

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2019**

**Meeting Locations:**

All meetings will be video conferenced from both locations.

<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>MEETING ROOMS</b>
Department of Education	2080 East Flamingo Rd. Suite 114	Las Vegas	Board Room
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth Street	Carson City	Board Room

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

*(Video Conferenced)*

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**In Las Vegas:**

President Esparza  
Commissioner Zeh  
Commissioner Carvalho  
Commissioner Davis

**In Carson City:**

Commissioner McGregor  
Commissioner Drum  
Commissioner West

**COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Commissioner Burnham  
Commissioner Maruyama  
Commissioner Gullivan-Wallace

**DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:**

**In Las Vegas:**

Jason Dietrich, Office of Educator Licensure  
Paul Partida, Office of Educator Licensure  
Mike Arakawa, Office of Educator Licensure  
Jeff Briske, Office of Educator Licensure

**In Carson City:**

**LEGAL STAFF PRESENT**

**In Las Vegas:**

Deputy Attorney General David Gardner

**In Carson City:**

None

**AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:**

**In Las Vegas:**

Monte Bay, National University  
Jean Linnell, National University  
Rob Askey, Touro University Nevada  
Patricia Henry, Touro University Nevada  
Jessica Bouchte, Clark County School District  
Ana Bradley, Nevada Teachers of Tomorrow  
Monica Beane, Educational Testing Service  
Zane Gray, Sierra Nevada College  
Detra Baldwin, Clark County School District  
Tamara Carrington, Clark County School District  
Ed Ronca, University of Nevada Las Vegas  
Vikki Courtney, Clark County Education Association  
Shartraya Collier, Nevada State College  
Brenda Pearson, Clark County Education Association

**Carson City:**

Sara Cunningham, Northwest Regional Professional Development Program  
Hope Blinco, Mineral County School District  
MaryAnn Demchak, University of Nevada Reno  
Jose Delfin, Carson City School District  
Carol Gebhardt, Washoe County School District  
Mary Pierzynski, Nevada Association of State Superintendents  
Dawn Huckaby, Lyon County School District

**Elko:**

Brian Zeiszler, Great Basin College

**Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order; Roll Call; Pledge of Allegiance**

President Esparza called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.  
Roll call attendance was taken as reflected above. It was determined a quorum was met.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner McGregor.

**Agenda Item #2 – Public Comment #1**

No Public Comment in Elko, Las Vegas, or Carson City

**Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Flexible Agenda**

**Motion:** Commissioner Zeh moved to approve the flexible agenda. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #4 – Approval of Minutes for July 18, 2019 Meeting**

**Motion:** Commissioner West moved to approve the July 18, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. **Commissioner Carvalho abstained. Motion carried.**

**Agenda Item #5 – Nevada Department of Education Updates, presented by Jason Dietrich and Mike Arakawa**

Mike Arakawa presented the Nevada Department of Education updates. He stated that the Department is currently in the process of recruiting for two of three new positions approved within the Office of Educator Licensure during the 80<sup>th</sup> (2019) legislative session. We have posted openings for a Management Analyst to assist Jeff Briske with his work on Teacher Incentives, Teach Nevada Scholarships, and other fiscal programs he oversees, and for a Compliance Investigator to assist Mike

with his backgrounds and investigations work. The third position will be for a lead licensure analyst to assist with supervisory duties within the office and to manage the OPAL educator licensure system.

Mike advised that he and Jason Dietrich will both be attending this year's Professional Practices Institute (PPI) held by the National Association of Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC). This is a national conference that focuses on educator ethics and misconduct and what states do to prevent or mitigate educator misconduct. Mike and Jason are looking forward to being able to speak with other jurisdictions about Nevada's expanding focus on these issues and the steps we are taking to better address them.

**Agenda Item #6 – ETS Exams, presented by Dr. Monica Beane from Educational Testing Service (ETS).**

Dr. Monica Beane presented on the results of the ETS exam reviews conducted by the workgroups at the request of the Commission. She stated these were conducted in April and May of 2019 and encompassed people from northern and southern Nevada.

The results of the Nevada test review updates are:

- Test number 5322, Special Education: Teaching Students with Intellectual Disabilities, with the recommendation of not adopting as this test is currently being regenerated. It is recommended that the Department schedule a review in the fall of 2020.
- Test number 5311, Library Media Specialist with the recommendation to adopt.
- Test number 5621, PLT: Early Childhood with the recommendation not to adopt.
- Test number 5024, Education of Young Children with the recommendation to continue to require.
- Test number 5025, Early Childhood Education with the recommendation to continue to require.
- Test number 7801 (with subtests of: 7802, 7803, 7804, and 7805), Elementary Education: Content Knowledge for Teaching with the recommendation to schedule for review in the fall of 2019.
- Test number 5202, Reading Specialist with the recommendation to wait for ETS revision of test and participate in the review process in the fall of 2020.

President Esparza opened the floor for Commissioner comments and asked Monica what she anticipated the number of test review participants would be for library media specialists. Monica replied that because of the lower volume of library media specialists, this could be fewer than 10 people. For this review, we had 6 people, which was actually very good for this type of review.

