

Minutes of the Meeting

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

December 9, 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 9:00 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  
Dr. Nancy Sileo, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Brianne Thoreson, Vice President  
Mary Keith, Commissioner  
Dr. Cheryl Lau, Commissioner  
Wendy Zastawniak, Commissioner

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Dr. Jeffrey Geihs, 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  
Mike Raponi, Director of Career and Technical Education  
Karen Chessell, Family and Consumer Sciences Education Programs Professional

STAFF PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Dr. Jerry Barbee, Director of Teacher Licensure

LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

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, College of Education  
Dorothy Devencenie, Washoe County School District  
Joanne Everts, Washoe County School District  
Melissa Burnham, University of Nevada, Reno – College of Education

**AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN LAS VEGAS:**

Andre Yates, Clark County School District  
Brenda J. Jones, Sierra Nevada College  
Dr. Tom Pierce, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Peter Yeager, Educational Testing Service  
Cynthia McCarty, LIDT  
Amy Coyne, LIDT  
Nancy Hamilton, Clark County School District  
Cassandra Pawling, Clark County School District  
Alrim Sint, Clark County School District  
Shannon Smith, Clark County School District  
Dr. Marilyn Sue Ford, Retired Professor Emeritus, UNLV

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

Commissioner Sileo 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) October 15, 2010 Meeting**

The following corrections were made to the October 15, 2010 minutes: Page 3, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> line, "...[Assemblywomen] **Assemblywoman** Debbie Smith..."; Page 7, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, 1<sup>st</sup> line, "...Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL) [the] regulations it is..."; and Page 8, 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph, "...for individuals who teach pupils who have [learning] **hearing** impairments..."

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lau moved to approve the October 15, 2010 minutes as amended, seconded by Vice President Thoreson. The motion passed unanimously.

**Fiscal Report – Review of Current Budget Account Balance**

Dr. Jerry Barbee, Director of Teacher Licensure, reviewed the budget status report dated November 12, 2010. Dr. Barbee reported that total revenues received to date total \$913,125. The Commission's expenditures total \$3,983.62; expenditures for the

Licensure budget total \$432,313.62; for an available funding total of \$480,811.38; with funding available from the Commission budget of \$8,147.38.

Dr. Barbee stated that the next report, approaching the mid-point of the fiscal year, will include a percentage of expenditures to identify approximately the funding spent and the percentage of funding remaining for the fiscal year.

### **Update of Nevada Department of Education Activities**

Ms. Dopf updated the Commission on Department of Education activities in preparation for the 2011 Legislature, which could directly affect the Commission, to include the following:

1. The State Improvement Plan, developed and revised annually by the State Board of Education, is scheduled to be reviewed and approved by the State Board at their meeting on December 10, 2010; within the Plan there are six major goals to carry out the State Board's vision. One of the goals is to improve the quality of educators in the State and align the goal and activities identified in the improvement plan with the reform agenda within the Race to the Top. There will be strategies attached to this goal and Ms. Dopf will bring this information forward to the Commission, once approved, that will have impact on the Commission to include:
  - Reviewing the revised INTASC Standards for educators;
  - Common Core Standards; and
  - Align teacher licensure with college preparation coursework.

Dr. Rheault and Ms. Dopf have met with School District Superintendents and School Board Members in preparation for the 2011 Legislative Session. The School Districts are planning to submit, at a later date, an INVEST document that may have recommendations for educator training and licensing; as those documents are released, Ms. Dopf will inform the Commission.

Ms. Dopf stated that in discussions with Governor-Elect Sandoval, he has indicated a willingness to work with the Department and the education community for ongoing dialogue; as there will be difficult budget issues ahead during the 2011 Legislative Session.

Ms. Dopf recommended that Commissioners contact her if they have any questions, either via e-mail or telephone, with any legislative questions.

Ms. Dopf reported that earlier this week, in preparation for the Legislative Session, Superintendent Rheault held a briefing session in K-12 education for new Legislators.

Dr. Barbee reported that his staff is conducting an ongoing review with reference to AB 425 and direction has been provided to staff on the interpretation of NAC 391.036.

