

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

**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

*(Video Conferenced)*

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**In Las Vegas:**

President Esparza  
Commissioner Fair  
Commissioner Wenger  
Commissioner Davis

**In Carson City:**

Commissioner West  
Commissioner Stokes

**Via Virtual:**

Commissioner Ackeret  
Commissioner Carvalho

**COMMISSION MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Commissioner Drum

**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:**

Senior Deputy Attorney General David Gardner

**In Carson City:**

None

**AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:**

**In Las Vegas:**

None

**In Carson City:**

None

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

President Esparza called the meeting to order at 9:06 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 West.

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

In Carson City: No public comment.

In Las Vegas: No public comment.

**Agenda Item #3 – Introduction of New Commissioners**

Jeff Briske introduced all Commissioners and each of their roles. He also noted that we still have two vacancies and some nominations are awaiting approval from the Governor's Office.

**Agenda Item #4 – Approval of Minutes for April 30, 2021, Meeting**

**Motion:** Commissioner Wenger moved to approve the April 30, 2021, minutes. Commissioner Stokes seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

President Esparza wanted to bring up an item on page 6 of the April 30, 2021 minutes, a request to the Department of Education. Knowing that we have so many new Commissioners and we are in transition with some of the items that are going to be addressed in the future, there will be an update with some of the bills passed during legislative session. On page 6 it does mention to bring back any information (agenda items, minutes, collection of data and history, etc.) to any of our new Commissioners. She believes that this information will be helpful to future decision making so that they have the history and context on how some of the current regulations came to be enacted.

**Agenda Item #5 – Open Meeting Law Training. David Gardner, Senior Deputy Attorney General**

Jeff Briske asked to postpone this agenda item as we are still waiting for appointments of new Commissioners. President Esparza agreed to hold off until all new Commissioners are appointed.

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

At our April meeting sections 1 and 3 of administrative regulation 026-20 were adopted; this included amendments to teaching endorsements for Jobs for America's Grads or JAG and introductory computer science.

The commission did not adopt sections 2, 4, and 5 of Regulation 026-20 which included the English Language Acquisition and Development (ELAD) program requirements to embed this coursework. The English Mastery Council will bring this back to the Commission at some point in a future meeting. At the last meeting the Commission asked that I survey our program providers to determine if they have included this coursework into their programs already.

Out of the nine surveys that were sent, six institutions responded:

- 1) Sierra Nevada University
  - a. Traditional BA elementary require 12 credits of standalone ELAD coursework.
  - b. Traditional MA elementary, secondary, and special ed, ELAD not required as part of the program.

- c. ARL MA elementary and special ed, not required.
- d. ARL MA secondary, one of the four ELAD courses is required.
- 2) Great Basin College
  - a. Traditional, Post Bacc. and ARL elementary and secondary require 12 credits of standalone ELAD coursework.
  - b. Traditional early childhood not required.
- 3) Nevada State College
  - a. All Traditional programs except early childhood/ECSE require 12 credits of standalone ELAD coursework.
- 4) University of Nevada, Reno
  - a. Traditional elementary require incorporated ELAD coursework content.
  - b. Traditional early childhood, special education, and secondary require one of the ELAD courses.
- 5) University of Nevada, Las Vegas
  - a. Finalizing 12 credits of stand-alone ELAD coursework for Traditional Special Education and Early childhood for fall of 2021 in their programming.
  - b. ARL is offered ELAD endorsement after completion of program.
  - c. Traditional Elementary program has 6 credits of ELAD coursework.
  - d. Traditional Secondary program has no ELAD credit requirement.
  - e. Knowledge and skills necessary for teaching ELL students is embedded in all teacher education programs.
- 6) Western Governors University
  - a. All Traditional programs require incorporated ELAD coursework content.
  - b. All ARL programs require incorporated ELAD coursework content.

The ones who did not respond, but which I am confident in answering for, are Nevada Teachers of Tomorrow, iteachNevada, and Nevada Teacher Corp/TNTP, which already have ELAD content incorporated through these programs.

President Esparza also asked if this could also be presented to the Commissioners in an email format, just so they have it as a reference to go back to when needed. Maybe even include the regulation it was addressing. Mr. Briske agreed to send it as an email and noted it will be part of this meeting's minutes as well.

#### **Agenda Item #7 – Elections. David Gardner, Senior Deputy Attorney General**

Before the elections started President Esparza gave some comments and historical context as the exiting President. Afterwards she asked if any Commissioners wanted to weigh in. Commissioner Davis mentioned that it has been an honor to serve the last 2 years and that she has seen great growth from the Commission and hopes the Commission continues to grow as a body with decisions that will help teachers to support students. Commissioner West just wanted to thank President Esparza for her leadership, and he is looking forward to the future of the Commission. Commissioner Carvalho thanked President Esparza. She has been an amazing leader that has led the Commission to do great things.

David Gardner, Senior Deputy Attorney General, gave an overview of the election process. He went on to explain the duties of the Commission President. The President will be the one who chairs the meetings and runs them. Also, there is behind-the-scenes work such as working with the Department on setting up the agenda and getting certain items on the agenda. Jeff Briske also noted that if a commissioner has termed out but is continuing to serve until replaced, they will not be able to run for President.

