

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION
FEBRUARY 19, 2020**

Meeting Locations:

All meetings will be video conferenced from both locations.

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

(Video Conferenced)

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

President Esparza
Commissioner Zeh
Commissioner Carvalho
Commissioner Davis
Commissioner West (Arrived at: 9:55 am)
Commissioner Maruyama

In Carson City:

Commissioner Drum
Commissioner McGregor

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Commissioner Gallivan-Wallace
Commissioner Burnham

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
Karl Wilson, Office of Student and School Supports
Cindi Chang, Office of Standards and Instructional Support

In Carson City:

Randi Hunewill, Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning & Education Options

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT

In Las Vegas:

Deputy Attorney General David Gardner

In Carson City:

None

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Las Vegas:

Robert Askey, Touro University Nevada
Jessica Bouchte, Clark County School District
Jody Myers, Clark County School District
Monica Beane, Educational Testing Service
Ana Bradley, Nevada Teachers of Tomorrow
Shartriya Collier, Nevada State College
Zane Gray, Sierra Nevada University
Kendall Hartley, University of Nevada Las Vegas – College of Education
Amanda Lester, Teach For America
Monte Bay, National University
Edward Ronca, University of Nevada Las Vegas
Kristin Dellasals, University of Nevada Las Vegas
Brenda Pearson, Clark County Education Association
Adrienne Williams, Let's Talk Therapy Center

Carson City:

Hope Blinco, Mineral County School District
Blakely Hume, Nevada Department of Education
Galen Hopkinson, Grand Canyon University
Sara Cunningham, Northwest Regional Professional Development Program
Mary Pierzynski, Nevada Association of School Superintendents
Jose Delfin, Carson City 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 9:34 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 Zeh

Agenda Item #2 – Public Comment #1

Carson City:
No public comment.

Las Vegas:
No public comment.

Agenda Item #3 – Introduction, welcome to Commissioners, and appreciation of departing Commissioners, Nevada State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Jason Dietrich and President Esparza welcomed the new Commissioners and thanked all of the outgoing Commissioners. The new Commissioners introduced themselves and gave their backgrounds. The outgoing Commissioners gave their appreciation for being allowed to serve on the Commission.

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

Motion: Commissioner Zeh moved to approve the December 18, 2019 minutes with changes. Commissioner Carvalho seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Agenda Item #5 – Secretary's Report, Jason Dietrich, NDE.

Jason Dietrich gave the Secretary's Report to the Commission. He stated that the annual election for President and Vice President would be held at the next meeting.

Nevada was one of the original charter member states of the Professional Educator Standards Board Association (PESBA), and Nevada has rejoined it after a hiatus of several years. PESBA is committed to fostering communication between jurisdictions with independent or semi-independent educator standards boards like this Commission, which is a non-departmental body with the Department facilitating its work. Jason recently attended the PESBA board meeting in San Diego and it made him thankful for the way Nevada's structure is set up compared to some other states. He will utilize the time with PESBA to try to see where Nevada can mirror best practices from across the country. Independent standards boards can be more flexible than state agencies and he hopes to bring back progressive ideas.

Jason has spoken before about NASDTEC, which Nevada has been a member of for a number of years. This is a group that sets national standards, works on reciprocity agreements, and he is a seated board member which gives Nevada a strong voice in their work. Work from NASDTEC will be coming forward to the Commission in the future. In June, Nevada has been invited to present a concurrent session at the NASDTEC National Convening in Oklahoma City. Mike Arakawa put forward a proposal to speak about Redemptive Practices in Licensing and Background Investigations, which was accepted for presentation.

The NDE is having many conversations with national microcredential providers on alignment with licensing standards. It is time for Nevada to embrace this new pathway, which can potentially lead to new endorsements in the future and will allow Nevada to be more progressive in its licensing of educators.

NDE would like to create ARL pathways for CTE and will potentially focus on coming to the Commission to allow a CTE license for cybersecurity. We do not currently have many qualified educators in cybersecurity; we do have a Business and Industry pathway for those individuals to enter the education profession, however most people in that field will not leave the private sector for the starting pay that an educator makes. A CTE licensing pathway would allow Nevada to have homegrown cybersecurity experts.

Licensure grade bands is another topic, Jason will be meeting with the State Superintendent about this to discuss the long awaited grade band restructuring and hopefully go back to a more traditional structure. Part of this has to do with ESSA; we have to revive traditional middle school licenses. Nevada did open up pathways for individuals to add licenses or endorsements by competency testing. If you are at the elementary special education or early childhood level you can pass a content exam at the middle school or secondary level to test up into that subject area. Several states do this and it has been very successful in filling high-needs vacancies in the middle school and high school level. We currently have about 1,000 vacancies in Nevada. The Commission does not have purview to determine the grade band structure, that is the purview of the State Superintendent.

Agenda Item #6 – Workshop to Solicit Comments for Proposed Amendments to the Following Regulations: NAC 391.160 Types of endorsements issued by Department. Jason Dietrich and Mike Arakawa.

