



NEVADA LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
(Nevada Revised Statutes [NRS] 218E.605)

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The sixth meeting of the Nevada Legislature's Committee on Education (NRS 218E.605) was held on Thursday, June 14, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. in Room 3137 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 website at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/interim/76th2011/committee/>. In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's (LCB's) Publications Office (e-mail: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775/684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Assemblyman David P. Bobzien, Chair
Senator Don Gustavson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Senator Moises (Mo) Denis, Vice Chair
Senator Mark A. Manendo
Assemblywoman Marilyn Dondero Loop
Assemblyman Harvey J. Munford
Assemblyman Lynn D. Stewart

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

Senator Shirley A. Breeden

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Melinda Martini, Principal Research Analyst
H. Pepper Sturm, Chief Deputy Research Director
Kristin Roberts, Senior Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel
Colleen Platt, Senior Deputy Legislative Counsel
Wayne Thorley, Program Analyst, Legislative Bureau of Educational Accountability and
Program Evaluation, Fiscal Division
Nita Barnes, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division

OPENING REMARKS

- Assemblyman David P. Bobzien, Chair, welcomed the members and the public to the sixth meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education. He invited the public to access the “Solicitation of Recommendations Memorandum” found on the Committee’s website to submit possible recommendations for consideration by the Committee at its work session on August 16, 2012.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Chair Bobzien called for public comment; however no testimony was presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 26, 2012, IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

- The Committee **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

SENATOR DENIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE
APRIL 26, 2012, MEETING HELD IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA.
THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYWOMAN DONDERO
LOOP AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES IN NEVADA’S SYSTEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

- James W. Guthrie, Ph.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nevada’s Department of Education (NDE), opined Nevada’s education system has been measured unfairly. Superintendent Guthrie presented the following suggestions for Nevada’s public education system:
 - Ø Guarantee full-day kindergarten and pre-school as a high priority when State revenues justify it.

- Ø Continual emphasis on reading from kindergarten through grade three, with non-reading third graders receiving intense tutoring after-school and in summer programs.
- Ø Offer a “certificate of value” for entry into community colleges, apprenticeships, or employment to assist with the uneven transitions and remediation costs that many high school graduates experience.
- Ø Staff effective teachers and administrators at every stage in Nevada’s education system.
- Ø Offer a statewide leadership academy that is highly selective and rigorous to recruit and train effective principals and attract effective teachers.
- Ø Change the current teacher licensing system and move toward an intense apprenticeship program to mentor teachers, with more earning potential for the most effective teachers.
- Ø Encourage college graduates to become teachers.

In response to Assemblywoman Dondero Loop regarding the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Waiver, Superintendent Guthrie reported the revised Waiver has been re-submitted and he expects it will be approved. He noted his concern that approval of the revised Waiver may be delayed and he stated he will petition the Secretary of Education at the federal level for a speedy approval. Superintendent Guthrie commended the staff at NDE for the work they accomplished on the Waiver prior to his appointment.

Responding to Assemblyman Stewart, Superintendent Guthrie opined that Nevada’s disproportionate higher standards for high school graduation compared to other states should be addressed beginning in elementary school. He noted his preference to move to a system of end-of-course exams rather than maintain the High School Proficiency Examination (HSPE) program. Superintendent Guthrie proposed having an “assessment summit” to discuss the direction of the assessment system in Nevada.

There was discussion between Senator Denis and Superintendent Guthrie regarding NDE. Superintendent Guthrie opined NDE’s organizational design structure is strong on monitoring, but not on leadership and assistance to school districts. He stated he has commissioned a study to reorganize NDE and steer it towards helping local school districts. Superintendent Guthrie agreed with Senator Denis that parental involvement is the number one factor to ensure students’ success, and noted the importance of soliciting parents’ views when evaluating schools.

Responding to Assemblyman Munford, Superintendent Guthrie stated he has frequent discussions with district superintendents regarding Nevada’s high drop-out rate in lower income/lower performing schools. He commented that he is particularly concerned with those students.

In response to Assemblywoman Dondero Loop's inquiry regarding the reorganization of NDE, Superintendent Guthrie stated it will be completed in July, and will have budgetary consequences. He offered that to run a first-rate educational system in this State the Governor would need to take those budgetary recommendations into account. Superintendent Guthrie acknowledged the significant contributions made by Deputy Superintendent Rorie Fitzpatrick. He commented he was disappointed that NDE does not provide a public information officer or a director of governmental affairs.

- Assemblywoman Dondero Loop informed Superintendent Guthrie that she sponsored two bills regarding teacher licensure procedures; and stated she looks forward to working with him.

Discussion ensued between Chair Bobzien and Superintendent Guthrie regarding NDE's oversight of education at daycares and private pre-schools. Superintendent Guthrie stated he was in favor of collecting data for pre-school children in order to complete the P-16 data system. Chair Bobzien said the goal for success by third grade needs interventions of support and resources. He opined the State needs to move forward if we are truly committed to a world-class education system. Chair Bobzien encouraged Superintendent Guthrie to engage in conversation with the Governor before the budget process deadline. Superintendent Guthrie agreed to continue to work with the Governor. He added he plans to convene a summit with national experts to hear solutions and construct a specific plan for our State in this regard.

PRESENTATIONS CONCERNING CHARTER SCHOOLS

Presentations Related to the Sponsorship of Charter Schools in Nevada

Report of the Newly Created State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) (NRS 386.509 through 386.5135)

- Kathleen A. Conaboy, Chair, SPCSA, provided background information on the SPCSA and noted its requirements:

- Ø Approve applications for high-quality charter schools;
- Ø Provide appropriate oversight to those schools; and
- Ø Serve as a model of best practices for all State charter schools and their authorizers.

