

Minutes of the Meeting

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

September 3, 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 9:34 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
Brian Boothe, Commissioner
Elissa Couch, Commissioner
Dr. Jeffrey Geihs, Commissioner
Mary Keith, Commissioner
Dr. Cheryl Lau, Commissioner
Dr. Nancy Sileo, Commissioner
Brianna Thoreson, Commissioner
Wendy Zastawniak, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services
Christina Harper, Commission Administrative Assistant
Dr. Jerry Barbee, Director of Teacher Licensure
Katherine Rohrer, Licensure Office
Karen Chessell, Consumer Science Consultant

STAFF PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

James Kenyon, Assistant Director of Teacher Licensure

LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Dr. James E. Irvin, Senior Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN CARSON CITY:

Peter Yeager, Educational Testing Service – ETS
Heather Klesch, Evaluation Systems Group of Pearson
Francey Dennis, University of Phoenix
Dr. Vern Luft, University of Nevada, Reno
Christine Cheney, University of Nevada, Reno
Tom Harrison, University of Nevada, Reno

Steven Hay Chapman, Washoe County School District
Peggy Lear Bowen

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN LAS VEGAS:

Andre Yates, Clark County School District
Brenda J. Jones, Sierra Nevada College
Jerry DuLuca, Educational Testing Service – ETS
Marilyn Sue Ford, Retired Professor Emerita, UNLV

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

President Owens led the pledge of allegiance.

President Owens welcomed the new Commissioners. Commissioners introduced themselves and the areas of education that they represent on the Commission.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Thoreson moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Lau. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Overview of Department of Education

a. Organizational Chart

Ms. Dopf provided copies and reviewed the Department of Education organizational chart and the K-12 Educational Governance Structure chart.

Ms. Dopf stated that the Commission on Professional Standards in Education has the authority to promulgate regulations for educators within Nevada Administrative Code – NAC 391. The Commission is appointed by the Governor, independent of the State Board of Education, although the State Board of Education does have the authority to veto a regulation if that regulation causes undue hardships/complications on the school districts or individuals involved.

Methods of Operations

a. Meetings and Procedures

b. Nevada Open Meeting Law – NRS 241

c. Ethics

d. Conflict of Interest

e. Public Records Request

President Owens briefly reviewed Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 391, the statute that created the Commission, which outlines that there are nine members appointed by the Governor in specific education areas to the Commission with specific authority over the

teacher licensing regulations. The Commission can hold meetings monthly, although currently the Commission holds meetings about every six to eight weeks.

Dr. Jerry Barbee referred to the Commission Procedure Binder which outlines the requirements of task forces. The Commission has the authority to create and appoint task forces which review and discuss issues and make recommendations to the Commission. Deputy Attorney General Irvin added that per the Open Meeting Law, any task force/subcommittee formed either formally or informally by the Commission, and making recommendations to the Commission is subject to the Open Meeting Law and must follow the requirements of the Open Meeting Law.

Deputy Attorney General James E. Irvin provided training and an overview of the Nevada Open Meeting Law and the responsibility of the Commission as it relates to the Open Meeting Law – which applies to public bodies and public meetings.

Dr. Irvin stated that the Commission's meetings are recorded and that recordings of the meeting can be requested by the public and must be available until the written minutes are available. The written minutes are the official record of public meetings. Dr. Irvin stated that groups appointed by the Commission, such as task forces, subcommittees, or workgroups must also follow the Open Meeting Law which includes postings of agendas and the requirements for meeting quorums in order for action to be taken.

Dr. Irvin provided an overview of the NRS 281A - Ethics and Government Act and information regarding a common sense application of NRS 281A.

A lunch break was granted at 11:55 A.M.
The meeting reconvened at 1:00 P.M.

Review of State Statutes and Regulations

Ms. Dopf highlighted the critical parts of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 391 that deal with the licensure of educational personnel. The Commission is a statutorily authorized body by the Legislature with very specific responsibilities in statute attached to the promulgation of regulations dealing with the licensure and re-licensure of educational personnel.

Ms. Dopf reviewed the specific educational positions of each member on the Commission. Commission members are limited to two terms; may meet once a month; a majority of the Commission constitutes a quorum; staff serves as the non-voting secretary; and may receive per diem for travel expenses. Commissioners do not receive a meeting stipend for their services.

The Commission has the authority to modify regulations in Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 391.

Ms. Dopf reviewed the process and time frames required under the Open Meeting Law for notification of workshops and public hearing for new regulations or amendments to existing regulations. Workshops and public hearings may not be held on the same day.

