

Minutes of the Meeting

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

October 15, 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 9:07 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 LAS VEGAS:

Dr. Terry Owens, President
Brian Boothe, Commissioner
Elissa Couch, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Brianne Thoreson, Vice President
Mary Keith, Commissioner
Wendy Zastawniak, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Dr. Jeffrey Geihs, Commissioner - excused
Dr. Cheryl Lau, Commissioner - excused
Dr. Nancy Sileo, Commissioner - excused

STAFF PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

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

STAFF PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Dr. Jerry Barbee, Director of Teacher Licensure
James Kenyon, Assistant Director of Teacher Licensure
Melissa Scott, Consultant
Karen Chessell, Consultant

LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Dr. James E. Irvin, Senior Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN CARSON CITY:

Dr. Vernon Luft, University of Nevada, Reno
Thomas Harrison, University of Nevada, Reno
Francey Dennis, University of Phoenix
Dorothy Devencenie, Washoe County School District
Anna Savala, Washoe County School District
Bonnie Castiglione, Lyon County School District
Stacie Peterson, Washoe County School District

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN LAS VEGAS:

Peter Yeager, Educational Testing Service – ETS
Andre Yates, Clark County School District
Brenda J. Jones, Sierra Nevada College
Marilyn Sue Ford, Retired Professor Enemata, UNLV
Dr. Tom Pierce, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Les McCallum, Evaluation Systems – Pearson

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

Vice President Thoreson led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes: a) September 3, 2010 Meeting

The following corrections were made to the September 3, 2010 minutes: Page 5, paragraph 5, line 8, "...in the near future. Ms. Dopf stated that there **is** a cycle..."; Page 5, paragraph 6, line 3, "...working toward helping develop a system [as] **of** assessment..."; Page 5, paragraph 7, line 4, "...be considered [in] for the evaluation..."; Page 6, paragraph 1, 2nd line, "...on teacher licensure office activity and may also have an [affect] **effect** with the loss..."; Page 6, paragraph 6, line 5, "...Dr. Barbee responded that [is] Section 4 is..."; Page 7, paragraph 4, line 3, "...substitute teachers who only have [a] **an** Associates Degree; Page 13, paragraph 3, line 1, "Ms. Dopf suggested that the proposal may need to **be** separated into the three..."

MOTION: Commissioner Zastawniak moved to approve the September 3, 2010 minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Boothe/Thoreson. The motion passed unanimously.

Fiscal Report – Review of Current Budget Account Balance

James Kenyon, Assistant Director of Teacher Licensure, on behalf of Dr. Barbee, reviewed the budget status report dated September 24, 2010. Mr. Kenyon reported that

total revenues received to date total \$780,242. The Commission's expenditures total \$2,749.59; expenditures for the Licensure budget total \$227,370.89; for an available funding total of \$552,871.11; with funding available from the Commission budget of \$9,381.41.

Update of Nevada Department of Education Activities

Ms. Dopf reported that the reason for Dr. Barbee's absence is his attendance at the Legislative Committee on Regulations for final approval of regulations adopted by the Commission at the September meeting.

Ms. Dopf updated the Commission on Nevada's Race To The Top activities that may impact the work of the Commission.

Ms. Dopf reported that she recently attended a meeting, assembled by Assemblywoman Debbie Smith, of approximately 35 education stakeholders with individuals from the Blue Ribbon Task Force reviewing existing recommendations and proposals to make advisement or take position for the legislature session. The Blue Ribbon Task Force continues to work on legislative recommendations to the Governor for consideration during the next legislative session. A subcommittee of the Blue Ribbon Task Force will be meeting on November 11th to continue working on teacher and educator evaluations.

The Commission may need to develop further recommendations for the alternative route to licensure regulations.

Ms. Dopf stated that Department staff has been very involved in the reform agenda moving forth and being a part of consortiums, and committed to being a part of the Council for Chief State School Officers Consortium on teacher and educator evaluations linked to what other states are doing through the collaborative.

