



NEVADA LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
(Nevada Revised Statutes 218.5352)

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The third meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education was held on March 2, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. A copy of this set of "Summary Minutes and Action Report," including the "Meeting Notice and Agenda" ([Exhibit A](#)) and other substantive exhibits, is available on the Nevada Legislature's Web site at www.leg.state.nv.us/73rd/Interim. In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (e-mail: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775/684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Senator William J. Raggio, Chairman
Assemblywoman Bonnie Parnell, Vice Chairwoman
Senator Barbara K. Cegavske
Senator Bernice Mathews
Senator Maurice E. Washington
Assemblyman Chad Christensen
Assemblyman Mark Manendo
Assemblyman Bob McCleary

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Carol M. Stonefield, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division
Kristin C. Roberts, Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Sara Partida, Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Melinda Martini, Education Program Analyst, Fiscal Division
Joi Davis, Program Analyst, Fiscal Division
Maryann Elorreaga, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division

OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Raggio called the meeting to order and asked the secretary to call the roll. He welcomed the Committee members, staff, and presenters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 17, 2006, MEETING IN CARSON CITY

The Committee **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

SENATOR CEGAVSKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 17, 2006 MEETING. ASSEMBLYWOMAN PARNELL SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

STATUS REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

- George Ann Rice, Ph.D., Chairman, Commission on Educational Excellence, and Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Instruction, Research, and Evaluative Services, Nevada Department of Education (NDE) submitted a document entitled “Summary SB 404 District Projects” ([Exhibit B](#)). Ms. Dopf said the document was a by-district summary of the amount of funds awarded by the commission and the types of programs funded at the district level. She said there were five major categories of utilization: 1. Specialized Staff, 2. Professional Development and Training, 3. Expanded Assessment and data, 4. Instructional Program Strategy, and 5. Specialized Equipment and supplies.

Chairman Raggio and Assemblywoman Parnell asked about expenditures for personnel costs.

Ms. Dopf said it was necessary to hire staff to carry out new programs or to train existing staff to carry out the programs.

Chairman Raggio asked that information on the innovative programs be presented at the April 12 meeting.

PRESENTATION ON THE ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS (AYP) MODEL FOR DATA ANALYSIS

(At the direction of the Chairman, this item was taken out of order)

- Paul LaMarca, Ph.D., Director, Office of Assessments, Accountability, and Curriculum, NDE, made a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Deconstructing 2005 AYP Determinations: School Size, Diversity, and Student Group Performance” ([Exhibit C](#)). He said school size and diversity are the two primary contributors to AYP classifications. Those classifications provide general indications of potential problems within a school, but do not identify specific problems. He suggested the AYP profile

must be deconstructed with grade by grade, subject by subject comparisons, to pinpoint problems. He said for school improvement plans to be effectively built, information from AYP and large-scale assessments must be combined with classroom-based information.

Assemblywoman Parnell asked if there was a way, within the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), to show that within all population a school was achieving AYP.

Dr. LaMarca said he thought that sort of flexibility would require an amendment to NCLB. He said the NCLB model assumed independence between sub groups and assumed comparisons between the groups was reliable.

PRESENTATION ON THE RESULTS OF THE 2004-2005 HIGH SCHOOL PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATIONS

- Dr. Paul LaMarca, previously identified in these minutes, conducted a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Update on High School Proficiency Examination (HSPE) Performance: State and District Level Analyses” ([Exhibit D](#)).

Dr. LaMarca said the conclusions drawn from the analyses reflected:

At the State level

- White and Asian students performed above average in math and English Language Arts while American Indian, Hispanic, African American, IEP, LEP and low SES students performed below average;
- There were modest positive score trends among first-time takers; and
- There was significant student group score variability among schools.

At the school district level:

- Significant characteristic differences between districts made one to one comparisons difficult;
- Patterns of student group performance were similar to state level patterns; and
- The difference in student group performance was not substantive when measurement error was considered.