Mr. Gardner asked if anyone would want to nominate anyone (or themselves) for President. President Esparza nominated Aaron West, since he has the context and background knowledge of the items that will be brought to the Commission in the near future. There were no other nominations.

**Vote:** Mr. Gardner noted that Commissioner West has been nominated and no other nomination has been brought to the Commission. He then conducted a voice vote of the Commissioners present. **Commissioner West was unanimously elected as President of the Commission.**

Deputy Attorney General Gardner went on to explain the duties of the Commission Vice President. The Vice President will be the back-up to the President. So, if the President is not able to attend a meeting, the Vice President would chair the meeting and run it. The Vice President also handles much of the behind-the-scenes work such as working with the Department on setting up the agenda and getting certain items on the agenda. Depending on how often the President is gone, this will determine how often the Vice President will have to step up.

Commissioner Fair nominated herself. No other nominations were made.

**Vote:** Mr. Gardner noted that Commissioner Fair has been nominated and no other nomination has been brought to the Commission. He then conducted a voice vote of the Commissioners present. **Commissioner Fair was unanimously elected as Vice President of the Commission.**

#### **Agenda Item #8 –81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session Report on Future Regulations. Jeff Briske**

Mr. Briske provided an update on two bills from the recently concluded 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session that will affect the work of the Commission. The first one is Assembly Bill 225, which amends NRS 391.021. When adopting regulations governing examinations for initial licensing of teachers, COPS shall consider any alternative means of demonstrating competency for persons with a disability or health-related need that the Commission determines are necessary and appropriate. These changes to regulation will come to the Commission in a future workshop.

The second bill is Senate Bill 352 which amends NRS 391.019 and has 3 parts. The first part authorizes a person who is employed as a paraprofessional and enrolled in a program to become a teacher to complete an accelerated program of student teaching in the same or a substantially similar area in which the person is employed as a paraprofessional while remaining employed as a paraprofessional. In summary, if you are a parapro in a classroom and want to be a teacher, you can enroll in a teacher preparation program and can do your student teaching in the same classroom in which you are employed. You don't have to quit your job to complete student teaching. The second part authorizes a person who is employed by a public school to provide support or other services relating to school psychology, if that person does not hold a license or endorsement as a school psychologist but is enrolled in a program that would allow the person to obtain such a license or endorsement, to complete a program of internship in school psychology while remaining employed in their current position. So, very similar to the parapro student teaching provisions, if you are a school psychology support staffer, you can remain employed while completing your internship. The third part to SB352 requires the Department to accept a program of student teaching or other teaching experience completed in another state or foreign country by an applicant for licensure if the Department determines that the program or experience substantially fulfills the standards of a program of student teaching in Nevada. In summary, we have many foreign applicants who may not have student teaching listed on their college or university transcripts. If they can demonstrate that they have completed student teaching field experience and the Department determines that it was substantially similar, we can accept that for initial licensure.

Those were the two bills identified in the 81<sup>st</sup> Session that will affect the work of this body coming up. For SB352 the Department will form work groups with stakeholders and then bring suggested workshop language to this body.

Moving on to other regulations, administrative regulation R076-19 allows for professional development of a Parent Involvement and Family Engagement course and other conforming and cleanup language. The main part of this is the Parent Involvement and Family Engagement course, which currently has to be offered by a College/University and appear on a College/University transcript in order for an applicant to obtain credit for that course. These changes to the regulation allow a licensee to take this course as Professional Development. It has gone through a Workshop and Public Hearing and was adopted by the Commission, and it was also approved at State Board. It is now waiting for a hearing and final approval by the Legislative Commission.

Another recently approved regulation, R090-19, updates our elementary and early childhood licensing requirements. It has gone through a Workshop and Public Hearing and was adopted by the Commission, and it was approved at State Board. It is also now waiting for hearing and final approval by the Legislative Commission.

Other regulations that will be presented at workshop before this body once drafting is complete include: R113-20 (conforming language and clean up for JROTC, secondary and school psychology); R114-20 (allows ACT or SAT scores in lieu of Praxis testing, CTE and B&I language cleanup, and administrator license language cleanup); R116-20 (educator preparation program approval regulation aligning traditional and ARL program requirements and other matters pertaining to program approval); and R117-20 (Model Code of Ethics for Educators training requirements). Mr. Briske also mentioned that he and Mr. Arakawa spoke about working with the Regional Professional Development Programs to see if they can offer the training required by R117-20.

President Esparza opened the floor for questions/comments. Commissioner Fair wanted to know if students in educator prep programs would be able to take the SAT/ACT to replace of the Praxis test? Would that be Praxis 1? Mr. Briske stated it would be in lieu of passing the Praxis Core assessments.

**Agenda Item #9 – Future Agenda Items. Jeff Briske.**

Jeff Briske stated that additional workshops, including grade band recommendations, would be coming forward, as would Reading Specialist updates. Additional Commissioner appointments will be announced as they occur.

**Agenda Item #10 – Public Comment #2**

In Carson City: No public comment

In Las Vegas: No public comment

**Agenda Item #11 – Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.