2011 Legislative Report and Update

Ms. Dopf stated that a letter to Chair Owens was received from Chair of the ACR 2 Committee Bonnie Parnell relative to ongoing legislative activity from the ACR 2 Committee. There is a request that the Commission develop an Action Plan to include the following issues: 1) licensure reciprocity with other states; 2) certification of teachers who teach diverse populations; and 3) The effect of rigorous standards for teachers and administrators on student academic achievement to include measurable goals and objectives and an estimated timeframe for reaching the goals and objectives. This Action Plan is due to the ACR 2 Committee by January 1, 2011.

Ms. Dopf stated that the Commission may want to place this item on the December agenda for discussion and possible approval.

Chair Owens appointed a Task Force of the following Commissioners to develop a response to Chair Parnell's letter and Action Plan: President Owens, Vice President Thoreson, Commissioners Boothe and Zastawniak; with an alternate of Commissioner

Couch. The Task Force is to develop a draft Action Plan for review, discussion and possible approval at the December meeting. Mr. Kenyon volunteered as staff representative to this Task Force. A teleconference or video conference meeting will be scheduled.

Workshop to Solicit Comments for Amendments to Career and Technical Education Regulations: NAC 391.1301 – Comprehensive Major and Minors; NAC 391.131 – Single-Subject Majors and Minors; NAC 391.120 – Qualifications for License; Delete NAC 391.13025 – Major or Minor in Business; NAC 391.13066 – Minor in Family And Consumer Sciences; NAC 391.13092 – Major or Minor in Marketing Education; and NAC 391.1308 – Major or Minor in Health Occupations

President Owens opened the workshop at 9:49 A.M. There were eight individuals present. There were no public comments; there was one written comment provided by Karen Chessell with regard to the proposed amendments to NAC 391.13082 which would reduce the number of courses from seven to five in order to receive the endorsement. President Owens closed the public comments of the workshop at 9:50 A.M.

Dr. Vernon Luft, Chair of the Career and Technical Education Licensure Task Force, provided an overview of the Task Force meetings and recommendations for amendments to the Career and Technical Education regulations. Dr. Luft reviewed the proposed amendments agreed upon by the Task Force.

Dr. Luft, on behalf of the Task Force, requested the Commission postpone action on NAC 391.13082 – Family and Consumer Science Regulation as there was a request at the last Task Force meeting to reconsider a motion on this issue, but since this issue was not listed on the agenda, the Task Force could not take any action on this issue. The Task Force will be meeting on November 3rd to further discuss this issue and reconsider the original motion/action. Dr. Luft stated that he is unsure of the recommendation that will come from this review by the Task Force.

Upon questioning by the Commission, Dr. Luft responded that the Task Force recommended that NAC 391.13082 be amended to only require that an individual take five out of the seven listed courses in order to receive the endorsement. Dr. Luft stated that if the qualifications were to remain seven out of seven courses, then this would eliminate the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) from preparing students for this endorsement. As a result of budget cuts UNR is eliminating the interior design course effective next year. Dr. Luft stated that Ms. Chessell's concern is that a teacher in family and consumer science will not be properly qualified if they have not taken all seven courses and expressed a concern with regard to classroom safety.

Commissioner Keith moved to post the recommendations for a public hearing, except for NAC 391.13082 to be remanded back to the Task Force for further review and discussion, seconded by Commissioner Couch.

Vice President Thoreson expressed concern that if the Commission excludes NAC 391.13082 from the public hearing discussion, then a student attending UNR will be

unable to be licensed for this endorsement, as UNR will not be offering all seven courses.

Following additional discussion, Commissioner Keith withdrew her motion and Commissioner Couch withdrew her second to the motion.

MOTION: Vice President Thoreson moved to accept all of the suggested amendments for public hearing to the Career and Technical Regulations: NAC 391.1301 – Comprehensive Majors and Minors; NAC 391.131 – Single-Subject Majors and Minors; NAC 391.120 – Qualifications for License; Delete NAC 391.13025 – Major or Minor in Business; NAC 391.13066 – Major or Minor in Business Education; NAC 391.13082 – Major or Minor in Family and Consumer Sciences; NAC 391.13092 – Major or Minor in Marketing Education; and NAC 391.1308 – Major or Minor in Health Occupations, seconded by Commissioner Zastawniak. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Couch questioned if the wording in NAC 391.1308 – Major or Minor in Health Occupations should read “dental health” instead of “dentistry” for the comprehensive minor for consistency in the language. Dr. Luft stated that he will review this with staff and report at the public hearing.