### **2011 Legislative Report and Update**

Ms. Dopf stated that activities are occurring within the educational communities; to include the Blue Ribbon Task Force recommending legislation for the 2011 Legislative Session. The Blue Ribbon Task Force continues to meet to produce the document, "Nevada's Promise" as a legislative platform. Ms. Dopf will provide updates to the Commission as they are received and apprise the Commission on the areas that were included in "The Race to the Top" being repeated in "Nevada's Promise"; specifically as it relates to "educator effectiveness" to include the accelerated alternative route to licensure to provide a quicker route, than the current three (3) years, and expand to non-traditional training providers; the second area includes expanding the administrator alternative route to non-traditional training providers. Ms. Dopf suggested that the Commission may want to consider developing a response/recommendation to the Legislature on this piece of legislation.

The Legislative Committee on Education will be making recommendations to the Legislature for possible legislation. The Legislative Committee on Governance is not recommending the elimination of the Commission on Professional Standards in Education.

Assemblywoman Debbie Smith is attempting to bring the education community together to agree on an educational theme to include the evaluation of educators.

President Owens stated that in reference to the Alternative Route to Licensure Endorsement; the Alternative Route the Licensure Task Force looked at the issue of non-traditional providers for administrators to become certified through the Alternative Route and there were none, but the Task Force remained opened to suggestions. President Owens suggested that additional research may need to be done in this area and requested that staff perform this research. President Owens stated that the alternative route to licensure endorsement was originally crafted to deal with teacher shortages; currently there is not a teacher shortage issue, but there is an issue of highly qualified teachers in the classroom. President Owens questioned why there is such a push for the expansion of the Alternative Route to Licensure Endorsement.

Commissioner Couch suggested that the Commission may want to be involved with and work with the Blue Ribbon Task Force on educational issues.

Upon questioning by President Owens, Ms. Dopf responded that she could speak on behalf of the Commission to the Blue Ribbon Task Force and/or other educational groups, but would need the Commission to outline their position on issues in order to be the liaison.

### **Workshop to Solicit Comments for Temporary Regulation and Deletion of NAC 391.088 – Qualifications for Teaching Pupils from Birth Through Kindergarten**

President Owens opened the workshop at 9:33 A.M. There were twelve individuals present. There was public comment.

Commissioner Zastawniak, as the Task Force Chair, reviewed that the Task Force met twice and thoroughly reviewed and compared NAC 391.088, the requirements from early childhood education from birth through kindergarten, and 391.089, the requirements for early childhood education from birth through second grade. The Task Force recommends the deletion of NAC 391.088 as all of the components for licensure in 391.088 are included within 391.089. This will allow for greater flexibility for individuals and school districts for job opportunities.

Dr. Melissa Burnham, Early Childhood Education Program Coordinator at the College of Education at the University of Nevada-Reno and a member of the Task Force, stated that she originally agreed and voted with the Task Force to delete NAC 391.088; but since the Task Force meeting, the University of Nevada-Reno has made revisions to their program and recommends that the Commission retain NAC 391.088 – birth to kindergarten endorsement. This would allow students to have an option and be able to focus only on pre-kindergarten. Dr. Burnham recommended that the Commission retain both NAC 391.088 and 391.089.

Joanna Burns, Washoe County School District, supported retaining NAC 391.088. Ms. Burns stated that one of their issues is finding individuals with the appropriate education and experience for early childhood programs. These are hard to fill positions; and within the birth to kindergarten endorsement, individuals can use experience and this provides an additional avenue for individuals to become licensed. Ms. Burns stated that nationally, as well as in Nevada, there is the recognition for the variety of areas within early childhood. Ms. Burns stated that the focus and vision for early childhood is expanding and would like to keep all licensing options for individuals in the early childhood programs.

President Owens closed the workshop at 9:42 A.M.

Commissioner Zastawniak stated that the elimination of NAC 391.088 would allow greater flexibility for individuals to be hired and allow for a wider range of employment opportunities.

**MOTION:** Vice President Thoreson moved to post the deletion of NAC 391.088 for a public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Sileo. The motion passed unanimously.

