

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION
JULY 21, 2021**

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 West
Vice President Fair
Commissioner Roberts

In Carson City:

Commissioner Tucker

Via Virtual/Phone:

Commissioner Ackeret (virtual)
Commissioner Carvalho (phoned in – Quorum established at 10:03am)

COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Commissioner Wenger
Commissioner Stokes
Commissioner Davis
Commissioner Belknap

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

Jeff Briske, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement
Mike Arakawa, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement
Jolene Borges, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement

In Carson City:

Jocie Truesdell, AA III, Superintendent's Office

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT

In Las Vegas:

None

In Carson City:

None

Via Virtual:

Deputy Attorney General David Gardner

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Las Vegas:

None

Carson City:

Galen Hopkinson, Grand Canyon University

Keli Brown, Sierra Nevada University

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

President West called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Jeff Briske announced that we presently have 5 Commissioners present and another one will be present at approximately 10:00a.m. This will then afford the body quorum for the Action Items. It will be necessary to agenda items out of order to accommodate quorum.

Roll call attendance was taken as reflected above. It was determined a quorum was met at 10:03a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Roberts.

Agenda Item #2 – Public Comment #1

Carson City:

No public comment.

Las Vegas:

No public comment.

Agenda Item #4 – Open Meeting Law Training

Senior Deputy Attorney General David M. Gardner gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Agenda Item #10 – Workshop to Solicit Comments for Proposed Amendment to Nevada Administrative Code 391.0896 regarding Emergency Substitute Teachers, Jeff Briske and Michael Arakawa, NDE

Michael Arakawa presented the workshop for proposed changes to NAC 391.0896, which governs the qualifications for licensure for an emergency substitute teacher and the employment of emergency substitute teachers. Mr. Arakawa noted that this regulation was previously amended by the Commission during the April 2021 meeting. This amendment took the form of a temporary regulation, which will expire November 1, 2021 pursuant to NRS 233B.063. The Department is bringing the language back to the Commission at this meeting for a workshop to start the process of making it a permanent regulation.

Under the existing permanent regulation any district which has less than 9,000 pupils is able to employ an emergency substitute teacher in the event they cannot find a qualified teacher or substitute within their district. Due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic, over the last several months, the larger districts in the state that have 9,000 pupils or more have been finding themselves in a situation where they cannot meet the needs of their districts for substitute teachers and came to the Department asking if there was a way that NAC 391.0896 could be amended to allow them to employ emergency substitutes as needed. In response, Governor Steve Sisolak, enacted an emergency regulation in November 2020. This emergency regulation expired in February of this year, and in April this Commission enacted a temporary regulation to continue to address that need. That temporary regulation will expire November 1, 2021. Now, we are looking to make this temporary amendment a permanent change. This would allow districts with student enrollment of 9,000 or more pupils to hire emergency substitute teachers only during a state of emergency declared pursuant to NRS 414.070. This statute allows the governor or legislature to declare a state of emergency and is the statute under which the governor declared the existing state of emergency. If an emergency substitute were to be hired by a district with 9,000 or more students during a declared state of emergency

and that state of emergency was terminated during the school year, Section 11 of the proposed amendment would allow that district to continue to employ the emergency substitutes through the remainder of the school year in which the emergency terminates. The language that has been brought before you is the same language that was enacted in the temporary regulation and it does have widespread support from school districts throughout the state. That has been determined by interaction between the Department and various districts.

Commissioner West opened the floor for questions from the Commissioners.

Vice-President Fair wanted to know besides a high school diploma, are any college credits needed for this special license? Mr. Arakawa responded that for the emergency substitute license only a high school diploma is required since they are employed only when no one more highly qualified is available.

Commissioner Tucker asked if they could add an hour-long instruction or presentation on behavior/classroom management to the requirements for employment of emergency substitutes? Mr. Arakawa responded that he believes the districts that hire these emergency substitutes provide some form of orientation prior to placing them in a classroom. At the same time, the reason for this public workshop is to consider changes that will improve this regulation. We are happy to add this to the regulation language and bring it back in that form for a public hearing.

Commissioner Carvalho asked if there will be background checks involved? Mr. Arakawa answered yes. We do not issue a license without a completing a fingerprint-based background check on the applicant. Commissioner Carvalho went on to ask that if we did allow the hour-based training would that mean we couldn't pass this today? Mr. Arakawa answered we are not voting to adopt a regulation today. This is a public workshop which is primarily intended to solicit public comment but also to receive input from the Commission in how it would like to move this forward. Commissioner Carvalho then asked what is the timeline for getting this approved? Mr. Arakawa responded once the Commission makes the decision to move this forward to a public hearing the Department will submit it to the Legislative Counsel Bureau for legal drafting. Once that is complete then a public hearing will be scheduled for a future Commission meeting. That will be the meeting where the Commission will vote to adopt or not. Then the adopted regulation would have to be approved by the State Board of Education and the Legislative Commission prior to being enacted. It would probably be around the time the temporary regulation expires. Commissioner Carvalho asked when would the temporary regulation expire? Mr. Arakawa answered November 1, 2021.