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

Ms. Dopf reviewed that a previous Commissioner requested the Commission consider the inclusion of geography, as a core subject in order to receive a social studies endorsement.

Katherine Rohrer, Teacher Licensure, reviewed the current requirements listed for NAC 391.1306. The recommendation is to broaden the core areas to include geography along with political science, US and world history.

Commissioner Boothe, as a world geography teacher, supported the recommendation as a very positive move.

The Commission discussed moving this recommendation to a workshop in December.

Dr. Marilyn Ford, retired UNLV professor, expressed support for the inclusion of geography as a core subject requirement and recommended that the Commission develop a task force to review the issue in depth and recommended a review of NAC 391.1306 in its entirety and suggested that the minor requirement should be fifteen credits, instead of the current sixteen credits, which is a problem for out-of-state applicants, and consider requiring economics coursework.

Chair Owens appointed a Task Force with Commissioner Boothe as Chair and Dr. Ford as a task force member. Commissioner Boothe will add additional individuals to the task force and schedule a video conference meeting. The Task Force will report at the next Commission meeting.

A break was granted at 10:33 A.M.
The meeting reconvened at 10:49 A.M.

Review of the Requirements for the Passage of the Nevada Praxis Exams

James Kenyon, Assistant Director of Teacher Licensure, provided a brief overview of the testing process and the Commission's role in the adoption of passing scores. Mr. Kenyon stated that NAC 391.036 requires that an applicant who applies for an initial license must pass a competency test that has been approved by the Commission, at the level of competency specified by the Commission in the following areas: 1) basic reading, writing, and mathematics (PPST or PRAXIS I); 2) The principles and methods of teaching (PLT); and 3) The subject matter of the initial areas of endorsement on the license or the area of endorsement necessary for the applicant's area of assignment (PRAXIS II).

Mr. Kenyon reviewed the Standard Setting Process. This is the process by which cut scores are determined and determining the amount of knowledge and/or skills needed to demonstrate on a licensure test to be considered ready to enter the profession.

Peter Yeager, Client Relations Director for Educational Testing Services, stated that the process of standard setting is based upon the expert judgment of teachers and individuals in higher education (panelists). The panelists define who is a "just qualified candidate" that would be entering the classroom. Panelists judge the percentage of probability that a just qualified candidate would know the answer to the questions on the tests and also the relevance of content areas. A Standard Settings Study is required for new or significantly revised tests.

Mr. Yeager stated in the cut score adoption process a Board or Commission review the following information in adopting a cut score: 1) standards setting study report which includes a recommended score value and content validity data report to the state; and 2) performance data from any test takers, if the state has already adopted the test with no minimum score.

Possible Adoption of New Educational Testing Service (ETS) Passing Scores for World/US History Test: Exam #0941

James Kenyon stated that in September 2009, the Commission adopted exam #0941, in lieu of exam #0940-a retired exam, and adopted a No-Fault testing period for one year to September 2010. During the No-Fault Period for Exam #0941, there were 1,489 test takers; twenty-five had their scores sent to Nevada; and nine individuals had attended higher education institutions in Nevada.

Mr. Kenyon stated that panelists were certified history teachers with four or more years of experience who met and reviewed the data. A cut score value of 152 was recommended.

Chair Owens stated that based upon a review of the information provided, a cut score of 152 is reasonable.

Commissioner Boothe went on record to applaud the Commission for setting high standards in the State of Nevada to ensure that teachers have the knowledge necessary to teach students.

MOTION: Commissioner Boothe moved to adopt a cut score for World/US History Exam #0941 of 152, seconded by Commissioner Keith. The motion passed unanimously.

Review the Structure of Alternative Route to Licensure Classifications of Programs Per NAC 391.057 and 391.058

Dr. Barbee stated that in the Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL) regulations it is identified that the Licensure Office would be accepting licensees from out-of-state programs based on the approval by the Commission. The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the Commission with a recommendation for accepting out-of-state licensees based on their participation in the ARL programs within their respective state.