**Workshop to Solicit Comments for Amendments for Temporary Regulations**  
**Amendments to Special Education Regulations: NAC 391.030 – Qualification to Become Licensed Employee of School District: Courses or Examinations in Certain Subjects Required; Exemption; NAC 391.036 – Tests of Competency Required for Initial License; Exemptions; Failure to Comply; Administration of Tests; NAC 391.042 – Initial License Requiring Student Teaching Experience: Conditions for Substitution of Teaching Experience; NAC 391.054 – Licensure of Person Licensed or Certified in Another State; NAC 391.343 – Generalist Endorsement; Delete NAC 391.350 – Qualifications for Teaching Pupils Who Have Serious Emotional Disturbances and Moderate to Intense Needs for Assistance and Intervention; Delete NAC 391.356 – Qualifications for Teaching Pupils Who Have Specific Learning Disabilities and Moderate to Intense Needs for Assistance**

**and Intervention; Delete NAC 391.380 – Qualifications for Teaching Pupils Who Have Orthopedic Impairments; Delete NAC 391.381 – Qualifications for Teaching Pupils, Who Have Health Impairments, Other Than Orthopedic, That Adversely Affect Educational Performance; and Delete NAC 391.383 – Qualifications for Teaching Pupils Who Have Traumatic Brain Injury**

President Owens opened the workshop at 9:48 A.M. There were twelve individuals present. There was no public comment.

Dr. Tom Pierce, Chair of the Special Education/Early Childhood Education Department at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and Task Force Member, stated that the Task Force met numerous times, discussed, and reviewed streamlining the licensing of special education teachers and determine what coursework is required for teachers to teach specific populations. The Task Force determined that there is a wide range of special education licensing across the nation. The Task Force looked at determining the most effective and efficient avenue for teachers to be able to work with a group of students, not a group of disabilities.

Ms. Dopf reminded the Commission that this set of regulation amendments was brought forth by a long series of meetings, reviews, and discussion of the Special Education Task Force. The Task Force's goal was to reduce the complexity and ease the licensure process for both in-state and out of state applicants, but particularly for special education teachers from out of state, without losing the quality of special education teachers; and improve reciprocity with applicants from other states.

President Owens added that this Task Force was a directive from the Legislative Committee on Education to consider consolidating and streamlining special education licensing. This process has had multiple layers of input and discussion.

Upon questioning by Commissioner Sileo, Ms. Dopf responded that the Commission has historically not adopted trends in special education, versus changes in the federal law with reference to the term "mental retardation" to be changed to "intellectual disabilities". Ms. Dopf advised that the Commission can decide whether or not to amend this term within the regulations.

Dr. Pierce responded that SB 2781 was signed into federal law in October 2009 indicating that the term "intellectual disabilities" is to replace the term "mental retardation".

Dr. Barbee advised with regards to NAC 391.054, licensure of an individual certified in another state is required to have three out of the last five years of experience; the recent amendments to NAC 391.036 removed the three years of experience requirement.

As there was no public comment, President Owens closed the workshop at 10:13 A.M.

Ms. Dopf added that the amendments to NAC 391.036 dealt with assessments to allow for three years of experience in lieu of the testing process. Dr. Barbee will work with Ms. Dopf on the interpretation of NAC 391.036 and 391.054.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Sileo moved to post the special education proposed regulations for a public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Zastawniak. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Hearing and Possible Adoption to Consider Comments for Regulation R086-09; NAC 391.095 – Qualifications for License: Elementary and New Section for Physical Education Elementary License**

President Owens opened the public hearing at 10:15 A.M. There were twelve individuals present. There was public comment.

Dr. Vernon Luft, Task Force Chair, stated that the proposed changes include an increase in elementary education requirements in mathematics, science and social studies. The reason for the increase in the semester hours of credit is that previously there had not been a requirement in the NAC that requires elementary teachers to have a minimal amount of subject matter content in those areas. Additionally, the Task Force felt that to have quality in teacher education programs across the state, it should be assured that elementary teachers have a minimal amount of content knowledge in those subject areas and therefore the Task Force decided upon six credits.