Ms. Dopf reviewed the five educational licenses that the Commission is responsible for: elementary, middle school, secondary, special (such as special education, administrators, counselors, psychologists), and special qualifications.

Ms. Dopf stated that the Commission has given the responsibility to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to grant relief from the requirements of regulation for specific reasons which cannot be granted for more than six months.

The Commission also sets the requirements for initial examinations which must include teaching skill subject matter and school law, Nevada Constitution, and United States Constitution.

Ms. Dopf stated that the Nevada State Board of Education has the responsibility for university program approval, which is completed by a group under the direction of the Director of Teacher Licensure. The State Board retains the approval/disapproval authority over regulations that the Commission approves but this is much prescribed in statute under two conditions: 1) creates an undue hardship to teachers or school districts; and 2) threatens the official operation of a school.

Commission Travel

a. Travel Arrangements/Reimbursement

b. Business Cards

Mrs. Harper advised that she arranges all of the Commission travel. Mrs. Harper stated that she will send out an e-mail prior to the meeting with the proposed travel arrangements and it is the individual Commissioner's responsibility to contact her if alternate travel arrangements are necessary. Commissioners are required to sign the travel reimbursement form and submit to Mrs. Harper to be processed. Mrs. Harper reminded Commissioner that the only receipts required are for taxis, airport parking and hotel reimbursement.

Mrs. Harper provided a form for business cards and advised the Commission to complete the form and submit if they would like to have business cards printed.

Re-call to Order of Regular Meeting

The regular meeting was recalled to order at 1:22 P.M.

Election of Vice President

Upon a request from President Owens, Ms. Dopf provided an overview of the duties of the Commission Vice President.

President Owens opened the nominations for Vice President. There being no nominations, Commissioner Thoreson and Commissioner Zastawniak volunteered for the office of Vice President.

Commissioners Thoreson and Zastawniak provided a brief resume.

President Owens called for a vote. Commissioner Thoreson was voted Vice President by a vote of 5-3.

Approval of Minutes: a) May 21, 2010 Meeting

The following corrections were made to the May 21, 2010 minutes: Page 4, paragraph 2 and 5, correct name of Dr. Health Klesch. Page 5, 3rd paragraph, 2nd bullet, "...NES responded that they have a custom program..." and correct name for Dr. Klesch. Page 8, 1st paragraph, 3rd line, ...of those licenses and the two licenses [is] are causing..."

MOTION: Vice President Thoreson moved to approve the May 21, 2010 minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Keith. 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 August 13, 2010. Dr. Barbee stated that total revenues received to date total \$581,460.00. The Commission's expenditures total \$69.75; expenditures for the Licensure budget total \$152,932.08; for an available funding total of \$428,527.92; and funding available from the Commission budget of \$12,131.00.

Update of Nevada Department of Education Activities

Ms. Dopf updated on Nevada's Race to the Top application. Nevada was eligible to apply during the second phase of funding for Race to the Top, unfortunately Nevada was not selected in this very competitive application process. Nevada was ranked 24th in the second phase with just a few point difference between that score and states receiving the award. Ms. Dopf stated that Nevada will continue to move forward with activities that were proposed and outlined within the Race to the Top application; such as the implementation of the Common Core Standards, with a timeline out to teachers in the near future. Ms. Dopf stated that there is a cycle time for the implementation of the Standards.

Ms. Dopf reported that the Consortium (Smarter Balance) for the development of the aligned assessment with the Common Core Standards was awarded \$160 million; working toward helping develop a system of assessment aligned with the new Common Core Standards.

Ms. Dopf stated that another piece of the Common Core is the issue of teacher and administrator evaluation with some incorporation of the achievement data; which is now allowed in statute. The new statutory language states that the achievement data must be considered for the evaluation process and may not be a sole source of decision.

Ms. Dopf informed the Commission regarding EduJobs, which is federal funding made available to school districts, specifically for job restoration - in the amount of \$83 million dollars for Nevada. This funding is to be utilized over a two year period. This funding will be distributed through a sub-grant process and Districts will be notified of the amount of funding they will receive in order to restore positions. There is a concern that

there may be a large number of jobs with no applicant pool which may have an impact on teacher licensure office activity and may also have an effect with the loss of the provisional license availability to applicants.