Dr. Barbee stated that the "Green Book" is a state by state data analysis of the ARL programs that have been reported through the National Center for Educational Information. Within the documentation provided to the Commission, is an overview of the development of the ARL program that identifies accepting programs from out-of-state. Dr. Barbee recommended that the Office of Teacher Licensure be allowed to utilize the "Green Book" as the official reference manual for out-of-state non-traditional program completers. Dr. Barbee stated that the Green Book addresses individuals who have completed an alternative route program that are school district based and wherein an applicant could not provide transcript information for the issuance of a license in Nevada.

Dr. Barbee reported that he has reviewed each program in the Green Book and identified each one of the programs, in summary, that are offered in each state to include a classification code. Dr. Barbee stated that the Green Book is updated annually.

President Owens directed staff to place this on the December agenda for possible action to adopt the Green Book as the official reference manual for out-of-state non-traditional program completers for the alternative route to licensure.

A break was granted at 12:10 P.M.
The meeting reconvened at 12:15 P.M.

Public Hearing and Possible Adoption of Temporary Regulation NAC 391.332 – Endorsement as Substitute Teacher; Period For Which Substitute Teacher May Be Hired

President Owens opened the public hearing at 12:16 P.M. There were ten individuals present. There was no public comment. President Owens closed the public hearing at 12:17 P.M.

Commissioner Couch corrected a typo in Section 7(a)(1) from “o” to “to”.

MOTION: Vice President Thoreson moved to adopt amendments to NAC 391.332-Endorsement as a Substitute Teacher, seconded by Commissioner Boothe. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- AB 425 Section 6 – Special Education

Commission President and Task Force Chair Owens stated that the Task Force has worked very hard in an effort to complete the Final Report of Recommendations which was due to the Legislative Committee on Education on July 1, 2010.

The Task Force submitted a Final Report for Commission approval to be forwarded and submitted to the Legislative Committee on Education.

Dr. Tom Pierce, UNLV – Chair of Special Education Department and Task Force Member, added that the Task Force met approximately eleven times, worked hard on the recommendation and was able to complete the work under the leadership of President Owens. Dr. Pierce recommended that the Commission consider amending the term “mental retardation” to “intellectual disabilities” per a new federal law. Dr. Pierce recommended the following amendments to the report:

- Page 2, the 3rd bullet can only be applied if the 2nd bullet is accepted regarding reciprocity of a special education endorsement for a teacher from another state; which indicates that if the applicant who is applying for a special education endorsement has three or more years of experience in the area of endorsement, the coursework analysis will be waived;
- Clarified that the wording “audiology”, as there is an endorsement in audiology for individuals who teach pupils who have hearing impairments; but there is no specific endorsement named “audiology”.
- Amend the term “mental retardation” to “intellectual disabilities” per Rosa’s Federal Law amended on September 24, 2010.

President Owens thanked Dr. Pierce for his comments and offered that those amendments can be made with Commission approval.

President Owens reiterated that this report was due to the Legislative Committee on Education on July 1, 2010 and would like to submit this report as soon as possible with Commission approval.

Ms. Dopf clarified that the section of the NAC that the Task Force reviewed was directed at teacher licensure for teachers dealing with students with disabilities and the

classroom instructional provider. An Audiologist is not under this category and is an endorsement to a special license. NAC 391.223 allows an Audiologist to provide audiology services, but no instructional services, to students.

President Owens directed staff to remove the “audiology” wording from the report.

MOTION: Commissioner Zastawniak moved to approve the Special Education Licensure Report and to submit the Report to the Legislative Committee on Education, seconded by Commissioner Boothe. The motion passed unanimously.

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Task Force

President Owens stated that a workshop on the Task Force’s recommendations was held earlier in this meeting. The Task Force will hold their next meeting on November 3, 2010 to deal with the issue regarding the Family and Consumer Science Endorsement.

Dr. Marilyn Ford, retired UNLV professor, requested that the Commission consider not deleting NAC 391.13025 – Business as an Academic License as recommended by the Task Force; as this is an area that crosses over from career and technical education into the academic area.

President Owens recommended that Dr. Ford provide her comments during the December public hearing.

Dr. Barbee stated that Dr. Luft has done a tremendous job in working with the Career and Technical Education Licensure Task Force and bringing a recommendation forth to the Commission.