Dr. Luft stated that the Task Force also decided to delete the physical education elementary requirements from the Elementary Education Endorsement and created the Physical Education Elementary Endorsement; to allow for an elementary education physical education endorsement. Dr. Luft stressed that an individual does not have to have this endorsement in order to teach physical education at the elementary level; but it is an option for elementary teachers.

Dr. Luft stated that the Task Force had recommended adding minors to the Elementary License, but that language caused some disagreement with the Legislative Counsel Bureau, so after further discussion, this amendment to the proposed language was removed. Dr. Luft offered that the Commission may want to discuss this issue at a future meeting.

Dr. Marilyn Ford, member of the Task Force, supports the proposed regulation amendments and referred to an error on Page 5, Section 3 NAC 391.095 1.(d) the wording be “at least two” and delete [any].

President Owens closed the public hearing at 10:34 A.M.

Upon a clarification question by Commissioner Couch, President Owens stated that the stand alone Physical Education Elementary Endorsement allows for greater flexibility for both rural and urban school districts.

**MOTION:** Vice President Thoreson moved to adopt R086-09, with the proposed amendment on page 5 Section 3 1.(d), seconded by Commissioner Lau. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Hearing and Possible Adoption to Consider 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 – Major or Minor in Business Education; NAC 391.13082 - 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 public hearing at 10:36 A.M. There were twelve individuals present. There was public comment.

Dr. Vernon Luft, Task Force Chair, provided an overview of the proposal and amendments and stated that these are the final recommendations of the Task Force. This set of regulations is intended for an individual obtaining a license through the regular teacher education program, not the business and industry licensure process. The Task Force recommends deleting the academic business area, as it was determined that an applicant in this area should have a career and technical license. An applicant with a career and technical license can add an academic minor endorsement to that license.

Dr. Luft stated that for NAC 391.13082 - Family and Consumer Science Endorsement, the Task Force met one final time, following the October Commission meeting, to further discuss NAC 391.13082 and agreed on a compromise for certain coursework to be required in the area of foods or culinary; nutrition; consumerism; child development; and family relations and the remaining coursework may be taken, but not required, to include courses in clothing & textiles; housing environment; and interior design. It was discussed that the non-required courses are being eliminated at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) due to budget cuts, and as such UNR would be unable to graduate an individual to meet the requirements of the Family and Consumer Science Endorsement.

Dr. Luft stated that NAC 391.131 is the comprehensive majors and minors; the areas recommended for deletion are areas not being utilized for licensure and there are currently no individuals licensed in these areas.

Following a review of NAC 391.131, it was discovered that some areas were deleted in error and should remain in the regulation to include: (z) – Fashion merchandising, (cc) – Gerontology assistant, (ee) – Heating, air conditioning and refrigeration mechanics, and (ff) – Horticulture.

Nancy Hamilton, Coordinator for the Clark County School District and the Career and Technical Education Department, stated that Clark County has a large family and consumer science program and expressed opposition to the amendments to the Family and Consumer Science Endorsement. Ms. Hamilton feels that the clothing and interior

design coursework needs to be required, due to the large number of students enrolled in these courses within the Clark County School District. In a survey of Clark County School District Family and Consumer Science teachers, 97% opposed the proposed amendments. Ms. Hamilton stated that the reason strongly reported, in the survey due to recent cut backs, was that family and consumer science teachers have had to move/transfer to other openings; and as such these teachers need to be fully prepared/licensed in all seven areas. When hiring, principals assume that an individual with a Family and Consumer Science Endorsement are fully prepared to teach in all seven areas. Ms. Hamilton strongly recommends keeping coursework in all seven areas as this will result in strong programs. Ms. Hamilton added that there is a need for highly qualified teachers within the Perkins Program and for students to be able to pass the required assessments. Ms. Hamilton also cited concerns for student safety.

Ms. Hamilton requested that the Commission not approve this proposal and suggested that the Commission allow the Task Force to further review the Family and Consumer Science endorsement with Family and Consumer Science teachers, administrators, and higher education representatives; and to investigate other avenues for the University of Nevada, Reno students to obtain the additional coursework not being offered at UNR.

