



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

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The second meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education was held on January 17, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, 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/72nd/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 CARSON CITY:

Senator William J. Raggio, Chairman
Assemblywoman Bonnie Parnell, Vice Chairwoman
Senator Bernice Mathews
Senator Maurice E. Washington
Assemblyman Bob McCleary

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Senator Barbara Cegavske
Assemblyman Mark Manendo

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

Assemblyman Chad Christensen (excused)

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
Maryann Elorreaga, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division

OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Raggio called the meeting to order and asked the secretary to call the roll.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2005, MEETING

The Committee **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

ASSEMBLYMAN MCCLEARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2005, MEETING HELD IN CARSON CITY. SENATOR CEGAVSKE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED.

PRESENTATION ON *2004 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE NEVADA SYSTEM OF EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY*

- George Hill, Ph.D., University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), Project Leader, introduced Bill Thornton, Ph.D., UNR, Project Leader, and Janet Usinger, Ph.D., UNR. They conducted a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Summary of Review of Nevada System of Education Accountability” ([Exhibit B](#)) and referred to their report “2004 Progress Report on the Nevada System of Education” ([Exhibit C](#)).

Dr. Hill explained the purpose of the review, which was to determine if Nevada’s school districts were in compliance with the accountability requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) and Senate Bill 1 (Chapter 1 *Statutes of Nevada 2003, 19th Special Session*). Drs. Hill, Thornton, and Usinger then discussed their findings regarding student proficiency in reading and math in the third, fifth and eighth grades and percentages of classrooms taught by not highly qualified teachers. They also reviewed data obtained during school visitations, including information regarding various school improvement plans; data based decisions and accountability; leadership styles of school principals; school staff development; individual education plan (IEP) students; and funding in both Title I schools and non-Title I schools.

The final part of the presentation addressed nine recommendations for improving accountability reporting, based on a review of available data on all Nevada schools, with special emphasis on information obtained from the 16 schools designated “in need of improvement.”

There were discussions concerning the information in the report and the recommendations regarding accountability reporting including: (1) providing incentives for schools that develop and implement high quality school improvement plans; (2) principal leadership styles; (3) student proficiency in math and reading; (4) schools that fail to improve; and (5) professional development funding for school districts.

Chairman Raggio addressed the reported inequity in funding between the Title 1 and non-Title 1 schools, noting it was the responsibility of the school districts to distribute state funds fairly.

PRESENTATION ON THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S *STATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN*

- Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent of Public Office of Instruction, Research, and Evaluative Services, Nevada Department of Education (NDE), reported on the "State Improvement Plan" ([Exhibit D](#) is the Mission Statement and Executive Summary only. The complete report can be accessed at the NDE Website: <http://www.doe.nv.gov>).

She explained the Plan was a revised, updated version of the original "State Improvement Plan," which was adopted by the Nevada State Board of Education in December of 2004.

Ms. Dopf discussed the five priority goals for improving student achievement and then reviewed the action plan strategies for accomplishing those goals.

Chairman Raggio asked that the portion of the Plan which addressed teacher qualifications at high poverty and high diversity schools be put on the agenda for the next appropriate meeting.

STATUS REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

(As directed by Chairman Raggio, this agenda item was taken out of order.)

- George Ann Rice, Ph.D., Chairman, Commission on Educational Excellence, and Keith Rheault, Ph.D., Superintendent of Public Education, NDE, reported on recent activities of the Commission on Educational Excellence. She said the Commission met Tuesday, January 3, 2006 through Friday, January 6, 2006, for a working session to review approximately 550 grant proposals for funds made available through Senate Bill 404 (Chapter 437, *Statutes of Nevada 2005*). Nine teams, comprised of Commission members, educators, and NDE staff members, reviewed the proposals. The teams reviewed each application along with its related school or district improvement plan, to ensure the proposal was an extension of what the school or the district had included in its school improvement plan.

Dr. Rice noted 60 schools did not receive funds during the first round; new schools which did not have an opportunity to submit applications and schools which did not choose to submit applications.

