

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUB-COMMITTEE TO REVIEW CANDIDATES FOR THE
Position of Superintendent of Public Instruction**

**MARCH 5, 2019
9:30 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 SPECIAL MEETING
(Video Conferenced)**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

In Las Vegas

Mark Newburn
Tonia Holmes-Sutton
Felicia Ortiz
Tamara Hudson

In Carson City

David Carter

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Carson City

Greg Bortolin, Public Information Officer
Karen Johansen, Assistant to the State Board of Education
Shawn Osborne, IT Technician

In Las Vegas

Brent Husson, Nevada Succeeds
Amelia Pak-Haney, Las Vegas Review Journal
Patricia Haddad, Opportunity 180
Sylvia Lazos, Nevada Immigrant Coalition
Yvette Williams, Clark County Black Caucus
Robin Kincaid, Nevada PEP
Carrie Buck, Pinecrest Academy

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT

In Carson City

Greg Ott, Senior Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Carson City:

Genevieve Hudson, Human Resources
Kristen McNeill, Washoe County School District
Ruben Murillo, Nevada State Education Association
Shannon Hogan, Strategies 360

Alexander Marks, Nevada State Education Association
Chris Day, Nevada State Education Association
Nicolette Smite, NWRPDP
Kristen Gleissner, NWRPP

In Las Vegas:

Alexander Marks, Nevada State Education Association

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. with attendance as reflected above.

Public Comment #1

Kristen McNeill stated that she submitted her application for the position of the superintendent of public instruction. As a native Nevadan she has applied for this important position because she cares deeply about the future of public education in Nevada. As an educator with ties to both southern and northern Nevada as well as an understanding about the unique characteristics of the rural school districts, she would like to be in a position to influence the direction of public education and how Nevada can do its best for every student. As a former teacher and principal and through her experience at the top leadership level, she fully understands the challenges of the schools, teachers, principals, and students. With the right person these challenges can be taken head on with solutions discovered.

Information, Discussion and Possible Action regarding the selection of semi-finalists for the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction. The sub-committee may review candidate applications, select candidates for interview and perform other tasks related to the search for the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Chair Newburn explained that the task today is to review the 33 resumes received for the position of the superintendent of public instruction, and then select six candidates to be interviewed next week by the full Board. Chair Newburn said the subcommittee members should have already reviewed the resumes of the candidates and selected their top six candidates. Each member of the subcommittee stated their six candidates to quickly converge on a set of candidates to discuss.

Felicia Ortiz said the criteria she considered is whether the candidate had previous state and/or district level experience. Also of consideration was someone with teaching experience and a current educator. The candidates she selected are:

- Marion Smith Jr.
- Jhone Ebert
- Brett Barley
- Kristen McNeill
- Icela Pelayo
- Seng-Dao Keo
- David Donaldson
- Tim Hughes

Dr. Holmes-Sutton:

- David Donaldson
- Marion Smith Jr.
- Krish Mohip
- Jhone Ebert
- James Guthrie
- Brett Barley
- Kristen McNeill

Tamara Hudson:

- Scott Groach
- Marion Smith Jr.
- Carrie Buck
- Kristen McNeill
- David Donaldson
- Jennifer Lewis

Mark Newburn:

- Jhone Ebert
- Brett Barley
- Seng-Dao Keo
- Donald Haddad
- Tammy Malich
- Kristen McNeill
- Icela Pelayo
- Marion Smith Jr.

David Carter:

- David Donaldson
- Marion Smith Jr.
- Jhone Ebert
- Brett Barley
- Kristen McNeill
- Tammy Malich

Chair Newburn verified the number of votes each candidate received. Five candidates had a minimum of four votes each; David Donaldson, Marion Smith Jr., Jhone Ebert, Brett Barley, and Kristen McNeill. Four candidates had a minimum of two votes each; Tammy Malich, Icela Pelayo, Donald Haddad and Seng-Dao Keo. Chair Newburn asked for another round of voting to add another candidate for a total of six to be interviewed. Sub-committee discussion ensued regarding the candidates, then members picked their candidate for a total of six.

David Carter: Tammy Malich

Tamara Hudson: Tammy Malich

Felicia Ortiz: Seng-Dao Keo

Tonia Holmes-Sutton: Seng-Dao Keo

Mark Newburn: Seng-Dao Keo

Seng-Dao Keo was added as the sixth candidate. Chair Newburn reviewed the current six candidates to give the subcommittee a last chance to object to any of the six; David Donaldson, Marion Smith Jr., Jhone Ebert, Brett Barley, Kristen McNeill, and Seng-Dao Keo.

Chair Newburn suggested it is appropriate to have an alternate in the event one of the six candidates drops out or is unable to attend the meeting. Subcommittee members concurred and discussed having one or two alternates. Another poll of the members was taken regarding which candidates they would choose as the alternates. The first alternate is Tammy Malich and the second alternate is Icela Pelayo.

Member Ortiz moved to confirm the six candidates to be interviewed for the position of Nevada Superintendent of Public Instruction: David Donaldson, Marion Smith Jr., Jhone Ebert, Brett Barley, Kristen McNeill, Seng-Dao Keo. The first alternates is Tammy Malich, and the second alternate is Icela Pelayo. Member Holmes-Sutton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Public Comment #2

Bret Husson, President, Nevada Succeeds, stated he is a member of several committees in the NDE including the Standards Committee, the oversight for RPDs, and the ESSA Advisory Committee, as well as others. He has a solid understanding of what occurs at the NDE and appreciates the advances the NDE has made over the last four to six years. He suggested thinking about what the NDE should like look next when considering questions to submit for the applicants. While the previous leadership moved the NDE in the right direction, there is still a way to go to move fully into what a state department should be. He has been in multiple state departments and Nevada is lagging behind other states in the maturity of the state department. It is not a criticism of those doing the work, it is a very new state department if looking at the transition made under Governor Sandoval. He requested that the next leader think not just about the work that must be done to comply with the federal government rules and regulations, but also has a vision of what the state department could be.

Yvette Williams, Caucus Chair, Clark County Black Caucus said she has had the opportunity to serve on many workgroups including ESSA, the Nevada Plan and the Council for Academic Standards. Her personal concern is having someone who can pick up the work that is left at the NDE. She is concerned about bringing in individuals that are not familiar with Nevada's landscape, and would prefer someone from within the NDE. Current leadership has made improvements including Smarter Balanced, improvements in math in every grade, ELA, and middle school science scores are up. Nevada has made tremendous strides and is now viewed as doing things out of the norm and being innovative. Graduation rates are up, there are 300 more social workers in schools, 4,000 more CTE completers, and 8,000 more CTE concentrators than two years ago. The biggest indicators to look for in the new superintendent is someone who can carry on and understand the work.

Sylvia Lazos stated this is a good group of finalists selected with individuals that can hit the ground running. The biggest challenge continues to be how to get out of the bottom five, and accomplish everything set in the ESSA plan. This is a juncture where there can be new leadership in the NDE and a lot can be accomplished. She noted that for those that did not make the list that there were so many that were good people, it is not a negative they were not selected. We were fortunate to have so many qualified applicants.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.