Ms. Dopf reported that the Council of Chief School Officers has put out for public input the revision of the INTASC Standards, and is available on the Chief School Officers website. The issue of teacher standards is one which this Commission had dealt with beyond the licensure area; this goes further and defines what teachers should know and be able to do to carry out instructional programs within their classrooms and the standard followed by teacher preparation programs as approved by the State Board of Education. This Commission agreed jointly to review the Standards with the State Board of Education at previous meetings when the issue of teacher standards has been discussed. Once this proposal is finalized they will be brought forward to the Commission and the State Board at a joint meeting.

Workshop to Solicit Comments for NAC 391.332 – Endorsement as Substitute Teacher; Period For Which Substitute Teacher May Be Hired

President Owens opened the workshop at 2:03 P.M. There were fifteen individuals present. There was public comment.

Dr. Barbee reviewed the proposal for a substitute teacher endorsement under the issuance of a special license. The proposal clarifies that the substitute teacher license is a standalone license as a special license; adds renewal requirements; reduces the number of credits required to 60 – the same number required to receive an Associate's degree; and clarifies that an individual with a higher license does not need to also apply for a substitute license.

Upon questioning by Commissioner Sileo, Dr. Barbee responded that it is the interpretation that the renewal coursework would be educational coursework.

Marilyn Sue Ford, retired UNLV professor, questioned if a private school is required to employ a licensed substitute teacher. Dr. Barbee responded that there are stipulations that relate to private schools as to substitute and percentage of licensed teachers that they must employ. Dr. Ford suggested that Section 4 be clarified to also include state approve private schools and charter schools. Dr. Barbee responded that Section 4 is current regulation language and no amendments were suggested for that Section. Dr. Ford suggested that in Section 7 subsection A3, the wording for professional development activities are too vague and open to interpretation. Dr. Barbee responded that in-service renewal credit must be pre-approved by the Department of Education. Dr. Barbee stated that every effort is made to ensure substitute teachers are prepared to teach students.

Peggy Lear Bowen, public, expressed concern with the proposed amendments requiring six renewal credits for substitute teachers. This is too extensive and may shrink the current substitute applicant pool, as substitute teachers are already in small supply and hard to find. Ms. Bowen stated that the renewal credit requirement is too

much for a substitute teacher and they have already met certain requirements for this license.

President Owens closed the public hearing at 2:50 P.M.

Commissioner Couch questioned if substitute teachers could get the same free of charge in-service conferences that teachers attend. Dr. Barbee responded that the Department would encourage school districts to allow substitute teachers to participate in the in-service conferences at no charge.

Commissioner Geihs expressed support for the addition of six credits for the renewal of a substitute license. Commissioner Geihs stated that he knows of many long term substitute teachers who only have an Associates Degree and feels that the renewal requirement is a necessary requirement.

The Commission requested that Subsection 7 be clarified to add "or" for the options to complete the renewal requirements and add "Department approved" in Subsection 7(3) for individual professional development activities.

MOTION: Commissioner Geihs moved to post NAC 391.332 for a public hearing at the next meeting with recommendations, seconded by Commissioner Boothe. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing and Possible Adoption for R066-10 - NAC 391.0583 – Special Qualifications Licensure; Duties of Employing School District or Private School

President Owens opened the public hearing at 2:55 P.M. There were thirteen individuals present. There being no public comments, President Owens closed the public hearing at 3:01 P.M.

Dr. Barbee stated that the proposed amendments were made per AB 428, which was approved during the 2009 Legislature. There was a Task Force formed which reviewed, discussed, received public comments, and made a recommendation to the Commission. The proposal allows an individual with a bachelor's degree to obtain a special qualifications license with required specific coursework.

MOTION: Commissioner Lau moved to adopt R066-10, seconded by Commissioner Geihs. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing and Possible Adoption for R046-10 - NAC 391.036 – Tests of Competency Required for Initial License; Exemptions; Failure to Comply; Administration of Tests; and a New Section to Allow an Individual Licensed to One Student Level Is Not Required to Participate in a Program Of Student Teaching as a Condition to the Issuance of an Additional License in Another Student Level

President Owens opened the public hearing at 3:05 P.M. There were sixteen individuals present. There was public comment.

President Owens stated that this proposal addresses AB 425, adopted during the 2009 Legislature, which allows a licensed individual to obtain another license at another level, by meeting the licensure qualifications, but the individual does not have to complete a second student teaching assignment in that area; the proposal also amends the reciprocity requirements for competency testing for individuals with a teaching license in another state.

Peggy Bowen, public, expressed concern with the term “comparable testing”, the PRAXIS exam, and testing reciprocity. Currently there are twenty-five states that require content knowledge testing only, not the subject area test. Ms. Bowen stated that individuals are failing the subject area test by 2, 3, or 5 points and these individuals have taken the exam many, many times. Ms. Bowen provided a handout of the states that do not require the subject area tests.