Ms. Hamilton suggested that the Commission create a task force to include individuals who have expertise in family and consumer science, school district course requirements, and administrators who know what type of preparation is required for quality family and consumer science teachers to meet program requirements; and investigate other avenues for the interior design, clothing and housing and textiles coursework to be met for a degree at UNR.

Dr. Luft stated that the University of Nevada, Reno is the only institution in Nevada that prepares family and consumer science teachers. The interior design department is being closed, as a result of the severe budget cuts at the university, and the proposal was submitted in an effort to not eliminate an individual at UNR from being able to obtain the Family and Consumer Science endorsement. Upon questioning, Dr. Luft stated that a majority of UNR students secure a job in the Washoe County School District and Clark County School District usually hires their Family and Consumer Science teachers from out of state.

Dr. Luft stated that the proposal allows an individual to take courses in other areas and specialize in specific areas. Dr. Luft encouraged the Commission to adopt the proposal as submitted by the Task Force.

Cassandra Pawling, expressed opposition to the Family and Consumer Science proposal. Ms. Pawling stated that she obtained her education at the University of Arizona and agrees with Ms. Hamilton that all seven courses are important and should be required. If this proposal is approved, teachers will not have all of the required coursework and proper training; this could have long term affects on the fashion industry in Las Vegas. Ms. Pawling also expressed a concern with student safety as students work with complex machinery in class.

Alisa Sint, Family and Consumer Science Teacher with the Southeast Career and Technical Academy, expressed opposition to the Family and Consumer Science proposal. Ms. Sint obtained her degree from an out of state university. Ms. Sint supports individuals taking online courses to fulfill the current coursework requirements. Ms. Sint offered statistics from the U.S. Labor Bureau regarding the emerging job opportunities within the fashion field. Ms. Sint feels that the elimination of the coursework would result in teachers not being prepared to teach in all areas and suggested individuals take on-line coursework to meet the endorsement requirements. Ms. Sint also recommended that the Commission create a task force for further review.

Shannon Smith, Family and Consumer and Science Teacher in the Clark County School District, stated that she received her degree from out of state and expressed her opposition to the Family and Consumer Science proposal. Ms. Smith stated that the culinary, fashion, and merchandising areas are emerging fields. Ms. Smith feels that even rural teachers need to have all areas to be able to teach family and consumer science classes. Ms. Smith stated that she agrees with Ms. Hamilton's comments. Ms. Smith expressed concern that a student may not be able to pass the Praxis area exam with the deletion of this coursework.

President Owens closed the public hearing at 11:20 A.M.

Commissioner Zastawniak expressed concern with the proposal for career and technical education endorsements as this may be limiting employment options for students and we need to provide a variety of courses with options for students. Commissioner Zastawniak stated that she understands the reason for these proposals and the budget cuts, but feels what is illustrated in the budget reflects what we value and we need to stop the budget cuts in order to place value in the education of our students.

A break was granted at 11:23 A.M.  
The meeting reconvened at 11:30 A.M.

Upon questioning by Commissioner Keith, Dr. Luft responded that UNLV does not offer a family and consumer science degree, UNR is the only university in the state that offers this degree. Commission Sileo offered that while UNLV does have an interior design degree program, it is not associated with the college of education or the career and technical education major. It was confirmed that if this proposal is not approved UNR will not be able to prepare students to be able to obtain the family and consumer science degree and licensure endorsement. Dr. Luft stated that there are no community colleges in northern Nevada that offer the family and consumer science coursework.

Dr. Luft further explained that for state review for university accreditation and review of teacher education majors/programs there is a comparison of the university requirements with the teacher licensure requirements and if those do not align, the university either has to revise the program or the program is not approved. If the program is not approved, then the university can no longer prepare teachers in that area.

Commissioner Keith stated she does not want to dilute the requirements for teachers, but if this proposal is not approved it will force Nevada college students outside of Nevada in order to obtain the required coursework.

Vice President Thoreson clarified with regard to the deletion in NAC 391.131, these are areas in regulation that no individual has been licensed for a long period of time and there are no programs being offered for students; and the areas eliminated are included in other broader areas remaining in regulation. This deletion does not eliminate areas within the business and industry areas.