Monica stated that the reason for the recent Praxis Core testing changes was that beginning teachers did not need to know several areas which were included in the exam. The redesign removes quite a few of the upper level geometry and algebra concepts, this was replaced by adding more data analysis questions. ETS is offering free test preparation for all educators, with added indicators for how to study to successfully pass the tests. She encourages the applicants who are going to take the new math test to utilize this resource. This will help refresh their math skills.

President Esparza stated that she is excited about this news as a site administrator. She asked about messaging and the action plan for getting the information out for all educators in the state. Monica replied that ETS has been putting this out for the last year and a half to two years, letting people know it is coming. There is an ETS newsletter and not all the time do people read things or does it get out to everyone, perhaps you could speak with the State Superintendent about trying to get the information out to all of the educators in Nevada. The free practice test and tools were launched in July of 2019 and went live on September 1, 2019.

Mike Arakawa stated that licensure staff have been briefed on this and have been giving out information on the test prep tools to people who need it. The NDE would look into how to provide this information to more people.

Commissioner Carvalho asked why the seven tests were reviewed. Monica replied that there are certain endorsements in the state that do not require specific content exams, along with the new elementary education test that has better content knowledge of teaching as well as better features and components which most states are requiring for their educators. She was asked by the Commission and the Director of Licensure to look into what current or new tests are available for those endorsement areas.

Commissioner Drum asked about the reading specialist test and the revised new literacy standards. Monica replied that test revisions change over time or are changed to align with national or international standards, state standards, or if the test is over 10 years old the test revision process is triggered based on age of the test. Any time you have to go through any standards revisions, this also triggers the ETS process for test reviews.

President Esparza stated that she knows that sometimes the messaging is delayed and this is groundbreaking to help educators to pass these tests. She knows that there are HR resources in Las Vegas and asked them to try to disseminate this information as well, to get it to all the administrators so they can inform their educators. The NDE is now doing a newsletter and this could go on that as well. Social media is a good way to push out information for CCSD, WCSD, NDE, and the others.

Mike Arakawa stated that there should be two motions for the adoptions, one for the library media specialist and the other to adopt the ETS recommendations for the updated tests.

**Motion:** Commissioner Zeh moved to adopt the Library Media Specialist, test number 5311. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion:** Commissioner Carvalho moved to continue to require the ETS recommended tests for Education of Young Children, test number 5024 and Early Childhood Education, test number 5025. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously**

**Agenda Item #7 – Workshop for NAC 391.045: Application for license or endorsement: Required documentation; fee; applicability of academic credits, presented by Jason Dietrich and Mike Arakawa.**

Mike Arakawa presented the workshop for NAC 391.045. This regulation deals with the requirements to apply for an educator license. When the Parental Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE) course was placed into statute, the requirements for the course were originally placed in NAC 391.045. In 2015 it was taken out of NAC 391.045 and placed in NAC 391.030, and then when NAC 391.030 was repealed by statute in 2017 the requirement for PIFE was inadvertently removed from regulation. The proposed changes to NAC 391.045 will add the PIFE course requirements back into regulation and fix the oversight. The NDE also added the option for professional development hours in lieu of college or university coursework to make it easier to meet the requirement for PIFE, and added language requiring the expediting of licensure applications for active duty military and veterans pursuant to SB 100.

President Esparza opened the floor for Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Zeh asked about the qualifier for professional development hours. Mike replied that 15 hours is equivalent to 1 semester hour, before we bring this forward for possible hearing we will specify that in the language to make this very clear.

Commissioner Carvalho asked if the language changed from the NAC 391.030. Mike replied that the only change was adding the option to complete professional development to meet the PIFE requirement. He

said he reviewed the minutes from prior meetings around this regulation, and the Commission had originally wished to have two pathways, we are putting this back into the language in accordance with those wishes.

**Motion:** Commissioner Carvalho moved to approve amendments to NAC 391.045 with the changes as recommended by the Commission and send it forward to public hearing. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #8 – Workshop for NAC 391.050: Transcripts, presented by Jason Dietrich and Mike Arakawa.**

Mike Arakawa presented the workshop for NAC 391.050 which deals with transcripts. This is a language update to bring the regulatory language in line with NDE procedures. This updates the regulation to be able to accept transcripts electronically via e-Script as we have been doing so for the last few years.

President Esparza asked why there was a change. Mike replied that most things are done electronically nowadays. This adds in the option for individuals to be able to provide official transcripts electronically and be less burdensome for them as previously they would have only had the options to send the official transcripts by mail or walk them into the office. President Esparza stated it that it looks like this is simply modernizing the process.

President Esparza opened the floor for Commissioner comments. There were no comments.

