

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

MARCH 12, 2019

9:00 A.M.

Meeting Locations:

Office	Address	City	Meeting Room
Department of Education	9890 S. Maryland Pkwy	Las, Vegas	Board Room (2 nd Floor)
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St	Carson City	Board Room

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

(Video Conferenced)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

In Las Vegas

Elaine Wynn
Mark Newburn
Robert Blakely
Tonia Holmes-Sutton
Felicia Ortiz
Tamara Hudson

In Carson City

David Carter
Teri White
Dawn Miller
Cathy McAdoo

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Carson City

Randi Hunewill, Education Programs Professional
Anne Willard, Career and Technical Education
Chris Thomas, Education Programs Professional
Brenda Bledsoe, Education Programs Professional
Kevin Laxalt, Education Programs Professional
Amanda Pintar, Administrative Assistant
Tracy Gruber, Education Programs Professional
Dave Brancamp, Director, Standards and Instructional Support
Roxanne Starbuck, IT Professional
Karen Johansen, Assistant to the State Board of Education
Shawn Osborne, IT Technician

In Las Vegas

Kim Bennett, Administrative Assistant

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT

In Carson City

Greg Ott, Senior Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Carson City:

Christopher Rose, Strategies 360

Patricia Haddad, Opportunity 180
Sherry Rupert, Nevada Indian Commission
Alexander Marke, Nevada State Education Association
Paul Kiser, Parent
Nathe Anderson, Nevada State Education Association
Kristen Gleissner, NWRPDP

In Las Vegas:

Jose Solorio, ALAS
Bill Garis, CCASA
Bob Askey, Touro University Nevada
Beth Mundo, HOPE
Sane Gray, Sierra Nevada College
James Wylie
Yvette Williams, Clark County Black Caucus
Debra Whitt, Clark County School District

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

Public Comment #1

There was no public comment.

Approval of Flexible Agenda

Member Newburn moved to approve a flexible agenda. Member Blakely seconded the motion. The motion carried.

President's Report

There was no report.

Superintendent's Report

Jonathan Moore, Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction, provided an update on A.B. 78. The NDE has been working with the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) on proposed revisions to A.B.78 that is focused on clear lines of authority, accountability, equitable enrollment and access under the umbrella of clear lines of authority and accountability.

Mr. Moore summarized the following bills from the 2019 Legislative Session: SB89, AB79, AB67, AB35 in favor of AB78, SB84, AB88, AB72, AB101, AB147, SB147, BDR 34-824, AB199.

Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Possible Approval of the renewal of Lander County School District's request for Academic Credit for Career and Technical Education Coursework for Agricultural Curricula.
- b. Possible Approval of the protocol and form "Application for Approval" to authorize new Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)
- c. Possible Approval of the relinquishment of license to Operate a Private Education Institution for Northwest Academy.
- d. Possible Approval of Commission on Professional Standards Adopted Regulations
 - **R110-18:** NAC 391.065 and repeal of NAC 391.075; Regulations revising the educational requirements for renewing the licenses of teachers and other educational personnel. o **Please see attached non-substantive Public Hearing Amendments document.**
 - **R112-18:** NAC 391.056; A regulation removing authorization for the Superintendent of Public Instruction to issue a provisional nonrenewable license to certain applicants; revising the length of the period for which a provisional nonrenewable license is valid.

- **R113-18:** NAC 391.040 and NAC 391.391; Regulations relating requiring the review of the transcripts of an applicant for certain endorsements; revising the qualifications to obtain an endorsement to teach pupils in a program of orientation and mobility. ○ **Please see attached non-substantive Public Hearing Amendments document.**
 - **R114-18:** NAC 391.010, NAC 391.036, NAC 391.055, NAC 391.087, NAC 391.089, NAC 391.171, and NAC 391.557; Regulations revising requirements for teaching pupils in a program of early childhood education.
 - **R116-18:** NAC 391.252; A regulation eliminating the requirement that a person must hold a bachelor's degree to receive an endorsement to teach pupils in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program.
 - **R154-18:** NAC 391.XXX; A regulation establishing endorsements as a specialist or professional specialist in social, emotional and academic development. ○ **Please see attached non-substantive Public Hearing Amendments document**
- e. Possible Approval of Minutes:
- January 17, 2019 Regular State Board meeting
 - February 15, 2019 Special meeting of the State Board