Upon questioning by President Owens, Dr. Luft responded that the Task Force included representation from higher education, school district personnel and included career and technical representatives, former Commissioner and counselor of a career and technical school, district administrator in career and technical education/former career and technical education teacher, staff of the career and technical from the Nevada Department of Education, and career and technical representative from UNLV. The Task Force held six meetings.

Upon questioning by President Owens, Dr. Luft stated that the compromise was passed by the Task Force by a vote of 6-2 in favor. Dr. Luft stated that new proposal has five required areas and three optional areas of coursework. This would have little impact on the family and consumer science programs in Nevada.

Upon questioning by President Owens, Dr. Luft stated that individual school districts could require coursework in specific areas when hiring individuals.

Commissioner Couch expressed that she is not in favor of amending NAC 391.13082; as she feels that there is a need to ensure that students receive the proper instruction to ensure the safety of the students in the classroom and she is not as concerned regarding the ability of the university to offer coursework.

Commissioner Boothe thanked the Task Force for all of their hard work; but agreed with Commissioner Couch and stated that if the only reason for this amendment is to ensure that UNR has an accredited program, this is the wrong reason to make this amendment.

President Owens questioned if these areas being labeled "optional" are essential. Commissioner Boothe stated that there was not a full consensus of the task force on this proposal and the public comments received indicate that these courses are essential to this endorsement.

Dr. Luft responded that this proposal was passed by a vote of 6 to 2 in favor and the opposition expressed indicated that all courses were essential.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Sileo moved to adopt the entire proposal of the Task Force, with the exception of NAC 391.13082 (to be voted on as a separate issue) and additional amendments to NAC 391.131 for the inclusion of: z) – Fashion merchandising, (cc) – Gerontology assistant, (ee) – Heating, air conditioning and

refrigeration mechanics, and (ff) – Horticulture, seconded by Commissioner Keith. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice President Thoreson stated that the issue is to allow the proposal and be able to offer a degree program at UNR, in order for those students to receive a family and consumer science endorsement or sent students out of state to obtain the coursework and a family and consumer science degree. School districts could seek teachers with the optional coursework.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lau moved to approve NAC 391.13082 as submitted, seconded by Vice President Thoreson. The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 3. Commissioners in favor: President Owens, Vice President Thoreson, Commissioners Lau, Keith, and Sileo. Commissioners in opposition: Commissioners Boothe, Zastawniak, and Couch. Commissioner Geihs was absent.

**Possible Approval of the “Green Book” As the Official Reference Manual for Out-of-State Non-Traditional Program Completers for the Alternative Route to Teacher Licensure**

Dr. Barbee recommended that the “Alternative Teacher Certification, A State-by-State Analysis”, also known as the Green Book, be accepted as the primary guide for the issuance of licenses for out of state ARL completers; and when necessary, the Office of Teacher Licensure have the flexibility to analyze and issue licenses based on a case-by-case analysis of ARL program completers whose program may not be identified in the Alternative Teacher Certification guide. The Office of Teacher Licensure has developed a matrix that identifies the ARL completion certification and where it fits into the licensing process. The publication is updated and published annually.

Upon questioning by Commissioner Sileo, Dr. Barbee responded that an individual who completes the “ABCTE” national teacher preparation program would be issued a “Conditional Special Qualifications License”. If this individual within the three year period has five satisfactory evaluations, they worked with the school district for the full three years, then they would qualify for a standard license in the area of Special Qualifications. The Special Qualification License is a three year license that must be renewed every three years. In order for this license to be issued there must be an employment commitment by the school district and the individual must have a license from another state.

**MOTION:** Vice President Thoreson moved to approve the “Alternative Teacher Certification, A State-by-State Analysis”, as the official reference manual for out of state non-traditional program completers, seconded by Commissioner Boothe. Ms. Dopf clarified that the approval of the document would drive the mechanism for decision making for the licensure staff. The motion passed, with Commissioner Sileo in opposition.