**Motion:** Commissioner Davis moved approve amendments to NAC 391.050 as written and send it forward to public hearing. Commissioner Drum seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #9 – Workshop for NAC 391.052: Criteria for approval of standards for licensing teachers of another state; credit for previous teaching service, presented by Jason Dietrich and Mike Arakawa.**

Mike Arakawa presented the workshop for NAC 391.052 and stated that SB 296 of the last legislative session allowing the NDE to reciprocate educator licenses from foreign countries if the NDE deems the requirements for such a license to be equivalent to Nevada requirements. A perfect example of this is that CCSD hires quite a few teachers from the Philippines, the coursework taken and degrees obtained from the Philippines the NDE has always determined to be substantially the same as that required in Nevada. This helps open more pathways to help alleviate the teacher shortages in this state. There are three regulations that the Commission will be looking at that deals with the reciprocity of the teachers in another jurisdiction. We are carrying over the language from SB 296 to include the foreign countries to be able to allow for reciprocity.

President Esparza stated that as a site administrator she has seen Nevada lose out on good teachers to other states because this was not in effect at that time. She is very pleased that this will open the doors to more highly qualified individuals to be able to come to Nevada and teach. She asked about how the review of the transcripts is done by the NDE analysts. Mike replied that the reviews done by licensing analysts require both the foreign transcripts and a transcript evaluation completed by an approved evaluating agency and showing the degree equivalency. This is provided to the NDE at the time of application.

President Esparza opened the floor for Commissioner comments. There were no comments.

**Motion:** Commissioner McGregor moved to approve amendments to NAC 391.052 as written and move it forward for public hearing. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #10 – Workshop for NAC 391.054: Licensure of person licensed or certified in another state; issuance of provisional license under certain circumstances, presented by Jason Dietrich and Mike Arakawa.**

Mike Arakawa presented the workshop for NAC 391.054 and stated that this is the second regulation touched by SB 296. This is the regulation dealing with the licensure of those individuals from another state or country. The relevant changes are that we are adding references to a foreign country throughout the regulation along with the evaluation of the foreign transcripts. Some language is struck out regarding regionally accredited colleges or universities, as it conflicts with some of the requirements of Senate Bill 100 regarding licensing of military veterans. This opens more pathways to licensure.

President Esparza opened the floor for Commissioner comments and stated that she wanted to applaud the NDE for opening more pathways and for adding ways to hire and license more teachers.

**Motion:** Commissioner Davis moved to approve amendments to NAC 391.054 as written and move it forward for public hearing. Commissioner Zeh seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #11 – Workshop for NAC 391.0535: Denial of license to certain persons licensed or certified in another state, presented by Jason Dietrich and Mike Arakawa.**

Mike Arakawa presented the workshop for NAC 391.0535 and stated that this is the third regulation touched by SB 296. The language for revocation and suspension of foreign educator licenses is added to this regulation to align with revocations and suspensions for licenses held in U.S. states outside Nevada.

President Esparza opened the floor for Commissioner comments. There were no comments.

**Motion:** Commissioner Zeh moved to approve amendments to NAC 391.054 as written and move it forward for public hearing. Commissioner McGregor seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #12 – Workshop for NAC 391.0575: Conditional licensure - Requirements to apply for initial license to teach secondary education or to teach pupils in prekindergarten through grade 12 in specific area, presented by Jason Dietrich and Mike Arakawa.**

Mike Arakawa presented the workshop for NAC 391.0575, he stated that this regulation applies to individuals who have completed an ARL program and are ready to apply for their standard license. What the NDE proposes to do in this regulation is change the 18 required semester credits in pedagogy to 14 semester credits in pedagogy, aligning the requirements of this regulation with those in NAC 391.120 which deals with traditional educator preparation programs. The existing language is retained for K-12 or Secondary endorsement areas. This is all about aligning the requirements for ARL and traditional route licenses. Proposed language was also added providing for military personnel and their spouses to be able to obtain an ARL license after completing an ARL program in another state, pursuant to Senate Bill 100 in the last legislative session.

President Esparza opened the floor for Commissioner comments. There were no comments.

**Motion:** Commissioner West moved to approve amendments to NAC 391.0575 as written and move it forward for public hearing. Commissioner Drum seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #13 – Future Agenda Items, presented by Jason Dietrich and Mike Arakawa.**

Mike Arakawa stated that the NDE staff is unable to hold the October 16, 2019 meeting due to scheduling conflicts. We ask to hold the meeting two days prior on October 14, 2019.

President Esparza asked all Commissioners present to read into the record if they would be available to meet on October 14, 2019. President Esparza stated yes, Commissioner Davis stated yes, Commissioner McGregor stated yes, Commissioner Drum stated yes, Commissioner West stated no, Commissioner Zeh

stated no, and Commissioner Carvalho stated yes. This brought the total to 5 Commissioners with 6 needed for a quorum. Staff was directed to reach out again to the other Commissioners not present to find out if they would be available to attend the meeting and be able to meet quorum. If quorum would not be met, then the October COPS meeting would be cancelled.

**Agenda Item #14 – Commissioners’ Comments.**

President Esparza asked that the minutes be amended to remove reference to Commissioner Pendleton as her position has changed and she will not be attending any more meetings for the Commission.

**Agenda Item #15 – Public Comment #2**

No public comment in Carson City, Las Vegas, or Elko.

**Agenda Item #16 – Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.