She gave an overview of the requirements of the Commission under S.B. 404 and the Commission's plans for complying with those requirements

Assemblywoman Parnell said a new school would not have developed a school improvement plan, would not know its population and, therefore, would not really know what to request.

Dr. Rice said the new schools may choose their staff in February and the principal would have been freed from ongoing responsibilities at an existing school. The schools would know the schools from which they were receiving their students by March and, with the available data bases, they could obtain information on where each of their student's academic achievement. They could then develop their improvement plan.

STATUS REPORT ON SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTABILITY INFORMATION FOR NEVADA/BIGHORN

- Paul LaMarca, Ph.D., Director, Office of Assessments, Program Accountability, and Curriculum, NDE, conducted a PowerPoint presentation entitled "SAIN Status Update" ([Exhibit E](#)). He reviewed the components of the System of Accountability Information for Nevada/Bighorn (SAIN) that have been implemented, the SAIN components under development, and enhancements for FY 2006 and FY 2007.

Assemblyman McCleary asked if there was a standardized format for collecting data for the state student information system.

Dr. LaMarca said that there was a statewide uniform program in place, which was designed to enhance data integrity.

PRESENTATION ON THE MONITORING SYSTEM FOR THE STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTABILITY PURSUANT TO SENATE BILL 214 (CHAPTER 410, *STATUTES OF NEVADA 2005*)

- Dr. Paul LaMarca, NDE, previously identified in these minutes, conducted a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Monitoring System for the Statewide System of Accountability" ([Exhibit F](#)). He gave an overview of the monitoring system which is required by Senate Bill 214 (Chapter 410, *Statutes of Nevada, 2005*).

He said the basic rationale for the monitoring system was to validate criterion-referenced test (CRT) performance with the norm-referenced tests (NRTs), which are also employed. The focus is a comparison based on achievement levels; the law requires identification of significant differences at the school and district levels.

Dr. LaMarca noted achievement level comparisons between the CRTs and NRTs could be made but the tests were based on different content and built to support different types of interpretations, which made the comparisons difficult.

He reviewed the system progress to date and the auditing function. He said preliminary analyses at the elementary level had been accomplished and noted NRT performance was validating CRT performance in terms of the disparities seen among sub populations.

REPORT ON COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORK PLAN AND CONSIDERATION OF THE REQUEST FROM THE COUNCIL FOR CONSULTING SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2006-2007

- Keith Rheault, Ph.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction, NDE, submitted a packet of information ([Exhibit G](#)), which included a request for funding support, a proposed Council work plan for 2005-2007, a proposed budget plan for 2006 and for 2007, and a work plan budget and expenditures for activities occurring from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2007.

The Committee **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

SENATOR CEGAVSKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FUNDING REQUEST SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYWOMAN PARNELL. MOTION CARRIED.

PRESENTATION ON POWER STANDARDS USED TO MONITOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO A CONTRACT WITH ETS PULLIAM GROUP

- Dr. Karlene McCormick-Lee, Assistant Superintendent, Research, Accountability, and Innovation, Clark County School District, conducted a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Prioritizing Learning-Teaching to the Standards” ([Exhibit H](#)). She reviewed the Nevada content standards; standards-based teaching; how power standards were identified; and how power standards are used in Clark County.

PRESENTATION ON STATEWIDE COUNCIL FOR THE COORDINATION OF THE REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS

- Hugh Rossolo, Chairman, Statewide Council for the Coordination of the Regional Training Programs, and his colleagues, Patty Falk and Roy Casey, reported on the composition of the governing boards in each of the regions they service and explained their methods for designing programs for professional development. They each acknowledged the use of the Nevada Early Literacy Intervention Program in their districts and noted steady, if slow, progress.

Chairman Raggio asked Mr. Rossolo, Ms. Falk, Mr. Casey, and Bill Hanlon, of the Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program, to present recommendations for methods to evaluate the performance of teachers who have participated in professional development programs.

REPORT ON RESULTS OF SURVEY OF ADMINISTRATOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Steven Canavero, Doctoral Candidate and Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Intern, UNR, conducted a PowerPoint presentation and submitted a companion report, both entitled “School Improvement Plan Survey of Nevada School Administration” ([Exhibit I](#)) and ([Exhibit J](#)).