Member Newburn moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Member Blakely seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Information, Discussion and Possible Action regarding Selection of Candidates for Superintendent of Public Instruction, pursuant to NRS 385.150

- a. The State Board will conduct interviews with and deliberate on the qualifications of the individuals listed below, in order to select the slate of three candidates' names for Governor Sisolak's consideration. The applications for these individuals are available as support materials for this agenda item.
- Brett Barley
 - David Donaldson
 - Jhone Ebert
 - Seng-Dao Keo
 - Kristen McNeill
 - Marion Smith Jr.
- b. Alternate Candidates
- Tammy Malich
 - Icela Pelayo
- c. Public Comment on Superintendent selection. The President will impose a time limit of three minutes per comment.
- d. Board deliberation on candidates' qualifications and suitability for inclusion in final slate of candidates
- e. Selection of slate of three candidates to provide to Governor Sisolak

President Wynn explained that questions submitted by board members for the candidate interviews were reviewed by Human Resources. They worked with a board representative to condense the questions to a number that could be answered in the limited time available. Almost every question along with the desired qualifications from the job listing were reflected in the final questions. A variety of criteria was established that the superintendent should possess. Board members are free to ask follow up questions, but there is only 30 minutes to spend with each candidate to have sufficient time to thoughtfully deliberate before submitting the slate of three candidates.

The prepared questions are:

1. Leadership – Tell us about your experience leading large, diverse teams that are geographically dispersed. How do you excel? How do you struggle?
2. NV Ranking – Nevada is ranked 50 out of 50 states, what would you do to improve it?

3. Education Policy Expertise – Please give us an example of a time when you created and enacted an education policy that was high profile and contentious. How did you develop that policy, engage stakeholders, and eventually advance that policy to enactment? What did you learn through the experience?
4. Policy Implementation – Please share an experience when you have implemented a policy and encountered significant internal or external resistance. What did you do?
5. Achievement Gaps – Please give us an example of a time when you have successfully addressed achievement gaps. What were the challenges? What did you learn?
6. Job Knowledge – A significant part of the job is to ensure accountability at all levels – school districts, school, educator and student. How have you successfully improved accountability in the past? What unique challenges do you anticipate in Nevada?
7. Nevada Knowledge – If you are selected you will be dropped into the middle of a legislative session in which our finding formula will be the center of discussion and a host of reforms we have undertaken will be debated. Based on your knowledge of Nevada, and thinking about your first 60 days on the job, what would be your priorities and how would you spend your time?
8. General – What else should we know about you?
9. State v. District – The state superintendent has different responsibilities than a district superintendent. What are the similarities and differences between the two?
10. Knowledge – Based on your knowledge and awareness of national education policy, what have you observed in national education best practices that worked well and did not work well that could be implemented here that comes from other states?

President Wynn explained the candidates will have 30 minutes in which to be interviewed. The Board has seven prepared question, with the possibility of three follow-up questions.

President Wynn welcomed candidate Kristen McNeill to be interviewed and board members took turns asking prepared questions.

Kristen McNeill informed that she is the deputy superintendent of Washoe County School District (WCSD) with over 64,000 students and 8,000 employees. Their graduation rate is 84.4 percent, and over 50 percent of their students have advanced and career diplomas. Washoe county is a large district but Kristen is a strong believer of getting out and meeting people face-to-face. She stated Nevada has the capacity to do great things, but needs to make sure the right people are in position to accomplish that. Teachers need to be honored for their work and students need to feel engaged and want to come to school. Schools also need to be safe places, and this is one way Nevada can move in the right trajectory.

Ms. McNeill discussed the policies WCSD enacted by implementing Digital Days, which is an innovative program. There has been push-back and they need to make sure all stakeholders are involved with the decisions, but they want to move forward depending on pending legislation for the best interests of Nevada students. There has been a reduction in achievement gaps due to the work of students and teachers in classrooms, but more work needs to be done. Ms. McNeill spelled out highlights from her 30, 60, 90 day entry plan. Further details were discussed about her plan. She said she is ready to hit the ground on day one.