Commissioner Fair asked do we have any data to show how many emergency substitutes CCSD or any other counties have hired during the past year or previous years? Mr. Arakawa responded that he does not have the numbers as of this moment, but it is something easy to find out and bring to the Commission at the next meeting. Commissioner Fair just wants to know if this is common. Mr. Arakawa responded that Clark County hired a number of emergency subs during the COVID-19 pandemic to meet their needs, but he does not have the number and can bring it back to the public hearing.

Motion: Commissioner Carvalho moved to bring this regulation to a public hearing. Commissioner Roberts seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of June 21, 2021, Minutes

Motion: Commissioner Fair moved to approve the June 21, 2021, minutes. Commissioner Roberts second the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Agenda Item #7 – Reading Specialist Test Presentation

This item was removed from the agenda. It will be brought to the Commission at a later date.

Agenda Item #8 – Alternative Route to Licensure Program Renewals and Modifications. Jeff Briske.

Mr. Briske reported that about three years ago there was a rich discussion about ARL programs. It was determined that non-substantive modifications could be approved during the renewal process. These non-substantive modifications do not change the overall context of the ARL program such as a course number or course name change. If there was a true program modification or massive modification of the entire program, per NAC 391.461, that substantive change would be treated like a new application and need to go before the ARL review team to make recommendations to the Commission. We do have one provider with a complete change in programming as well as a new program area submitted by a current provider for your consideration in Agenda Item 9. All the following programs, for Agenda Item 8, are recommended for renewal have been reviewed by the Department and are being recommended for approval. These are:

Grand Canyon University was approved as a provider in the areas of Early Childhood, Elementary, Secondary and Special Education. There were some minor non-substantive modifications to their program.

iteachNEVADA was approved as a provider in the areas of Elementary, Secondary, and Special Education. There were no modifications to their program.

Nevada Teacher Corps/The New Teacher Project (TNTP) was approved as a provider in Elementary education. There were no modifications to their program.

Nevada Teachers of Tomorrow was approved as a provider in the areas of Elementary, Secondary, and Special Education. There were no modifications to their program.

Sierra Nevada University was approved as a provider in the areas of Elementary, Secondary and Special Education. There were no modifications to their program.

University of Nevada, Reno was approved as a provider in Special Education. There were no modifications to their program.

Washoe County School District was approved as a provider in the areas of Early Childhood, Elementary, Secondary, and Special Education. There were no modifications to their program.

This ends all the renewal applications that were received by the Department for this meeting. They are all recommended by the Department for a two-year renewal at this time.

President West opened the floor to the Commissioners for questions. There were no questions.

Motion: Vice President Fair moved to approve the ARL renewals. Commissioner Roberts seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 9 – New Alternative Route to Licensure Programs, Jeff Briske.

Pursuant to NAC 391.461 all new applications or program with substantive modifications must be reviewed by a review team consisting of two members of the Commission, the secretary to the Commission, and two members of the Department.

The members of the review team were:

1. President West
2. Vice President Fair
3. Commissioner Stokes
4. Michael Arakawa
5. Christine Furst
6. Jeff Briske

Mr. Briske wants the record to show thanks and appreciation to the members of the review team for reviewing the following programs. Both programs are being recommended for approval. These are:

Clark County School District was an approved provider in the areas of Elementary, Secondary, and Special Education. There was a substantial change to their program as they are now partnering with Nevada State College. One major change is that during the pre-service academy, candidates will now earn six semester credits from Nevada State College toward their teacher prep program. Other substantive changes include a seamless transition into the Nevada State College teacher preparatory program which includes professional development, mentorship, and coursework while in-service. Clark County School District is seeking approval in the areas of Elementary, Secondary, and Special Education. Again, this program is being recommended by the review team for approval.

President West opened the floor to the Commissioners for questions. There were no questions.

Motion: Vice President Fair moved to approve the ARL program for Clark County School District. Commissioner Roberts seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Sierra Nevada University is an approved provider in the areas of Elementary, Secondary and Special Education. The university would like to add a new program area to train administrators. This new program area is modeled after their already approved Traditional administrator pathway. If approved, Sierra Nevada University would be the first ARL provider for this area and begin to fill a much-needed niche area especially for rural districts. Again, this new program area is being recommended by the review team for approval.

President West opened the floor to the Commissioners for questions.

Commissioner Roberts asked if this was an administrative one? Jeff Briske responded Yes; it is correct.

Vice President Fair asked if participants do have to hold any type of education degree as far as around the graduate level or they can just get their administrative licensure through the ARL, and they would be able to apply? Mr. Briske responded this would allow those students who already have a master's degree to go ahead and apply for the ARL program. It will also allow a pathway who may not have their master's degree but have their bachelor's degree to apply for the program.