Mr. Canavero said the goal of the survey was to assess the needs of school administrators in regards to the development, implementation, and evaluation of the School Improvement Plan. The design of the survey was guided by recent legislation and the results of the 2004 Progress Report on the Nevada System of Educational Accountability. He briefly reviewed the responses to his survey questions regarding school improvement plans and his recommendations made based on those responses.

INFORMATION CONCERNING ADDITIONAL CONSULTANTS TO SERVE AS MEMBERS OF SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAMS PURSUANT TO *NEVADA REVISED STATUTES 385.374*

- Dr. Keith Rheault, NDE, previously identified in these minutes, submitted a packet of information ([Exhibit K](#)), which included statutory information regarding the membership and duties of school support teams; school improvement leadership; school designations of adequate yearly progress (AYP) and/or needing improvement and the consequences of those designations; tiered support based on metric values; and metric values of schools not making AYP 2004-2005.

APPROVAL OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE TO STUDY THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS’ WORK PLAN

- Assemblywoman Bonnie Parnell, Chairwoman of the Subcommittee, thanked Chairman Raggio for appointing her Chairwoman of the Subcommittee, noting the issues of career and technical education and the future of Nevada high schools were very important to her. She gave an overview of the work plan, agenda topics, and proposed meeting dates of the Subcommittee.

The Committee **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PARNELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE WORK PLAN, BUDGET, AND PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE TO STUDY THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS. SENATOR MATHEWS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Chairman Raggio said the next two proposed meetings were set for March 2 in Las Vegas and April 12 in Carson City. Due to logistic difficulties, it was uncertain if the May 10 meeting would take place in Elko.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Bill Hanlon, Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program (SNRPDP), said the Power Standards are not the state standards and that puts the SNRPDP at odds with the Clark County School District concerning which standards should be taught. He said what is taught to teachers are the state standards.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:24 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 PowerPoint presentation entitled “Summary of Review of Nevada System of Education Accountability,” submitted by George Hill, Ph.D., University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), Project Leader, Bill Thornton, Ph.D., UNR, and Janet Usinger, Ph.D., UNR.

[Exhibit C](#) is a report entitled “2004 Progress Report on the Nevada System of Education,” submitted by George Hill, Ph.D., UNR, Project Leader, Bill Thornton, Ph.D., UNR, and Janet Usinger, Ph.D., UNR.

[Exhibit D](#) is the Mission Statement and Executive Summary of the “State Improvement Plan,” submitted by Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Instruction, Research, and Evaluative Services, Nevada Department of Education (NDE). (The full report can be accessed at the NDE Website: <http://www.doe.nv.gov>).

[Exhibit E](#) is a PowerPoint presentation entitled “SAIN Status Update,” submitted by Paul LaMarca, Ph.D., Director, Office of Assessments, Program Accountability, and Curriculum, NDE.

[Exhibit F](#) is a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Monitoring system for the Statewide System of Accountability,” submitted by Paul LaMarca, Ph.D., Director, Office of Assessments, Program Accountability, and Curriculum, NDE.

[Exhibit G](#) is a report on the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools submitted by Keith Rheault, Ph.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction, NDE.

[Exhibit H](#) is a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Prioritizing Learning-Teaching to the Standards,” submitted by Karlene McCormick-Lee, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent, Research, Accountability, and Innovation, Clark County School District.

[Exhibit I](#) is a PowerPoint presentation entitled “School Improvement Plan Survey of Nevada School Administration,” submitted by Steven Canavero, Doctoral Candidate and Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB, Intern.

[Exhibit J](#) is a report entitled “School Improvement Plan Survey of Nevada School Administration,” submitted by Steven Canavero, Doctoral Candidate and Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB, Intern.

[Exhibit K](#) is a packet of information concerning additional consultants to serve as members of school support teams pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes* 385.374, submitted by Keith Rheault, Ph. D., Superintendent of Public Instruction, NDE.

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.