Top application is filed, Department staff will continue to fine tune the Alternate Route to Licensure programs for an accelerated ARL program for the acceptance of a two year ARL instead of the current three year ARL, and the addition and acceptance of non-traditional providers. Ms. Dopf stated that there are other aspects of the Application that utilize growth data, both state level achievement data and District formative assessment data, combined to create an evaluation system that would be uniform for teachers and administrators. There is also discussion of looking at specific professional development expansion through the RPDP Program as well as targeted sub grants to support great teachers and administrators.

Ms. Dopf stated that all seventeen school districts have signed on with a Memorandum of Understanding; and eleven District Associations have signed on for a 94% participation rate for the Race to the Top application.

President Owens requested that Ms. Dopf express the Commission's appreciation to the staff on all of their hard work on the Race to the Top application.

Presentation From Pearson Group Regarding Computer Based Testing Equivalent to Educational Testing Service (ETS) for Teacher Licensure And Review Feasibility to Use Testing From the Pearson Group

Les McCallum, Pearson Group, stated that they are the global leader in education, technology and services. They are launching NES Practice, a series of online, interactive practice tests for the NES (National Evaluation Series) educator certification testing program. The NES new educator certification program is designed to help states ensure that the educators are certified and prepared to teach effectively in 21st century classrooms. NES tests provide states with comprehensive exams aligned to professional accepted national learning standards, covering areas such as essential academic skills, professional knowledge, reading instruction and commonly taught elementary, middle and secondary grade-level subjects. As part of the overall program there is help for candidates to prepare for the NES tests, Evaluation Systems are developed free, and the online NES Profile study guides for each test are offered for candidates. Each NES Profile features basic preparation content for that test, such as the format, content areas and competencies covered, as well as sample test questions accompanied by an explanation of each test question's correct response, tips and strategies.

Dr. Heather Klesch, Senior Director of the NES Program, described how the program and tests were developed. Dr. Klesch stated that NES provides carefully developed, comprehensive teacher certification tests based on professional review and accepted academic standards, both national and global. NES Program offers thirty-three tests; with a plan to add tests based on demand and current initiatives beginning next year.

Mr. McCallum stated that this program is 100% computer based testing and NES offers conveniently located certification testing available through a nationwide network of professional, secure testing centers. In Nevada, there is one in Las Vegas and one in Reno. Access to tests in all fields are on demand, there is no need to wait for an assigned date before registering to test in a specific field. There is immediate score reporting for most tests.

Mr. McCallum stated that NES has superior customer service and is supported by an established, world-class customer service team with a demonstrated ability to listen, understand, and respond to state credentialing agencies, educator preparation programs and teacher candidates.

Dr. Klesch stated that there is a detailed score reporting capability with allows for immediate score reports for most tests with a detailed feedback on candidate performance. There are comprehensive online preparation materials for candidates with helpful test summary documents, full-length practice tests, and model responses to essay questions with excellent faculty resources.

Upon questioning, Mr. McCallum responded that the licensure requirements for Nevada School Law, Nevada Constitution and US Constitution could become part of the NES program. In September 2010, all of the thirty-three tests will be ready and available at

the Pearson testing sites. Mr. McCallum requested that the Commission give this program serious consideration.

Vicki Chamberlain, Executive Director of Oregon Teacher Standards Board, stated that Oregon is the first state to adopt Pearson's NES tests, which will be required for Oregon teacher licensure or endorsement in selected areas effective September 1, 2010. Ms. Chamberlain stated that by adopting the NES tests, Oregon can now evaluate candidates based on the most current content in each subject or academic skill areas, aligned to national subject and pedagogy standards, as well as move our program in a new direction with computer-based testing, which will allow us to tap into a larger pool of potential teachers for our state's schools. Ms. Chamberlain stated that Oregon is working with both NES and ETS on testing.

Commissioner Luft questioned the availability of the Title II report which must be submitted by higher education for all tests with ETS and must pay a fee to ETS to compile the data for program completers. Mr. McCallum responded that NES provides a free template to assist higher education in the development of the report.

The Commission posed the following questions:

- There were questions on how to deal with individuals who still cannot use computers? NES responded that teachers should have the technological/computer skills.
- What accommodations are offered, such as custom programs? NES responded that they have a custom program available for individuals.
- Cost to institutions to receive testing results? NES responded that there is no cost to the institutions to receive results.

Commissioner Luft questioned the transition from one testing company to another testing company. Mr. McCallum responded that NES is very good at the transition and there is good cooperation of data between the testing companies.

Upon questioning regarding the cost of the test to the applicant, Mr. McCallum responded that the cost per test is competitive and will be announced in three weeks.