- Early Childhood Education Licensure

Commissioner and Task Force Chair Zastawniak stated that the Task Force held two meetings and decided upon the submitted recommendations. Commissioner Zastawniak reviewed the proposal recommending the deletion of NAC 391.088 and stated that all of the requirements/coursework for 391.088 are contained in NAC 391.089. The Task Force felt that requiring the license be birth through second grade would allow the candidate to be more flexible and apply their credentials within an actual classroom setting.

MOTION: Commissioner Zastawniak moved to approve the recommendations and move the recommendations forward to a workshop, seconded by Vice President Thoreson. The motion passed unanimously.

- Elementary Licensure

Dr. Luft noted that the language for R086-09 for Elementary Licensure has been received back from Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB). A copy R086-09 was provided to the Commission.

Dr. Luft, Chair of the Elementary Licensure Task Force, reviewed the goals of the original Task Force: 1) revise the minimum of six credits in content coursework in the content areas of math, science, and social studies; and 2) separate out the elementary K-8 physical education as an endorsement. The proposed elementary physical education endorsement would not be required to teach elementary physical education classes; but offers an option in elementary physical education. Dr. Luft encouraged the Commission to move forward with the recent proposal for a public hearing and consider forming a new task force to review the idea of adding minors in content areas for elementary teachers so that they would be better prepared to teach at the middle school level.

MOTION: Vice President Thoreson moved to post the Elementary Licensure proposal for a public hearing in December, seconded by Commissioner Zastawniak. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Regarding the December 9, 2010 Meeting and Possible Joint Meeting With The State Board of Education and Possible Location Amendment

President Owens stated that there will not be a joint meeting at the December 9th meeting; but will schedule a joint meeting with the State Board of Education in 2011, after the State Board sets their meeting schedule for 2011.

Ms. Dopf stated that the reason for the joint meeting being postponed was that there will be four new State Board Members in January and the State Board will like to meet with the Commission with all of the new Board Members.

The Commission unanimously agreed to conduct the meeting via video conference the morning of December 9, 2010.

Future Agenda Items

The following items were noted to be on the December 9, 2010 agenda:

- Department of Education Update;
- Legislative Update;
- Workshops: 1) Early Childhood Education – NAC 391.088; and 2) Special Education Regulations;
- Public Hearings: 1) Elementary Education Regulations; and 2) Career and Technical Education Regulations;
- Discussion of Action Plan of the Commission to the ACR 2 Committee;
- Possible Approval of the Alternative Route the Licensure Programs to be Accepted for the Alternative Route to License;
- Update from Task Forces: Geography/Social Studies Task Force; ACR 2 Action Plan Task Force; and
- Consider appointing a new task force to investigate the possibility of adding minors to the elementary license.

Comments From Public

Dr. Marilyn Ford, retired UNLV professor, offered the following comments/corrections to the Elementary License proposal on page 5 subsection (d) should state in any of the two following subjects; 2) requested clarified that Section 1 for the elementary physical education K-8 endorsement include the basics, as the verbiage “without limitation” and wanted it clarified that that the individual has to have at least those four areas but could have other teaching elementary education coursework to compliment. Dr. Ford stated that the addition of elementary minors language was previously constructed by a task force and questioned if another task force is necessary.

Dr. Luft agreed with Dr. Ford’s comments.

Andre Yates, Clark County School District, requested that the Commission place on the next agenda a discussion item regarding autism becoming a stand-alone endorsement.

Dr. Tom Pierce, UNLV Chair of Special Education/Early Childhood, advised that he is contracted with ETS as a test developer and requested that the Commission consider this issue when setting cut scores; if an individual cannot obtain a passing score on a licensure exam in Nevada, that individual can take a test in another state with a lower cut score, obtain a teaching license in that state, and then return to Nevada and obtain a teaching license in Nevada under reciprocity.

Comments from Staff

Dr. Barbee reported that he attended the Legislative Committee on Regulations meeting earlier in the day and R046 and R066, regulations previously adopted by the Commission, were approved by the Committee and will be filed with the Secretary of State’s office.

Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Zastawniak stated that Anna Savala, Washoe County School District, volunteered to be a member of the Social Studies Task Force.

President Owens clarified that the requirements of AB 425, which dealt with reciprocity, stated that reciprocity would be dependent on comparable testing and that cut scores cannot be substantially lower.

Adjournment of Commission Meeting

President Owens adjourned the meeting at 1:20 P.M.