President Owens closed the public hearing at 3:18 P.M.

Upon questioning by Commissioner Geihs, Dr. Barbee responded that the requirement to obtain a Nevada teacher license as it pertains to testing is the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) which is basic skills test in reading, writing and mathematics and if an individual fails any one of the exams, they can either re-take the exam or take a course to meet this licensure requirement. Nevada also requires, mostly for secondary endorsements, a subject area test in specific areas. Nevada also requires the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) exam. Dr. Barbee clarified that Nevada does accept the CBEST exam, the exam California administers in lieu of the PPST, to meet the testing requirements for Nevada licensure.

MOTION: Vice President Thoreson moved to adopt R046-10, seconded by Commissioner Sileo. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of the Legislative Committee on Education and ACR 2 Committee Work Session Document and Recommendations

Ms. Dopf provided an overview of the recommendations of the Legislative Commission on Education for bill draft request (BDR) for the inclusion of achievement scores and will account for 33% of a teacher/administrator’s evaluation. BDRs are located on the Legislative website.

Ms. Dopf provided a brief history of ACR 2 Committee. Ms. Dopf advised that the Commission on Professional Standards in Education is not recommended for dissolution. The ACR 2 Committee did recommend an amendment to the membership to the Commission which if adopted would become effective January 1, 2010. Currently the Commissioners are appointed by the Governor; the proposal would include five members appointed by the Governor with four teachers and one parent/guardian, an individual appointed by the Majority Leader, an individual appointed by the Speaker of the House, one counselor, two administrators; and a Dean of the College of Education.

The proposal also requires the Commission to submit an Annual Report of accomplishments/actions of the Commission to the Legislature and seeks to streamline

the decision making process of the Commission while ensuring input from the national organizations, constituents, and the public with regard to the issues of reciprocity, teaching standards and education of children from diverse populations.

Ms. Dopf reminded the Commission that these are currently only proposals and not yet law; and will keep the Commission updated on Legislative activities.

Review and Discuss Proposed Changes to NAC 391.1306 – Major or Minor in Social Studies to Include Geography as One of the Core Subjects to Receive Social Studies Endorsement

This item was postponed until the October meeting.

Adoption of New Educational Testing Service (ETS) In Lieu of Existing Tests With No Fault Passing Score for one Year

James Kenyon, Assistant Teacher Licensure Director, stated that the following tests for teacher licensure have been regenerated with new content for new updated tests. Mr. Kenyon provided a powerpoint presentation and the test amendments.

Ms. Dopf reminded that the Commission has the authority to set cut scores to determine the passing score for each licensure exam. Educational Testing Service (ETS) is the entity that provides the testing process and the scores are set specific for Nevada by the Commission. There is a request for a “No-Fault” period in order to collect data from Nevada individuals taking the tests to determine an appropriate cut score for each exam.

Mr. Kenyon reviewed the following tests:

- Business/Business Education Test - #0101 in lieu of #0100

Mr. Kenyon stated that test #0101 updated to include international business content, is aligned to the National Standards for Business Education and National Educational Technology Standards, and is a two hour test with 120 questions. Mr. Kenyon recommended adopting test #0101 with a No-Fault score period for one year.

- Reading/Reading Specialist Test - #0204 in lieu of #0200

Mr. Kenyon stated that test #0204 includes updated content which reflects the five essential components of reading instruction identified by the National Reading Panel, and is a two hour test with 90 multiple choice questions with three constructed responses. Mr. Kenyon recommended adopting test #0204 with a No-Fault score period for one year.

- World Languages: French - #5174 in lieu of #0171 and #1073

Mr. Kenyon stated that test #5174 includes updated content with constructed responses and multiple choice questions with a time limit of 2 hours and 45 minutes and aligned to the ACTFL Standards. Mr. Kenyon recommended adopting test #5174 with a No-Fault score period for one year.

- World Languages: German - #5183 new test

Mr. Kenyon stated that test #5183 is a new test. Mr. Kenyon recommended adopting test #0204 with a No-Fault score period for one year.

- World Languages: Spanish - #5195 in lieu of #0191 and #0192

Mr. Kenyon stated that test #5195 is updated content with constructed responses and multiple choice questions. Mr. Kenyon recommended adopting test #5195 with a No-Fault score period for one year.