Commissioner Zastawniak questioned the scoring and timeline results for the short answer questions. Dr. Klesch responded that there are four tests that have constructed responses: 1) Writing Basic Skills; 2) two Pedagogy exams; and 3) Spanish. The results are available within four weeks and are scored by individuals.

Upon questioning regarding the validation of NES tests, Mr. McCallum stated that NES will pay for validation scoring panels and NES will do all of the work related to the validation studies.

President Owens directed Dr. Barbee to work with NES to determine the impact on licensure to include all of the issues of changing to a different testing company, reprint cost of all licensure materials, validation cut score costs, and effect on reciprocity. President Owens would like a cost comparison across the board. President Owens requested that this be on the next meeting agenda for discussion.

Workshop to Solicit Comments for NAC 391.0583 – Special Qualifications Licensure; Duties of Employing School District or Private School

President Owens opened the workshop at 10:30 A.M. There were eight individuals present. There was no public comment. President Owens closed the public hearing at 10:32 A.M.

Vice President Ungaro reviewed the history of the amendments to NAC 391.0583 – Special Qualifications Licensure, due to AB 428 requirements to accept a bachelor's degree for a special qualifications license. Vice President Ungaro reviewed the proposed amendments to NAC 391.0583.

Commissioner Mendenhall stated that he would like special education course work to be required. Vice President Ungaro responded that the Task Force discussed adding special education coursework, but felt that there are too many areas of instruction that should be required and agreed to leave this decision to the school districts.

Commissioner Geihs suggested that classroom management be mandated. Vice President Ungaro responded that the regulations were written so that school districts could require and provide the classroom management course. Commissioner Luft responded that at the University of Nevada-Reno, classroom management is included within other course work.

Commissioner Luft moved to post NAC 391.0583 for a public hearing at the next meeting, seconded by Vice President Ungaro. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing and Possible Adoption for R047-10 New Regulation Prescribing Requirements for a Conditional Endorsement as a Professional Administrator of a School; and Amendments to NAC 391.170 – Endorsement as Professional Administrator of School Or Program

President Owens opened the public hearing at 10:43 A.M. There were eight individuals present. There being no public comments, President Owens closed the public hearing at 10:45 A.M.

President Owens, as the Chair of the Task Force, stated that the Task Force wanted to place rigor into the proposed regulation to support the K-12 education, but the proposal does not include any non-traditional program, such as "Troops for Teachers". President Owens stated with the requirements for Race to the Top, the Commission at a future meeting, will need to discuss the possibility of adding non-traditional training programs as an avenue to the alternative route to licensure.

Commissioner Luft moved to adopt R-047-10, seconded by Commissioner Thoreson. The motion passed unanimously.

Review to Consider Need for Amendments to Clarify NAC 391.332 – Endorsement as Substitute Teacher; Period For Which Substitute Teacher; Period For Which Substitute Teacher May Be Hired – Possible Action to Move to Regulatory Review Process

Dr. Barbee stated that in a review of NAC 391.332, which prescribes the requirements to obtain an endorsement as a substitute teacher, it was discovered that there is a need to clarify the purpose of the substitute teacher endorsement. Currently, the substitute endorsement is an endorsement to a special license. There is not a clear understanding from the regulations as to requirements for a substitute teacher or the endorsement for a substitute teacher.

Dr. Barbee proposed amending NAC 391.332 to make the substitute teacher endorsement a stand-alone license, reduce the number of credits from 62 to 60, and remove the professional education course work requirement. This amendment would lower the credits to an Associate's Degree level and by having a stand-alone license would allow provisions to be placed on a substitute license. Dr. Barbee would also like to add renewal requirements for a substitute license.

Following discussion, Commissioner Luft moved to post proposed amendments to NAC 391.332 for a workshop at the next meeting, seconded by Commissioner Geihs. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Barbee stated that he would like the regulations to be more specific for the renewal of a substitute license.

Ms. Dopf advised the Commission that beginning July 1, 2010 any proposed amendments for regulations will be under the Temporary Regulation Period. Ms. Dopf cautioned the Commission with the adoption of temporary regulations, the adopted temporary regulation will have to be re-adopted as a permanent regulation. Ms. Dopf recommended that the Commission limit the number of regulations to be considered for temporary regulation adoption.

A break was granted at 11:15 A.M.
The meeting reconvened at 11:30 A.M.

Discussion of Possible Amendments to NAC 391.932 – Endorsement to Teach Program of Alternative Education

This item was withdrawn at the request of the presenter, Andre Yates.