Motion: Commissioner Carvalho moved to approve the ARL Administrator program for Sierra Nevada University. Vice President Fair seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Agenda Item #5 – President's Report, Aaron West.

President West congratulated Commissioner Davis on her reappointment. Welcomed Commissioner Tucker, representing elementary education. Commissioner Belknap, representing secondary education. And, Commissioner Roberts, representing NSHE.

Agenda Item #6 – Secretary's Report, Jeff Briske.

Mr. Briske reported that this body has been charged with adopting new regulations for Assembly Bill 225 and Senate Bill 352 from the 81st legislative session. In summary, AB225 charges the commission to consider alternative measures in lieu of testing to demonstrate competency for teachers who have a disability or health related issue. This body will need to **define** what these alternative measures of competency may be. That will be a workgroup get together.

SB352 charges the commission to **define** an accelerated student teaching field experience for paraprofessionals who are currently enrolled in a teacher prep program in the same or similar area in which they are employed. The Commission would draft a regulation and hold a public workshop to define what an accelerated student teaching experience would look like for those paraprofessionals.

There is a current appetite, if you will, to development a mentoring endorsement for administrators and a mentoring endorsement for teachers. These endorsements would give additional training and credibility to experienced administrators and teachers to serve as mentors to their respective colleagues who are new to their role.

There is also an appetite for a digital literacy endorsement. This need came front and center overnight when distance instruction became a necessity. This endorsement would focus on:

- a. What a digital teacher looks like and what skills are needed
- b. What a digital learner looks like and methods to instruct
- c. Consideration of the neuralgy of the 21st century learner

Work groups are currently being formed and experts are being solicited to draft these regulations and eventually bring before the commission at a public workshop, which are: digital literacy, mentorship for teachers, mentorship for administrators, SB352 student teaching for para-pro and AB225 Alternative Methods for Competency. These first five work groups will have their initial meeting mid to late August. He will keep the Commission updated as the efforts of these work groups progress and give notice during future agenda items when the regulation drafts are ready to be considered. There will be additional workgroups to draft other regulations and to update some current regulations that need to be addressed. One such regulation slated for an update will be NAC 391.170 and 391.171 which are the qualifications to apply for a license as an administrator of a school or program.

President West opened the floor to the Commissioners for questions.

Vice President Fair asked if the Commission would be involved in the work groups? Mr. Briske answered no unless you would like to be invited and if you have expertise in the workgroup. Vice President Fair stated that she does not have the expertise but would love to be involved in the mentoring.

President West did mention that if any of the Commissioners are interested in attending in any of the workshops, they have expertise in, to contact Jeff Briske.

Commissioner Carvalho believes that NDE should be taking an aggressive approach to preparing our kids for the future of learning. Is it under the Commission purview? Is NDE making any requests for Federal funding for Education in Nevada? She could see Nevada in the forefront because we have a lot of forward thinkers, here in Nevada. What has NDE done in that approach? Mr. Briske answered we do have our Digital Learning collaboration that has been up and running since the start of the pandemic or shortly afterward. He can refer the Commission to the website where it is listed and connect them with someone in the Department who is leading the program of that important work. Regarding additional regulations that this body may want to consider, there has been some discussion about possible robotics endorsement or some type of training because he knows there is a definite need out there especially in CTE high schools. The coursework is going on, but there isn't anything formal on State level such as an endorsement or regulation. Commissioner Carvalho thinks it is important to the children in this ever-changing world.

President West thinks it would be a great discussion to think about, in terms, where is our education system going? How can we help facilitate it? Its also a great opportunity to highlight the opportunity for individuals with those skill sets to be able to enter the classroom as well.

Commissioner Roberts would like to know if any of the students will be involved in helping with the literacy? Mr. Briske responded would be happy to include them in the workgroup.

Agenda Item #11 – Future Agenda Items. Jeff Briske.
Jeff Briske brought the following future agenda items:

1. The English Mastery Council will bring forward an agenda item regarding English Language Acquisition and Development (ELAD) coursework requirements to the August meeting.
2. Nominations have been submitted for the administrator representative, replacing immediate past president Esparza. We are now waiting on the Governor's Office for appointment.
3. Additional ARL program renewals for Great Basin College, Western Governors University and UNLV will be heard at the August meeting.
4. Two years ago, the Commission decided to place a moratorium on approving new ARL providers out-of-state as current providers were not at maximum capacity. This decision is to be reviewed annually to consider lifting the moratorium and approving new out-of-state providers.
5. Finally, Mr. Briske will be bringing forward any progress of the regulation work groups that are currently being formed.

President West also brought up Agenda Item #7 that was tabled? Mr. Briske said yes; but he does not know when it will be brought back to the Commission.

Agenda Item #12 – Public Comment #2

Public comment in Carson City: None

Public comment in Las Vegas: None

Agenda Item #13 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:43 am.