**Discussion and Possible Appointment of Elementary Licensure Task Force to Review the Option of Adding Minors to the Elementary License**

President Owens stated that the option to add minors to the Elementary License was a recommendation from the previous task force.

Dr. Luft stated that the recommendation was to add strength to elementary credentials. The Task Force did work with Legislative Counsel Bureau and it was indicated that the proposed changes affect other areas within regulation. Dr. Luft did not think that another task force was necessary and suggested that Dr. Barbee and Dr. Marilyn Ford work with Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) on this language.

Dr. Barbee offered to work with Legislative Counsel Bureau on this language. Dr. Barbee suggested reworking the language, bring back for review/discussion by the Commission and then submit to LCB.

Dr. Marilyn Ford explained that the reason for adding minors is that within the current elementary license there are twelve credit endorsements and those twelve credit endorsements now hold no credit with No Child Left Behind. In order to give those endorsements the content that would be required would be the addition of minors to the elementary license. Dr. Ford stated that this proposal would allow school districts to hire individuals with specific endorsements with an elementary license.

**ACTION:** The Commission agreed to wait until after the 2011 Legislative Session and for this issue to be tagged for a future meeting after July 2011. Dr. Barbee will discuss this proposal with LCB after July 1, 2011. Dr. Marilyn Ford will help with this process.

**Discussion of the Autism Endorsement – NAC 391.378**

Andre Yates, Clark County School District, submitted and reviewed a proposal for amendments to NAC 391.378 – Autism Endorsement. Mr. Yates stated that year after year, the Clark County School District continues to have a high vacancy rate in autism classrooms. Currently, there are many challenges for an individual to obtain the autism endorsement due to the structure of the special education licensure and endorsement process. Mr. Yates stated that the autism endorsement does not stand alone and an individual must have another special education endorsement before they can add the autism endorsement. This proposal would set the autism endorsement into its own structure and allow an elementary licensed teacher to add an autism endorsement. Mr. Yates also feels that this is a more comprehensive endorsement with specific coursework required.

Upon a request by President Owens, Dr. Barbee reviewed the structure of special education endorsements and the process to obtain an autism endorsement. Dr. Barbee confirmed that to teach pupils, ages 3-21 with autism, an individual must hold an endorsement issued pursuant to this section. This would mean in the area of autism or a special license with an endorsement in special education and must complete a program of preparation leading to license in this field within three years of beginning to

teach pupils with autism. Dr. Barbee recommended that the Commission consider creating a Special Education License, through a legislative request/statute.

Ms. Dopf stated that it is important to note that the issue of special education licensure standing alone as a license and related endorsements be an issue for conversation; but is not the material issue under this proposal. This proposal potentially modifies the minimum requirements for licensing of teachers for an endorsement in autism and creates a separate process for autism with articulated specific coursework to an existing master's or bachelor's degree in any content area.

Ms. Dopf advised that the current Options Program allows an individual to have an existing special education license and obtain specific coursework while teaching autistic pupils. In July 2012, the Option Program will no longer exist unless the Commission removes the sunset clause within regulation.

Dr. Tom Pierce, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, expressed strong support for the autism endorsement proposal to be a stand alone endorsement, similar to the generalist endorsement. Dr. Pierce urged the Commission to consider approving the proposal to move forward in the workshop/public hearing process.

Amy Coyne, Clark County School District and Coordinator for low incidence disabilities, stated that there are retention issues with teachers in these classroom and this proposal would help with recruitment and the retention of these teachers.

Chair Owens stated that with exception to the proposed coursework, currently autism is a stand alone endorsement and it may be the interpretation of this regulation.

Dr. Pierce explained that the original regulation was intended to be an attachment to a license; an individual must have a special education license/endorsement first before adding the autism endorsement. Dr. Pierce explained that the current proposal expands the coursework requirements to ensure that the autism endorsement is a stand alone endorsement.

Ms. Dopf stated that based upon other endorsement requirements the area of autism coursework should be expanded to fulfill the need in this area.