REPORT ON TESTING SECURITY AND IRREGULARITIES, 2004-2005 TEST ADMINISTRATIONS, PURSUANT TO NEVADA REVISED STATUTES (NRS) 389.648

(At the direction of the Chairman, this item was taken out of order)

- Keith Rheault, Ph.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction, NDE, summarized a report submitted by the NDE to the LCE as required under NRS 389.648. The report

addressed testing irregularities within the Nevada Proficiency Examination Program. Dr. Rheault noted approximately 250,000 students participated in assessments during the 2004-2005 school year which generated over 360,000 answer documents. A total of 145 testing irregularities were found. Dr. Rheault said the NDE has implemented a training program on test administration for school personnel. He reviewed the status of ten cases of testing irregularity from the 2004-2005 school year, noting the NDE is awaiting submission and approval of corrective action plans, which will resolve those cases.

Chairman Raggio said the cases did not appear to be egregious, but since the testing was high stakes with national oversight, it should be as close to perfect as possible.

PRESENTATION ON STARS: NEVADA'S BLUEPRINT FOR HIGH SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

- Gloria Dopf, previously identified in these minutes, reviewed the document "STARS: Nevada's Blueprint for High School Improvement" ([Exhibit E](#)) and Goal #5 from the State Improvement Plan ([Exhibit E-1](#)). She said the STARS document was the blueprint developed by a broad group of constituents; including members of the business community, representatives of regional professional development, school district administrators, teachers, parents, national experts and NDE staff. She explained the STARS goals were included in the State Improvement Plan Goal #5 to improve secondary education programs.

She reviewed some of the strategies for high school improvement listed in Goal #5, including: the value of a high school diploma, priority goals for the redesign of high schools, and priority goals for educators.

Chairman Raggio asked Ms. Dopf to provide the Committee with a specific timeline for implementation of the goals.

Ms. Dopf said she would provide the information.

Chairman Raggio asked if data regarding reasons for students dropping out of high school was gathered at the state level. He commented the state could not develop a plan to reduce dropout rates and increase graduation rates if the reasons for students dropping out were unknown.

Ms. Dopf said that data was not currently available at the state level.

Chairman Raggio referred to page 17 of the Blueprint, and noted the expansion of charter schools and distance learning could salvage some potential dropouts. He asked if the group which developed the STARS document had considered expanding charter high schools.

Ms. Dopf: said the group had reviewed distance learning, charter schools, and specialized programs, but had not specifically advocated the expansion of charter schools.

Chairman Raggio asked if a statutorily mandated permanent P-16 roundtable or commission would be more effective than the current voluntary system.

Dr. Rheault, previously identified in these minutes, said it would be helpful to have a council established by statute, with specific responsibilities and authority.

PRESENTATION FROM THE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE TO REFORM EDUCATION (CARE)

(At the direction of the Chairman, this item was taken out of order)

- Maureen Peckman, Director of the Council for a Better Nevada and Member of the Working Group, CARE, submitted a document entitled “The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 40” ([Exhibit F](#)), a document entitled “Preliminary Goals for CARE” ([Exhibit F-1](#)) and a list of members of the CARE Working Group ([Exhibit F-2](#)). She said the Perry study was a scientific experiment that had identified both short- and long-term effects of a high-quality preschool education program for young children living in poverty. Addressing the CARE Working Group, Ms. Peckman explained that a number of people in the business community had come together to focus on issues of concern such as: water, power, transportation, and children’s welfare. She said the group had directed its attention to public education during the last year. Ms. Peckman noted the preliminary goals for CARE included defining a local school autonomy program; definition and clarification of the Clark County School District reporting methods; and the preparation of a 2008 school bond initiative. She said the idea of local school autonomy was based on studies conducted by Dr. William Ouchi, who found decisions made at the local school level were more accurate and timely and were more reflective of the needs of the students. She said local school autonomy programs were currently being successfully utilized in 12 urban school districts.

Chairman Raggio said the Committee would be interested in hearing from Dr. Ouchi at a future meeting.

PRESENTATION ON THE GATEWAY CURRICULUM, WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (WCSD)

- Paul Dugan, Superintendent, WCSD, and Kendyl Depoali, Assistant Superintendent of High Schools, WCSD, gave a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation entitled “Gateway to the Future: A Future of Choices for High School Students.” ([Exhibit G](#)) Ms. Depoali said the Gateway course of study was a series of high school classes in which all high school students will be automatically enrolled, effective in the fall of 2006. She said the purpose of the course of study was to better prepare high school students for success in the work place or in pursuing post-secondary education.