President Wynn welcomed the next candidate, Dr. Seng-Dao Keo. Dr. Keo explained that she is currently the director of the Office of Student and School Supports at the NDE, and her office manages the largest federal programs as well as the largest state programs, including all the Title programs. Staff is located in both Carson City and Las Vegas and said keeping the communication open is important. Her leadership style is to lean on other leaders within her team, because the work cannot be done alone, and said it is unacceptable that Nevada is one of the lowest performing states. She wants to help transform and lead change by prioritizing

alignment, working with districts and evidence based interventions. Two years ago it was estimated that Nevada was spending 15 percent of funds on things that were working. Now her office is spending 100 percent of the funds on evidence based interventions, which is one of the reasons her team and the NDE has received national recognition. She understands the principals of finance and is committed to working with the Board and stakeholders to ensure there are three principals to move forward; adequacy, equity and sustainability. Those three things are key to the work in alignment with supporting the work the NDE.

Dr, Dao explained she began her career as a classroom teacher, a master teacher, an administrator in private and public schools including low performing and low income neighborhoods, including Houston, the Bronx and Cambodia. At every point she focused on not just the academic gaps but the opportunity gaps for students. It is important to have social and emotional development supports in place. Low income students, students of color, under-served students, and marginalized students need strong mentors and opportunities outside of the classroom.

She noted Nevada is at a transformational point where life outcomes can be changed with kids across the state. All kids must have access to high quality equitable education. She cares deeply about Nevada and will ensure all students have access to high quality equitable learning opportunities.

President Wynn welcomed the next candidate, David Donaldson.

David Donaldson informed that he leads the Detroit public schools with 50,000 students. He is responsible for working with all principals and setting them up for success. The city of Detroit has a population of 670,000. There is an additional 50,000 students attending charter schools and 30,000 students that live in Detroit but go to school outside of the district. An adaptive leadership style is required and he focuses on what he can control.

He sees an opportunity in Nevada to work with a new Governor committed to increasing funding, and an aligned Board with a diverse background. His background stands out as supporting multiple large urban district superintendents and being called by them to serve. What makes him different from other candidates is that he has been a school principal, worked in districts and has state level experience. He is a fan of the CCSO superintendent, Jesus Jara, and believes strongly in his focus 2024 plan. He understands how to leverage support, realign resources and always put teachers first so they can put students first.

Mr. Donaldson stated that the greatest thing that improves outcomes is the teacher in the classroom. The greatest thing to change the overall school outcome is the principal and 75 percent of principals were removed within the first year. If a principal has never taught, how can they provide feedback to teachers. The leadership and the curriculum were changed. He discussed accountability and measuring students to see if they are on track in 9th grade. If they are, the lagging indicator should see an increase in high school graduation rates. Mr. Donaldson said he is passionate about this work because he loves talent, building teams and getting the right people in the right seat on the right bus, moving in the right direction. You can go very far with a team aligned to the mission and vision.

President Wynn welcomed Brett Barley for his interview.

Brett Barley said he was the vice president at Students First, a national education advocacy community non-profit organization. There were 17 affiliates in states across the country with directors that reported to Mr. Barley in his role. As the state deputy superintendent for student achievement, he oversaw six different offices within the Nevada Department of Education. He provided a handout with a chart depicting an innovative double S curve cycle with different phases that began with the 2013 and 2015 Legislative Session. It illustrates the successes and improvements, and the growth in Smarter Balanced that was primarily driven by historically underserved students including African Americans, English Learners and high poverty students, those kids that have been furthest from opportunity are driving Nevada's improvement. As deputy superintendent at the NDE he became passionate with executing on the equity vision that came out of the 2013 and 2015 legislative sessions. He believes Nevada was on a transformational path to changing student

outcomes; Nevada was a rocket ship headed in the right direction, and he wanted to be a part of that. The challenge is to build upon the successes and think about what is next as programs meet maturity.