Discussion of Possible Amendments to NAC 391.088 – Qualifications For Teaching Pupils from Birth Through Kindergarten and NAC 391.089 – Qualifications for Teaching Pupils From Birth Through Second Grade

Andre Yates, Clark County School District and Dr. Nancy Sileo, Associate Dean for the University of Nevada Las Vegas, requested that the Commission assemble a Task Force to review and consider possible amendments to the current Early Childhood

Education licenses. Mr. Yates stated that there is a need to consolidate the birth to kindergarten (K) and the birth to 2 licenses as it has caused a problem for the issuance of those licenses and the two licenses are causing considerable confusion with student teaching for those applying for teacher licenses in Early Childhood Education in Nevada for both graduates of in-state and out-of-state programs.

Dr. Sileo requested that a taskforce be assembled to review and examine whether there is a need for the birth through K license. The work of the taskforce may include:

- Conducting an analysis of the number of applicants for the NDE birth through K license (only) and the number of applicants for the NDE birth through 2nd grade license (only) over the past five years to provide data on whether there is a continued need for both licenses.
- Conducting an analysis of the number of applicants and hires each school district in Nevada has made for the birth through K license (only) and the number of applicants for the birth through 2nd grade license (only) over the past five years to provide data on whether there is a continued need for both licenses.
- Possible elimination of the birth to K license if (a) subsection (4) of the birth to K license is integrated into the regulations/requirements for the birth through 2nd grade licenses, and (b) because all other requirements of the birth to K license are subsumed (although in a different order and format) in the birth through 2nd grade license, and
- Amending the birth through 2nd grade license requirements to include subsection (4) of the birth through K license requirements.

Commissioner Luft moved to form a Task Force to review NAC 391.088 and 391.089 – Early Childhood Education Licensure, seconded by Vice President Ungaro. The motion passed unanimously.

The following individuals were appointed to the Early Childhood Education Licensure Task Force: Commissioner Zastawniak – Chair; Commissioner Geihs – Co-Chair; Anna Severns – Department of Education Early Childhood Consultant; Andre Yates, Clark County School District; Nancy Sileo – University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Department of Education Licensure Staff; and an early childhood representative from the University of Nevada, Reno.

Update From Task Forces

- AB 425 – Special Education

Commissioner and Task Force Chair Mendenhall stated that this Task Force will hold one last meeting to be scheduled after June 1, 2010, as key Task Force Members were also involved in the Race to the Top Committee. At this final meeting the Task Force will be working on final wording and recommendations for amendments to regulations and possible collapsing of the special education licensing categories into a smaller framework.

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Task Force

Commissioner and Task Force Chair Luft advised that the Task Force has been formed with the members selected and have held one meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2010. Commissioner Luft stated that the Task Force is reviewing the general requirements for the Career and Technical Education, aligning the required coursework, and looking at the work experience requirement. There was discussion for an amendment to the family consumer science, health occupations, and business and marketing majors. Commissioner Luft stated that he is hopeful that a proposal might be submitted to the Commission at the next meeting.

- Elementary Licensure

Commissioner and Task Force Chair Luft stated that the original language received from Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) did not meet the intention of the Task Force. The Task Force held a meeting, reviewed the document and submitted another document to LCB for their review. This second version has not yet been received back from LCB.

Commissioner Luft will provide an update that the next Commission meeting.

Ms. Dopf reminded the Commission of the reporting requirement of AB 425, Section 6, Special Education which is to be submitted to the Legislative Committee on Education on July 1, 2010. Ms. Dopf requested that the Task Force, prior to June 30, 2010, provide recommendations to be included as part of the report for transmittal to the Legislature.

President Owens directed Ms. Dopf to include the recommendations and task force work in the report. Ms. Dopf stated that she will work with the Chair Mendenhall and Chair Owens for transmittal of the report.

Schedule Meeting Dates and Locations for 2010-2011 Year

Commissioner Zastawniak moved to adopt the following 2010-2011 meeting schedule:

September 3, 2010 – New Member Orientation and Meeting in Carson City
October 15, 2010 – Location to be Determined or Video Conference
December 10, 2010 – Possible Joint Meeting with State Board in Las Vegas
February 11, 2011 – Location to be Determined or Video Conference
March 25, 2011 – Location to be Determined or Video Conference
May 6, 2011 – Location to be Determined or Video Conference
June 17, 2011 – Location to be Determined or Video Conference

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thoreson. The motion passed unanimously.

Information Regarding the Licensure Office's New Process Regarding Mailing Out Licenses

James Kenyon, Assistant Director of Teacher Licensure, stated that beginning on July 1, 2010 the Nevada Teacher Licensure Office will no longer be mailing out, via US mail, hard copies of teacher licenses or notification of renewals.

Mr. Kenyon stated that, with the support of the Department of Education, he was involved in a Nevada Certified Public Manager Program in which his class project was to develop a cost savings for the costs associate with the physical mail out of teacher licenses and the costs per NRS 391.042 – hard copy of renewal notification. Mr. Kenyon stated that approximately \$100,000 has been spent on postage over the past five years. Mr. Kenyon reviewed the costs associated with NRS 391.042 to include postage, ink, labels, and paper a year for licensure renewal/expiration. Mr. Kenyon advised that all teacher licensure information can be accessed on "Find A Teacher" program located on the Department's website.