- Special Education: General Resource Room - #0354 in lieu of #0351

Mr. Kenyon stated that test #0354 is a two hour, 120 multiple choice test with the content substantially changed and includes core knowledge and applications and aligned to the Council for Exceptional Children Standards. Mr. Kenyon recommended adopting test #0204 with a No-Fault score period for one year.

Mr. Kenyon stated that the No Fault one year period is recommended as the content within the exam has been amended considerably. Upon questioning by Commissioner Lau, Mr. Kenyon explained that by definition, "No Fault Period" is a period of time wherein anyone who takes that test will pass the exam, as there is no minimum cut score, and then the Department will utilize that data to recommend a cut score for the adoption by the Commission. If the Commission approves the above testing, the No Fault period will begin today, September 3rd and will end September 3, 2011. At that time the Commission will set a cut scores based upon the data that is collected during the No Fault Period.

MOTION: Vice President Thoreson moved to approve the following tests for teacher licensure and a one year No Fault period; #0101 – Business/Business Education, #0204 – Reading/Reading Specialist, #5174 – World Languages: French, #5183 – World Languages: German, World Languages: Spanish, and #0354 – Special Education: General Resource Room, seconded by Commissioner Sileo. The motion passed unanimously, with Commissioners Lau and Geihs absent for the vote.

Information and Discussion of the Impact of the NES-Pearson Teacher Licensure Exams If There was a Change in the Company That Administers the Exams

Dr. Barbee introduced Dr. Heather Klesch and Les McCalla from NES-Pearson; and Peter Yeager in Carson City and Jerry DeLuca in Las Vegas from ETS.

Dr. Barbee stated that at the May 21st meeting NES-Pearson made a presentation on their computer-aided educator testing system. President Owens directed Dr. Barbee to provide information to the Commission regarding the impact that a change in testing systems would create for Nevada; a test cost comparison; cost and time allocation for test validation; and the effects on licensure reciprocity.

Dr. Barbee stated that the NES-Pearson and ETS have parallel testing systems with the following differences:

- NES-Pearson computer based testing essentially meets the testing requirements for Nevada, but does not provide tests in psychology, speech, drama, French, German, technology education and special education – which is a speech and language handicap. ETS does provide this service.
- With regard to testing accessibility or availability, ETS does have the computer based assessment opportunities. NES-Pearson administered on computer at the Pearson Professional Centers with locations in Las Vegas and Reno. Applicants can schedule a date and time to take the exam on-line.
- The test cost comparison is that NES reported there is a price difference as ETS may require multiple testing for a specific area and NES does not; and NES-Pearson does not require a registration fee and ETS requires a \$50 annual registration fee. Dr. Barbee stated that this statement was not validated by ETS.
- ETS and NES-Pearson meet Nevada testing requirements.
- ETS has a Nevada link on their website; and NES-Pearson would like to develop an communication plan and provide Nevada with a dedicated website to be accessible to applicants.
- There is no effect on reciprocity on either company who provides the testing.

Dr. Barbee reviewed the following options for the Commission:

1. Keep the existing testing structure with no changes with ETS;
2. Adopt NES Evaluation Systems as the new testing provider;
3. Refer this issue to a teacher licensure assessment task force to collect additional information and input with regard to testing issues and provide a recommendation to the Commission; or
4. Request that the Department develop an RFI – Request For Information with a report of findings submitted to the Commission.

Upon a question by Commissioner Boothe, Dr. Barbee responded that Nevada does not have a contract with any one specific testing company and Nevada could use both; but with Nevada being such a small state sharing the testing may not be viable for either company.

Update, Submission of Reports and/or Recommendations From Task Forces and Possible Adoption of Recommendations From Task Forces

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Task Force

Former Commissioner and Task Force Chair Luft stated that the Task Force has held four meetings. Task Force Chair Luft submitted and reviewed the proposal from the Task Force. Task Force Chair Luft stated that the Task Force will be meeting on October 7, 2010 to review endorsement areas are no longer being utilized and will be submitting that proposal to the Commission at the October meeting. Task Force Chair Luft recommended that the Commission move forward with a workshop to solicit public comments on the proposal.

Commissioner Lau commended Task Force Chair on a very comprehensive proposal.

MOTION: Vice President Thoreson moved to post for a workshop on the Task Force recommendations on Career and Technical Education, seconded by Commissioner Lau. The motion passed unanimously.

- Early Childhood Education Licensure

Commissioner and Task Force Chair Zastawniak stated that the Task Force held one meeting during the summer and is scheduled to meet on September 15, 2010. A report and recommendations will be presented at the October meeting.