Mr. Barley said there is still much work to be done, and he would be excited to lend his skills and knowledge of the state including what has been done so far. One of the high priority issues that needs addressing is the modernization of the Nevada Plan. Two important pieces the next superintendent is going to have to balance in helping support the state is adequacy, what is the funding amount for schools across the state, and how is that articulated with a growth pattern to get there. Next, is equity and how to ensure students are provided the resources they need to succeed, and how those resources get to the kids.

Mr. Barley stated this is an important time for Nevada, and it needs a leader that can step in, pick up the ball immediately, and run with it. Nevada now has a well-deserved reputation across the country as a state that is on the move. He said he would be honored to continue to do the work and take it to the next step.

President Wynn welcomed Jhone Ebert for her interview.

Ms. Jhone Ebert stated that she has lead diverse teams for her entire career, across the state of Nevada and currently in her role in New York, as the senior deputy commissioner for P-20 education policy. The importance in this diversity is making connections, understanding culture, building relationships and understanding the context that everyone lives in. Her most exciting project was the “Million Person Project” in Nevada, using Infinite Campus to inform educators where students and families were. This was done in CCSD and now has been adopted statewide.

Ms. Ebert recognized Nevada’s education system has opportunity gaps, and closing those gaps is critical. They happen incrementally, not overnight and they do not happen via mandates. There are phenomenal educators in every classroom across the state, and there needs to be assurance that there will be additional resources statewide. Funding is the big elephant in the room. Without addressing funding the opportunity gaps are not going to close. She is working in New York where there is \$23,000 per student in funding. Nevada needs to look how it compares nationally in that gap. There is a lot of miss trust in Nevada regarding how funds are used in education. That must be hit head on. Every marker needs to demonstrate that Nevada has a plan that it is going to follow and that it will be transparent about information. If successful, that success will be shared, and if failing, that failure will be shared. She strongly stated that she believes in Nevadans, teachers and the community.

All of Nevada’s children are assets, and they need to be assured that they have opportunities to get to where they should be. All children have different needs, whether they are students with disabilities, EL, GATE, or students with various learning methods. She said we want to make sure we are right sizing the resources and opportunities for all of Nevada’s students to be able to achieve. Education is the economic driver. Ms. Ebert wants Nevada to be on the map for being the best, and knows it can happen, but it will take time and it is not easy work.

President Wynn welcomed candidate Marion Smith Jr.

Marion Smith Jr. said as the regional service district executive director he had the opportunity to support over 295 school districts. His region is one of nine educational service districts in the state of Washington educating over 440,000 K-12 students. During that time he worked directly with school superintendents, principals, and classroom teachers to focus on what was then the No Child Left Behind, at priority focus schools.

Mr. Smith addressed Nevada being 50 out of 50 states with the highest student teacher ratio in the country. Promising practices across the state include being the fastest improving graduation rate in the nation and being recognized as one of the top states improving 8th grade reading and science proficiency on the NAEP. As state superintendent he would champion and maximize what is happening well. Mr. Smith said he understands navigating complex systems and is a doer adding you cannot lead this work if you have not been in the work. He began his career in Nevada as a teacher and has been doing the work every day since. He also

brings a deep understanding of learning and teaching, building adult capacity and responding accordingly to those needs.

He explained that he is not looking for a job, rather he would like to return home to his community that provided a technical grounding for his K-12 experiences that has served him well. He transitioned to the east coast, then in 2010 to the Pacific Northwest. He said he would not be sitting in front of the Board if history did not document his successes across a variety of school systems and school districts to provide the requisite knowledge, skills and dispositions, executive temperament and a deep understanding of what is happening in Nevada and across the country. When he thinks about serving as the next superintendent, he is humbled but the passion is matched by deep knowledge and an understanding of people. He stands ready to be the person that is going to be able to take Nevada to the next level as a state so that Nevada is the fastest improving state in the nation.

Public Comment

Sherry Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission explained that she has been with the Nevada Indian Commission for the last 14 years, and was appointed by Kenny Guinn in 2005. She is a tribal member, both Paiute and Washoe, and a product of Nevada public schools, born in Carson City. She graduated from Douglas High School in Minden.