PRESENTATION ON EDUCATION INVOLVEMENT ACCORD PURSUANT TO NRS 392.4575 (SENATE BILL 214, CHAPTER 410, STATUTES OF NEVADA 2005 AT P. 1659)

- Gloria Dopf, previously identified in these minutes, and Janie Lowe, Consultant, Office of Special Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, and School Improvement Programs, NDE, submitted a document entitled “Nevada Department of Education Educational Involvement Accord” ([Exhibit H](#)) and a document entitled “Nevada Department of Education Code of Honor” ([Exhibit I](#)). Ms. Dopf said both of the documents had been developed by an advisory committee of parents, teachers, administrators, representatives from the business community, and others. Ms. Lowe gave a brief overview of the development of the documents. She said the Accord document was developed in compliance with what is now *Nevada Revised Statutes* 392.4575, Nevada’s parent involvement policy, and NCLB. She said the Accord could be used as the parent compact required by NCLB. Ms. Lowe said both the Accord and the Code of Honor will be available in both English and Spanish.

Chairman Raggio asked Assemblywoman Parnell to comment on her Subcommittee meeting.

- Assemblywoman Parnell reported on the March 1, 2006 meeting of the Subcommittee to Study the Effectiveness of Career and Vocational High Schools, held at the Southern Nevada Vocational Technical Center (SNVTC). She said it appears students excel when they have a specific plan for their future and are not involved in a more generic form of education.

COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Chairman Raggio said the Committee would be unable to conduct the May meeting in Elko and it will be rescheduled at a different location. He noted the next meeting was scheduled for April 12 in Carson City.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ray Bacon, Executive Director, Nevada Manufacturers Association, commented on the presentation made by Maureen Peckman of CARE. He said school districts which have adopted Dr. Ouchi’s approach to local school autonomy utilize a weighting factor to determine funding to individual schools. Mr. Bacon said there was a report on National Public Radio regarding students dropping out of school. The report showed most students dropped out because of boredom, not failure. He said students in CTE are not bored because they could make a direct connection between their futures and what they were learning in their classrooms.

- Harry York, CEO, Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce, said he had served on the STARS committee. He said he agreed with Chairman Raggio that a specific time line and better defined goals should be established. Mr. York offered his assistance and that of the members of the Chamber. He also said the Chamber was very supportive of the Gateway curriculum and believed all students should be pushed to their ultimate ability whether they were going on to college or into the work force.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryann Elorreaga
Senior Research Secretary

Carol M. Stonefield
Principal Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Senator William J. Raggio, Chairman

Date: _____

LIST OF EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Meeting Notice and Agenda provided by Carol M. Stonefield, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB).

[Exhibit B](#) is a document entitled “Summary SB 404 District Projects,” submitted by George Ann Rice, Ph.D., Chairwoman, Commission on Educational Excellence and Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Instruction, Research, and Evaluative Services, Nevada Department of Education (NDE).

[Exhibit C](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation entitled “Deconstructing 2005 AYP Determinations: School Size, Diversity, and Student Group Performance,” submitted by Paul LaMarca, Ph.D., Director, Office of Assessments, Accountability, and Curriculum, NDE.

[Exhibit D](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation entitled “Update on High School Proficiency Examination (HSPE) Performance: State and District Level Analyses,” submitted by Paul LaMarca, Ph.D., Director, Office of Assessments, Accountability, and Curriculum, NDE.

[Exhibit E](#) is a document entitled “STARS: Nevada’s Blueprint for High School Improvement,” submitted by Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Instruction, Research and Evaluative Services, NDE.

[Exhibit E-1](#) is a copy of “Goal #5” from the document entitled “State Improvement Plan,” submitted by Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Instruction, Research and Evaluative Services, NDE.

[Exhibit F](#) is a document entitled “The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 40,” submitted by Maureen Peckman, Director of the Council for a Better Nevada and Member of the Working Group CARE.

[Exhibit F-1](#) is a document entitled “Preliminary Goals for CARE,” submitted by Maureen Peckman, Director of the Council for a Better Nevada and Member of the Working Group CARE.

[Exhibit F-2](#) is a list of the members of the CARE Working Group submitted by Maureen Peckman, Director of the Council for a Better Nevada and Member of the Working Group CARE.

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This set of “Summary Minutes and Action Report” is supplied as an informational service. Exhibits in electronic format may not be complete. Copies of the complete exhibits, other materials distributed at the meeting, and the audio record are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. You may contact the Library online at www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm or telephone: 775/684-6827.