- AB 425 Section 6 – Special Education

Commission President and Task Force Chair Owens stated that the Commission and Task Force failed to submit a report due to the Legislature by July 1, 2010 required by AB 425, Section 6. President Owens stated that she has taken over the Task Force Chair responsibilities and has met with the Task Force. This Task Force has very dedicated members and will be moving forward to accomplish the requirements of the AB 425 Section 6. Task Force Chair Owens stated that the next meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2010 and the Task Force will be working on a recommendation to the Commission to include the deletion of the following special education endorsement areas: 1) 391.350 – Serious Emotional Handicap; 2) 391.356 – Specific Learning Disability; 3) 391.380 – Orthopedic Impairments; 4) 391.381- Health Impairments; and 5) 391.383 – Traumatic Brain Injury.

The Task Force will also be making final recommendations for the streamlining of special education categories.

President Owens will report at the October meeting on the progress and recommendations of the Task Force.

- Elementary Licensure

Dr. Barbee stated that there continues to be issues with the proposed language for the Elementary Licensure which is under review at the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB). There appears to be issues with the proposed language which proposes amendments in other areas of NAC 391, which may not meet the intention of the Task Force.

Task Force Chair Luft stated that currently the elementary education licensure does not specify any minimum amount of coursework in content areas for preparation of an elementary teacher which the Task Force recommended to add and secondarily, to add a new endorsement for elementary physical education which would not be required for an individual to teach physical education at the elementary level. Thirdly, there was a proposal from the southern part of Nevada to take the minors from secondary education and add those into the elementary programs, so that an elementary teacher could add a minor to give them strength to teach at the middle school level. The third proposal is what appears to be the problem with the proposal.

Ms. Dopf suggested that the proposal may need to be separated into the three issues and submitted as three proposals, separately.

Following a discussion, the Commission unanimously agreed to submit the original intent for the minimum coursework requirement proposed language to LCB for language, which is the increase the coursework requirement in the reading, math and science content areas for elementary teachers; and review the other areas at a future meeting.

Determine the Location for the Next Commission Meeting – October 15, 2010

Following a request due to schedule conflicts, the Commission amended the meeting schedule:

October 15, 2010 – Video Conference
December 9, 2010 – Possible Joint Meeting with State Board in Las Vegas
February 9, 2011 – Video Conference
March 24, 2011 – Video Conference
May 4, 2011 – Video Conference
June 16, 2011 – Carson City

Future Agenda Items

The following items were noted to be on the October 15, 2010 agenda:

- Legislative Update;
- Review and Discuss NAC 391.1306 – Geography/Social Studies Regulations;
- Public Hearing for NAC 391.332 – Substitute Teacher Regulations;

- Recommendations from the AB 425 – Special Education Task Force;
- Establish Cut Score for US and World History;
- Update from Task Forces: AB 425 – Special Education; Elementary Licensure; and CTE Licensure Task Force; Early Childhood Education Licensure Task Force; and
- Department of Education Update

Comments From Public

Peggy Lear Bowen, public, thanked the Commission for their energy, effort, and time for students and education in Nevada. Ms. Bowen requested that the Commission place on a future agenda the issue of the PRAXIS II subject area tests and discuss the possibility of not requiring the PRAXIS II subject area tests. Ms. Bowen stated that there are twenty-five states that do not require subject area tests and Nevada should only require content knowledge tests.

Karen Chessell, Nevada Department of Education Family and Consumer Science Consultant, expressed concern with the Career and Technical Education proposal with NAC 391.13082 – major and minor in family and consumer science. Ms. Chessell provided an overview of her concern and stated that her concern is that currently the requirement is for an individual to have coursework in each of the seven areas (foods or culinary arts; nutrition; clothing and textiles; consumerism; housing environment and interior design; child development and family relations), and the proposal is to change the wording from “each” to “five”. This will have a significant impact on family and consumer science consultants and in the classrooms they teach. Ms. Chessell expressed concern that teachers will not be prepared to teach all areas required in the family and consumer science area and is concerned with classroom safety. Ms. Chessell stated that she will make a formal presentation at the workshop in October.

Comments from Staff

Dr. Barbee welcomed the new Commissioners.

Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Geihs is concerned with teachers falling victim to testing and would like to have a discussion with regard to high standards and teacher testing on a future agenda.

Commissioner Couch stated that she appreciates the work of the task forces and the input from the public.

Adjournment of Commission Meeting

President Owens adjourned the meeting at 5:19 P.M.