During her 14 years she has had a vested interest in the NDE, its policies and its work with the Native American population. For the last 10 years the Nevada Indian Commission has been a co-sponsor for the Nevada American Indian Alaskan Native American Indian Summit. The Indian Education Advisory Committee is housed within the Indian Commission. The Committee is made up of tribal education directors, higher education representatives from the NSHE system, and early childhood representatives. They work on issues that affect the success of Nevada students.

Ms. Rupert said that today she heard a lot about diverse communities, equity, cultural understanding and proficiency, and expressed grave concerns about a few of the applicants. Ms. Seng Keo, in her current capacity with the NDE, as director of student and school supports, has not supported the success of American Indian students in this Nevada. She has alienated the American Indian community in Nevada through her actions and lack of understanding of Nevada, and its first citizens. American Indian students continue to rank among the lowest for graduation and retention rates even though they are just one percent of the state population. Every single child of that one percent is important.

President Wynn declared that Ms. Rupert's three minutes for public comment was up. On behalf of the American Indian Community, Ms. Rupert advocated for candidate Dr. Marion Smith.

Yvette Williams, Chair, Clark County Black Caucus (CCBC), said she appreciated the transparent process today allowing the public to have a voice. She explained that for several years she worked with candidate Brett Barley as deputy superintendent in the NDE. She also served on the ESSA steering committee and several different equity focused work groups and had the privilege of working with Mr. Barley then.

Mr. Barley always brought the teams together even when there was quite a wide difference, which is a skill set that is very important in the next superintendent. Without hesitation, the CCBC strongly supports the application of Brett Barley in the role of superintendent of public instruction. He would be an excellent fit and his extensive familiarity with NDE policy, regulatory processes and LCB experience makes him best prepared to hit the ground running. Considering his successes at NDE, under the leadership of Mr. Barley, Nevada is prime to be the fastest improving state in the nation as reflected in stats and data. However, it is also important to continue improving in the areas both the Governor and the Board have expressed support for, such as early childhood education, CTE alignment, and the weighted funding formula.

Mr. Barley drafted a strategic plan for a \$16 million capital campaign to build an early childhood fund serving students from birth through 5 years old, helped to pass a funding formula in California, directed education policy of local state and national early childhood K-12 and higher education issues on behalf of the largest companies in the Silicon Valley, led Nevada to become the fastest growing state in the nation for

students enrolled in AP classes, more dual credit, worked to align CTE courses and created new pathways to high wage, high growth, industries. The CCBC trusts Mr. Barley to champion education equity, address proficiency and excess gaps head on successfully, and implement strategic plans with broad stakeholder support effectively using data to inform and improve.

Jeannine Collins, stated she is a former colleague and friend of Dr. Marion Smith Junior. She noticed the clarity, coherence and alignment with which Dr. Smith Jr. spoke during his interview. Ms. Collins has had the opportunity to champion the talent and skills Dr. Smith Jr. possess as he has moved through his positions. She noted that as an educator and parent of two kids, it brings great joy to think Dr. Smith could be brought back to Nevada.

Ethel Branch, former Attorney General of the Navajo nation, the largest Indian tribe in the country with over 330,000 tribal members is speaking on behalf of Seng Kao, her best friend. They met in the summer of 1997 on the Harvard campus. They were both unlikely admits to the college, both came from rural high schools, and did not have the preparation most students have. She said that despite Seng's disadvantage, she had bravery, courage and tackled everything that presented itself to her.

In addition, Seng Kao has great integrity, sincerity, and an incredible work ethic. A national born leader, she was always able to bring people together and excite them about an idea. This has been the trend for Seng Keo, she is inspiring for everyone she is around. She is also very passionate about the children in Nevada who are like herself. She wants to make sure every child in the state can access the American dream like she was able to. Not everyone has her talent to access resources and leverage them. Ms. Branch said she believe Seng can do it, because she is already doing it right now with the work she is managing.