Mr. Kenyon stated that in August 2008 the Nevada Department of Education implemented the "Find A Teacher" licensing program which includes information with regards to teachers and their endorsements and provisions accessible electronically. Mr. Kenyon advised that sixteen of the seventeen school districts use "Find A Teacher" on a regular basis for employment and licensing information.

Mr. Kenyon reported that in his research he found that there are several states that do not print teacher licenses with many other states moving in that direction.

Mr. Kenyon stated that on July 1, 2010 applicants will be notified via e-mail of the receipt of the application and approval or rejection of licensure; if the applicant does not have an e-mail there is notification via US mail. An applicant can opt to have their license printed at a cost of \$10.

Mr. Kenyon stated that NRS 391.042, which was added in 2007, provides for written notification of the date on the license expiration via US mail sent to the last known address of the licensee. Mr. Kenyon advised that via the Find A Teacher website the expiration of a license is included in the accessible information. Mr. Kenyon stated that he has been working with Superintendent Rheault for a 2011 Bill Draft Request for the elimination of the US mail requirement in NRS 391.042 and inclusion of the Find A Teacher website.

Mr. Kenyon stated that the changes will alleviate the costs and redundancy of readily available information having to be mailed to license holders, and create a more efficient office. Mr. Kenyon advised that approximately 35% of the envelopes mailed out are returned for a lack of a correct address.

Upon concern expressed by Deputy Attorney General Irvin regarding licensure information being accessible on the web which could be reveal personal identifier information, Dr. Barbee responded that the information on Find A Teacher license number has no relation to an individual's social security number. As Dr. Irvin still has

concerns, it was agreed that Dr. Irvin and Dr. Barbee will discuss the issue with personal identifier information on licenses at a later scheduled date.

Future Agenda Items

The following items were noted to be on the September 3, 2010 agenda:

- New Member Orientation;
- Election of Vice President;
- Review and Discuss the Legislative Committee on Education and ACR 2's work session and recommendations;
- Review and Discuss NAC 391.1306 – Social Studies Regulations;
- Report from Dr. Barbee regarding the NES-Pearson licensure exam impact;
- Workshop for NAC 391.332 – Substitute Teacher Regulations;
- Public hearing for NAC 391.0583 – Special Qualification License and Elementary Education Regulations;
- Recommendations from the AB 425 – Special Education Task Force;
- Possible workshop of Special Educations Regulations;
- Update from Task Forces for AB 425 – Special Education; Elementary Licensure; and CTE Licensure Task Force; Early Childhood Education Licensure Task Force; and
- Department of Education Update

President Owens presented a gift and expressed her deep appreciation for outgoing Commissioners Vernon Luft, Karen Votraw, Nicholas Ungaro, and William Mendenhall for their service to the State of Nevada, education and to the children of this state.

Comments From Public

Peter Yeager, Educational Testing Service (ETS), clarified that ETS does not charge for Title II report services or any score report.

Comments from Staff

Dr. Barbee stated that NAC 391.056 – provision non-renewable license is due to sunset on July 1, 2010. Dr. Barbee stated that the Department Staff recommended no further action by the Commission. Dr. Rohrer, Licensure Office, stated that in her conversations with administrators, they are relieved to have the provisional non-renewable license eliminated.

Ms. Dopf thanked the outgoing Commissioners for all of their hard work. Dr. Barbee thanked the outgoing Commissioners for their knowledge and service.

Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Ungaro requested that the Commission consider reviewing NAC 391.036 – major and minor in social studies for possible amendments to include geography as one of the core subjects to receive a social studies endorsement.

Commissioner Luft requested that the Department Staff review the retirement date on the Retired Teacher's License to determine if the date reference is clear for current and future licensure staff.

Commissioner Luft updated on the budget cuts at UNR and the ramifications on teacher licensure. UNR has decided to restructure the College of Education and maintain the school counselor program with a limited number of faculty, the marriage and family therapy program with no additional faculty and reduce the number of credits in the program from a nationally accredited 65 credits to the state licensure requirement; eliminate the school psychology program and the master's program in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL), however the University will retain one faculty individual in that area to be able to teach the coursework for TESL endorsement; and consolidate the doctoral in education with specialty areas.

Commissioner Luft stated that as a result of the retirement incentive for tenured and non-tenured staff, he will be resigning as Associate Dean of the College of Education on June 30, 2010 and retiring from the University on December 31, 2010.

Adjournment of Commission Meeting

President Owens adjourned the meeting at 12:50 P.M.