This item was removed from the agenda.

Agenda Item #7 – Workshop to Solicit Comments for Proposed Amendments to the Following Regulations: NAC 391.237 Endorsements to teach English language acquisition and development; endorsement as professional teacher of English as second language; endorsement as specialist in English language acquisition and development. Jason Dietrich and Mike Arakawa.

Jason Dietrich presented the Workshop for NAC 391.237. During early conversations about English Language Acquisition and Development, there were several strands to the work brought forward to the Commission. One of these was a recommendation by the English Mastery Council that the coursework for the English Language Acquisition and Development (ELAD) endorsement be embedded in Nevada

educator preparation programs at the elementary, middle and high school levels. The Commission elected not to approve this recommendation at the time. The Department on behalf of the English Mastery Council then took this request to the State Board of Education, which approved it with a recommendation that ELAD coursework be placed into our prep programs in 2020 for Elementary and 2021 for secondary and middle school. The recommendation was sent out by NDE to the prep programs with those specific timelines and many of our higher ed institutions have now embedded the coursework or are in the final stages of embedding it. It is the standard in the field now, however there is no regulatory requirement to do so since a regulation was never adopted by the State Board. This will correct that oversight. The NDE elected to bring this back forward to the Commission, with a modification of the effective dates to 2021 for elementary prep programs and 2022 for secondary and middle school programs.

President Esparza thanked Jason for the background and context.

Karl Wilson stated that the recommendation put forward is putting into regulation the same provisions that were previously approved by the state Board of Education. It would require all approved Nevada educator preparation providers to include the coursework for the ELAD endorsement in their programs for all future educators that they prepare. Most of the universities and colleges have already adopted the coursework related to ELAD and have that embedded within their programs; this proposed regulation would codify that within NAC.

President Esparza asked for a statewide estimate of the number of English language learners. Karl replied that the past school year we had over 73,000 in the state of Nevada. For the past 5 years, the percent of ELL is around 16% for the whole state. President Esparza commented on the changing demographics in the state of Nevada. There are a lot of refugee newcomers and in the past requirements would be along the lines of multicultural education. She asked for additional context by Karl. Karl replied that CCSD has 59 different languages that are represented within its student body, and in Washoe County district there are 45 distinct languages within the student body. We have collected data from Educator Licensure and approximately 14% of licensed educators have a TESL or ELAD endorsement, this means the number of teachers able to effectively work with English language learners is very low. Part of the research the English Mastery Council did was take a look at what skills teachers need in order to understand the needs of their students. All teachers needed to be provided with additional support. This would better prepare them to serve the needs of all students.

President Esparza opened the floor for Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Carvalho asked what the issue was that held up the Commission from approving this previously. Karl replied that part of the recommendation was that all teachers would be required to have a TESL or ELAD endorsement. It was felt at that time that requiring all teachers in Nevada, including those coming in from out of state, would be problematic. For this reason the Commission suggested that the recommendation be reconsidered and thought be given to how to implement this change in a realistic and achievable way. Commissioner Carvalho stated that a proposal was put in place by the State Board and wondered how this happened that the hole was in our regulations because of a policy or a recommendation the Board may have passed? Karl replied that the State Board also had concerns and asked that the concerns be worked out. This was brought back to the State Board with the extra research and evidence. Jason stated that this is where the procedural misstep occurred and the creation of a regulation was missed. The State Board no longer has purview over the educator preparation programs as statute changed to put that into the Commission's hands. Commissioner Carvalho asked for clarification from Karl about whether university programs for education students have a program that prepares students how to teach English language learners? Karl replied that yes, in fact the State Board actually approved recommendations that Nevada's institutions of higher education not only make that coursework available but that all students going through the Nevada system would be required to take that coursework starting in 2020 for Elementary and 2022 for Secondary Education. Commissioner Carvalho asked how many credits is it? Karl replied that it was 12 credit hours. Commissioner Carvalho asked what happens to the students that come from other universities

outside of Nevada and want to come here to teach. Jason replied that Commissioner Carvalho was correct concerning Nevada's teacher preparation programs, but to renew their licenses, educators who do not have this as part of their out-of-state program must take ELAD coursework as a renewal requirement. Commissioner Carvalho stated that her concern was about this being an impediment to bringing in teachers from outside Nevada, and that even if they can catch up some may choose not to. President Esparza stated that California requires this so she does not think this will be a barrier for new teachers coming in, especially from California. Jason stated that on the licensure side of the house they are not hearing a bunch of pushback from the rest of the state since English language learners need to be provided services. We are looking at probably 2 years before we start seeing benefits from this. Commissioner Zeh stated that at the time this was previously before the Commission, their concerns were with embedding the additional 12 credits into the teacher prep programs. Karl replied that was a major concern. Since about 2015 a lot of concerns have been addressed and the prep programs have decided how to do it. Commissioner Maruyama stated that while having the training does not guarantee teachers success, it does provide a lot of strategies and hope and an opportunity to really grow with their students. He has a special education background that allows him to use certain strategies, but there are other things that he has not touched upon. It really is something that prepares the new teacher for the type of students we have. Commissioner Maruyama believes our student populace is "minority majority." It doesn't have to relate to language necessarily but it could be just a learning opportunity. This is definitely something that he would like to see move forward and it would help education in general and closing the achievement gap.