Deborah Whitt, educator, said she has been a teacher for 18 years in CCSD. She implored the Board to take their time in selecting a new superintendent of public instruction whose policies will directly affect teachers in the classroom. She asked to consider some homegrown talent, because Nevada Ready means Nevada is strong. She would like to see someone in the position who will stay the course, as many of the educators she knows have stayed in classrooms because they are dedicated to their position, and students. They believe in what they do, and believe in their students. Strong and steady leadership is needed in this position, she asked to please select someone who will stay the course.

Jose Solario noted there are a lot of quality candidates today, and it is a tough choice. He is representing the Nevada Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (NV- ALAS). They have looked at all the candidates and are recommending Jhone Ebert for the position. Jhone has wonderful experience with the CCSD and he pointed to some of her successes. She has mentored many Latino administrators who have improved and gone up through the ranks. She also has been involved in improving AP test scores for the CCSD minority students, as well as working with magnet schools. She was the person who brought the concept and idea of the CCSD EL program with a position. She helped develop the master plan. The NV - ALAS strongly believe in Jhone because she has demonstrated that she is for all students, particularly students who are struggling. Ms. Ebert came from a poverty household and was able to succeed. She is multi-racial, multi-cultural, and understands many of Nevada's students and their plight. These are things that are important. A rubric to consider when evaluating the candidates is how long have they been in a classroom, how long have they been in administration, how long have they worked with policy and how long have they lived in Nevada. These are all important because children are at stake. Jhone Ebert is the candidate to improve the opportunities for the children in Nevada to succeed.

Carolyn Edwards expressed support of Jhone Ebert stating she is an exceptional educator, brings national talent from her work in New York, and she is a true Nevadan and would love to be back here and do good work for Nevada students. She has a skill set that you will not find in any of the other candidates, although there have been some exceptional candidates interviewed today. Ms. Edwards said she is impressed with who has come forward, but she will be supporting Jhone Ebert.

President Wynn turned the meeting over to vice president Newburn to move the voting forward. Member Newburn recommended a quick polling of the board members, similar to how the semi-finalist candidates

were selected at the Subcommittee to Review Candidates meeting. They quickly came to consensus with this approach. Each board member gave their choice of three candidates. He polled the voting board members first:

- Member Carter – Marion Smith, Jhone Ebert, and Brett Barley
- Member Ortiz – Seng Keo, Brett Barley, Jhone Ebert
- Member Hudson – Seng Keo, Marion Smith, Kristen Mc Neill
- Member Blakely - Brett Barley, Kristen McNeill, Jhone Ebert
- Member Sutton – Kristen McNeill, Brett Barley, Marion Smith
- President Wynn – Seng Keo, David Donaldson, Jhone Ebert
- Member Newburn – Jhone Ebert, Brett Barley, Seng Keo

The non-voting members choice of three candidates:

- Member White – Jhone Ebert
- Member Miller – Jhone Ebert, Kristen McNeill

The score is as follows:

- David Donaldson – 1
- Marion Smith – 3
- Jhone Ebert – 5, two non-voting
- Brett Barley – 5
- Kristen McNeill – 4 voting, 1 non-voting
- Seng Keo – 4

Member Newburn declared that at a first glance Jhone Ebert and Brett Barley are the top two choices, and that a tie will need to be broken for Kristen McNeill and Seng Keo. President Wynn asked if she were to change her vote, and it creates another five votes for a candidate, would that provide consensus on three people? Member Newburn concurred.

Subcommittee members were given an opportunity to argue for their candidate, and after debate, they were re-polled. This gave focus to the debate so combinations that were not in the running were not debated.

President Wynn asked David Gardner, Deputy Attorney General, to explain the process if there is consensus on three. Mr. Gardner responded that from his tally, Kristen McNeill now has four votes, plus one non-voting member and Seng Keo has four votes. Member Newburn listed the member votes again and clarified that Jhone Ebert and Brett Barley are the first two choices. A decision for the third candidate needs to be made with the three runner ups, Seng Keo, Kristen McNeill and Marion Smith Jr.

Member Ortiz remarked how impressed she was by the slate of candidates. She is leaning towards Seng Keo because of her passion for kids, and was impressed by her international and equity lens, her knowledge of what is currently going on in the NDE and willingness to take on hard work. In some cases taking on difficult and unappreciated work is something that is needed in a leader. Seng Kao would be a good compliment to the team.