Mr. Yates offered that currently elementary teachers do not qualify for the Option Program, as they do not have a special education license; they could join the Option Program for Resource Endorsement and then after two to three years after completion of the Options Program, they could apply for the Autism Endorsement; these individuals then opt to not pursue an endorsement in autism. Mr. Yates stated that there are vacancies in autism classrooms year after year. Mr. Yates strongly urged for the elimination of the sunset clause of the Options Program; as this was the only Options Program with a sunset clause and urged the Commission to continue allowing avenues for teachers to be able to qualify for the autism endorsement.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Keith moved to move this proposal to workshop, seconded by Vice President Thoreson. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- Social Studies Task Force

Commissioner and Task Force Chair Boothe stated that the Task Force met on December 8, 2010 and created a proposal with amendments to NAC 391.036.

Commissioner Boothe reviewed the proposal which includes coursework in geography and economics.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Boothe moved to post the Social Studies proposal to a workshop, seconded by Commissioner Sileo. The motion passed unanimously.

(Commissioner Lau left the meeting at 1:30 P.M.)

- Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 2 (ACR 2) Action Plan Task Force

President and Task Force Chair Owens reported that the Task Force has met twice and worked on an Action Plan and timeline frame to meet legislative requests and mandates. President Owens reviewed the recommendations of the Task Force in the form of an Action Plan and the Timeline Request; which includes goals with measurable objectives.

President Owens stated that the Commission will be creating a network of contacts to gather input from Nevada teachers, administrators, and national experts in education. Commissioners will be assigned to key contacts in designated organizations and input reports will begin by February 2011.

Upon questioning by President Owens with regard to licensure reciprocity and AB 425 which waived Nevada specific testing for teachers who have a non-provisional license from a state with existing licensing reciprocity. Dr. Barbee responded that he is in the process of developing a matrix of the testing required in other states to ensure that reciprocity is met. It was discussed and agreed to place this on the February agenda for review and possible approval.

President Owens stated that the Task Force discussed the issue of teachers who teach diverse populations. It was agreed that the certification of teachers who teach diverse populations such as school populations defined as at-risk, ELL, or other designations will be explored by the Commission in the 2011 calendar year. These topic areas will be driven by input from the newly created network of education contacts.

The effect of rigorous standards for teachers and administrators on student academic achievement will be addressed with the creation of a task force that will propose state standards, possibility modeled on the National Board Certification. The effect of rigorous standards for teachers and administrators on student academic achievement can be accomplished through surveys and outcome data.

**Possible Approval of the ACR 2 Action Plan To Be Transmitted to the Committee To Study The Governance and Oversight of the System of K-12 Public Education**

**MOTION:** Following a review of the letter, Action Plan and Timeline, Vice President Thoreson moved to approve the letter and submit the timeline and action plan to the Committee to Study the Governance and Oversight of the System of K-12 Public Education, seconded by Commissioner Zastawniak. The motion passed unanimously.

**Future Agenda Items**

The following items were noted to be on the February 9, 2011 agenda:

- Department of Education Update;
- Legislative Update;
- Workshops: 1) Autism Endorsement – NAC 391.378; and 2) Social Studies Endorsement – NAC 391.1306;
- Public Hearings: 1) Early Childhood Endorsement – NAC 391.088; and 2) possibly the Special Education regulations;
- Review and possible approval of the testing matrix per NAC 391.036;
- Discussion, development and possible approval of an accelerated route for the Alternative Route the Licensure Program and non-traditional coursework programs;
- Update from Task Forces: ACR 2 Action Plan Task Force; and

**Comments From Public**

Dr. Vernon Luft thanked the Commission for their approval for the regulation amendments for the Elementary Education Licensure and Career and Technical Education endorsements as this will affect college students in Nevada. Dr. Luft expressed concern and wanted to ensure that higher education institutions in Nevada will be contacted regarding the amendments and effective dates of the amendments to the career and technical education regulations in order for the programs to make the appropriate changes in the university programs.

**Comments from Staff**

There were no additional comments from Staff.

**Comments from Commissioners**

There were no additional comments from Commissioners.

**Adjournment of Commission Meeting**

Vice President Thoreson moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 P.M., seconded by Commissioner Sileo. The motion passed unanimously.