Motion: Commissioner Zeh moved to approve NAC 391.237 and move it forward to Public Hearing. Commissioner Drum seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Agenda Item #8 – Workshop to Solicit Comments for Proposed Amendments to the Following Regulations: NAC 391.253 Endorsement to teach pupils who are participating in the Jobs for America's Graduates program: Authorized activities; qualifications. Jason Dietrich and Mike Arakawa.

Mike Arakawa presented the Workshop for NAC 391.253 and gave the historical background on the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) endorsement. He stated that the Jobs for America's Graduates organization asked the NDE to amend this regulation due to shortages of qualified JAG instructors in some areas. The proposed amendments provide for some additional alternative qualifications to be eligible to enter into one of the programs, and for some exemptions in the event that in certain areas a vacancy in one of these programs may be difficult to fill. Mike read the new language into the record.

President Esparza opened the floor for Commissioner comments.

Commissioner West stated that in looking at the changes, he likes the flexibility for the smaller school districts. He asked for clarification about the options to qualify which Mike provided. Commissioner West asked for an "or" to be added to clarify the options. Jason stated that would be done in the language sent to LCB for drafting.

Motion: Commissioner West moved to approve NAC 391.253 and move it forward to Public Hearing with the changes discussed. Commissioner Davis seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Agenda Item #9 – Workshop to Solicit Comments for Proposed Amendments to the Following Regulations: NAC 391.XXX Endorsement to teach pupils Computer Science in grades K-12. Jason Dietrich, and Mike Arakawa.

Mike Arakawa presented the workshop for NAC 391.XXX and gave context for why this was required. The previously existing endorsements were updated to become more relevant. At the time the changes were made, this was only for secondary licenses. Feedback was received from the field which stated that they would like to have Computer Science in all grade levels. After discussion, the NDE felt it was best to change the Computer-based applications endorsement to a K-12 endorsement. Everything within that original language would remain the same except for subparagraph number 3 which is not necessary.

Jason Dietrich asked Mike for clarification about elementary educators and receiving the endorsement. Mike replied that an endorsement at the elementary level is not required, but a K-12 endorsement can certainly be obtained by an elementary teacher.

President Esparza asked if someone with an elementary teacher could teach this in the high school level. Jason replied that would not be the case, they would have to have the base license in order to qualify for this endorsement. We are trying to broaden this back out to individuals who would qualify.

President Esparza opened the floor for Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Zeh asked for clarification about removing subparagraph 3. Mike replied that they would remove subparagraph 3, and take the existing regulation covering the existing endorsement and open it back up to K-12, it would not need another new regulation. We would return to public hearing with the necessary amendments to regulation. All of the other coursework would remain as it appears here because it was taken directly out of the existing regulation. Commissioner Zeh asked is there a time frame for that part of it? When will teachers have to have it in order to be able to teach that course which is a high school graduation requirement? Cindi Chang replied that for secondary teachers are already in high school this endorsement has already been in place prior to what we just discussed. The only changes for this endorsement would be to open it up to those K-5 educators who are trying to get further professional development and to add that endorsement onto their license. It does not impact or change those at the secondary level. Commissioner Zeh stated that it was her understanding that the standards in computer science have changed in NAC 391.202, and are those new standards already embedded in that area? Cindi Chang said yes, the standards were written and codified and the endorsement requirements had been changed.

President Esparza asked how soon someone could earn the credits? What grade level? Commissioner Zeh replied that was at the 6th grade level. Cindi stated that it was a .5 credit change for graduation from high school and that course has high school standards attached to it.

Commissioner Carvalho asked for clarification about the opening of the endorsement to K-5. Mike replied that coming back to Public Hearing the NDE would bring back NAC 391.202 with the amendments as discussed.

Motion: Commissioner West moved to move forward with the language to NAC 391.XXX and to amend NAC 391.202 at Public Hearing. Commissioner Zeh seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Agenda Item #10 – Future Agenda Items. Jason Dietrich and Mike Arakawa.

Jason Dietrich stated that additional regulations would be coming forward in April or May and elections would be held.

Agenda Item #11 – Public Comment #2

Public comment in Carson City: None

Public comment in Las Vegas:

Vikki Courtney from CCEA gave public comment on Micro-credentialing. She stated CCEA has been offering micro-credentials since the summer of 2019. The difference between micro-credentialing and traditional classes is that micro-credentials are based on the demonstration of the educator's competencies. CCEA thinks this is important. They have been recognized in articles and would offer their assistance to the NDE and Commission.

Agenda Item #12 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.