Member Miller noted that Kristen McNeill talked about children and students in every one of her answers. Whether they were going to be on her team or listening to them and what they needed. She also has years of experience in the classroom which is very valuable. All of her collaboration included students, teachers, parents, and community stakeholders. Her last statement was that she was from Nevada, she has never left and has put all her time in Nevada to improve the education system.

President Wynn commented that board members receive materials to read in preparation for the board meetings, but the person who prepared the materials does not become real until they are presenting in front of the Board to get a sense of who they are and the depth of their experience and talent. She recognized that Kristen McNeill is a stellar candidate. But windows open at times for some people and perhaps this is a different window. The Board just heard from a long time educator who is pleading for stability, and that resonates with everyone, and where we are right now is fragile. The opportunity to have people continue to direct this ship who have been immersed in the work and understands it, is advantageous. The breadth and depth of Seng Kao's life experiences resonated with her, and she thinks that she is an extraordinarily gifted person, and deserves to be teed up to the next level. This is not to diminish Kristen's capacity and talent, however at the moment someone capable of getting on the ground running is needed. That is an important consideration.

Member Blakely said he liked that Kristen McNeill had developed a game plan for her first 90 days on the job. She is time focused, speaks well, is committed and understands Nevada. He said he has empathy for the work Seng Keo is doing. He liked her idea on continuous improvement, and felt she had a grasp on the funding issues. He appreciated her passion and generally liked her. He said that he could vote for either of these two for the third candidate.

Member Newburn said the first pass took member Carters' vote into account although he has departed the meeting, as well as the non-voting members. He said after further debate he will take a poll with just the present voting members.

Member Ortiz noted that something Kristen McNeill said was a deal breaker for her. The Board has always been about equity for all kids. When Ms. McNeill said she supported Digital Days that was a deal breaker for her because Digital Days in WCSD will leave some kids out. There are many kids that cannot afford technology and do not have wifi or the ability to access a computer at home to do homework. There are also students with special education needs that require one on one attention, or require help with their school work. Saying kids will be given homework so they can count that day and get paid for it, is not acceptable.

Member Newburn said the Board is providing a slate of candidates to the Governor. He asked whether there is there any value in providing a different order or diversity of experience? President Wynn said she would be willing to make a nomination for a slate of candidates and let the Board take a vote on the chance that it might pass. If it is denied, then there can be further deliberation.

President Wynn moved to submit a slate of candidates for the state superintendent of public instruction to Governor Sisolak to include in no special order, Seng Keo, Jhone Ebert and Brett Barley. Member Ortiz seconded the motion.

Member Miller asked for discussion and responded to an earlier public comment about taking time with this decision. She said when time is not taken to discuss each candidate, it feels rushed, although she is not a voting member. President Wynn asked if there is a candidate she would like to champion that is not on the list. Member Miller said there were three candidates discussed as runner ups, and it was not just Seng Keo and Kristen McNeill, but also Marion Smith Jr. No one discussed Marion Smith. President Wynn offered an opportunity for any board member to discuss candidate Smith.

Deputy Gardner stated there is a motion and a second on the floor. The Board needs to either vote or discuss that motion, or rescind that motion. President Wynn asked Member Miller if she is prepared to discuss another candidate if the motion is withdrawn. Member Miller declined.

President Wynn called for a roll call on the motion. Member Ortiz, Member Holmes-Sutton, Member Hudson, Member Blakely, Member Newburn, and President Wynn all voted aye. Member Carter was absent for the vote. The motion carried.

President Wynn announced the Board has approved a slate of three candidates for the Governor's consideration to appoint the Superintendent of Public Instruction; Brett Barley, Jhone Ebert and Seng Dao Keo.

Future Agenda Item

Member Ortiz asked for an update on the ESSA plan for the entire Board.

Public Comment

Rene Patterson said she is a 17 year CCSD teacher who is taking the day off to attend the Board meeting. She has three kids that have graduated from CCSD. She thanked the Board for considering the educators and for taking the time to hear the candidates. It is easy to sit in the classroom and whine, but when you sit on this side and watch the process it is a lot bigger and harder.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.