She offered a list of the SPCSA members ([Exhibit B](#)). Ms. Conaboy stated the SPCSA does not receive a direct State appropriation and the Authority is funded by fees paid by charter schools. She noted that the SPCSA may submit the following recommendations for consideration by members at the upcoming work session:

1. Change the policy for model practices in the area of performance management;

2. Develop performance-based charter contracts with clear renewal and revocation processes and monitoring plans;
3. Revise Senate Bill 212 (Chapter 381, *Statutes of Nevada 2011*) to address and clarify lottery exemptions, the status of SPCSA authority, staff structure, and the definition of an Education Management Organization (EMO);
4. Address the financial issues associated with facility funding for charter schools; and
5. Establish a third-party study of charter schools to fulfill legislative intent and the development of data to benchmark future progress.

Ms. Conaboy explained that the SPCSA has sought input from educational stakeholders and embraced the following goals: (1) enhance charter schools' operational autonomy while continuing to require full accountability for their performance; (2) access equitable funding so children who attend charter schools have the same stability and opportunities as students who attend traditional schools; and (3) model best practices to be adopted and replicated by other authorizers in the State.

- Steve Canavero, Ph.D., Director, SPCSA, offered a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled "State Public Charter School Authority" ([Exhibit C](#)). He reported that 11,500 Nevada students, or 4 percent, choose to attend a charter school, which is the current national average. Dr. Canavero noted that Nevada's ranking by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools improved from 23rd last year to 20th this year (with 42nd being last) due to laws creating high-quality charter schools. He stated the Alliance offered areas for improvement concerning operational autonomy, equitable funding, and access to capital funding and facilities.

Dr. Canavero requested the Committee support recommendations to provide for performance-based charter contracts that would require sponsors to develop frameworks to measure performance in operational compliance, fiscal health, and academic outcomes.

- Ms. Conaboy suggested consideration for the SPCSA to be the "18th" school district in Nevada. She thanked Caroline McIntosh, President, Nevada Association of School Superintendents, for including Dr. Canavero at the Superintendents' meetings. Ms. Conaboy acknowledged Dr. Canavero's service as a member of the Board of the National Association of Charter School Authorizers.

Reports by School Districts on the Status of Charter Schools Sponsored by Districts

- Dan Tafoya, Coordinator, Office of Charter Schools, Clark County School District (CCSD), discussed the seven charter schools the CCSD sponsors which include four Title I schools ([Exhibit D](#)). He commented that the schools serve 6,100 at-risk students. Mr. Tafoya pointed out the services the District provides these schools. He affirmed the performance framework will help measure and monitor factors surrounding academic growth, gaps, achievement, and other indicators.
- Michael Doering, Director, Alternative Programs, Washoe County School District (WCSD) reported on the support the WCSD offers the eight charter schools and 2,250 students they sponsor, which includes a dual-language option school and the only Montessori School in the WCSD ([Exhibit E](#)).

Report on Methods of Financing Charter School Facilities in Other States

- Jim Griffin, President, Colorado League of Charter Schools, provided a copy of the Utah Senate Bill 152 “Charter School Financing” ([Exhibit F](#)) and a presentation titled “Charter School Facilities Options” ([Exhibit F-1](#)). He stated most of the changes in policy for the 175 charter schools he oversees are regarding the average 14 percent operating dollars spent for those facilities. Mr. Griffin commented that school districts are able to spend those dollars on operations. He stated the League is administering a survey regarding facilities for charter schools to collect recommendations for legislative changes in Colorado. Mr. Griffin outlined the challenges charter schools encounter including smaller buildings, classrooms, and the lack of kitchens for reaching out to Title I students. He stated the League supports legislation that increases access to public space, local property tax dollars, and local assets for charter schools.

He pointed out there is an active tax exempt bond market across the country of investors who are willing to purchase tax exempt debt issued on behalf of charters. He added that Colorado has taken steps in their statutes to make charter schools a safer credit risk.

In response to Assemblywoman Dondero Loop, Mr. Griffin stated Denver is charging a fee to maximize the use of empty school district buildings for charter schools. He added the Denver School District is seeking \$400 million in school bonds for new capital and operating needs.

Presentation on the Performance Management of Charter Schools in Other States

- Lisa Grover, Senior Director, State Advocacy, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (NAPCS), discussed the work of the NAPCS with state associations, state commissions, and other reform minded organizations throughout the country to lead public education to unprecedented levels of academic achievement. She expressed her appreciation for Nevada’s legislative support of charter schools. Ms. Grover offered the following suggestions for further improvement: (1) approve legislation to provide facility financing options; (2) improve charter contracts; and (3) improve accountability measures for both charter schools and authorizers.

She provided a chart that details New Mexico's contract law and negotiations ([Exhibit G](#)).

- Jim Griffin, previously identified, provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation regarding state accountability and performance management, and a booklet titled "Charter School Bond Issuance: A Complete History" ([Exhibit H](#) and [Exhibit H-1](#)). He attributed a charter school's success or failure to the reliability of a state's accountability system. Mr. Griffin stated the goal of the Colorado League of Charter Schools is to strengthen charter schools across the country by ensuring reliable data is available to them and to their authorizers.

He referenced the alternative education campuses that serve the 2 to 3 percent of students who are drop-outs and adjudicated youth. Mr. Griffin proposed that those students merit a system that will take into account their circumstances and differing performance data.

- Chair Bobzien commented these discussions will be important for reporting to parents and the community.

Recommendations for Statutory Changes Related to the:

- 1. Application for Enrollment in a Charter School (NRS 386.580)***
- 2. Account for Charter Schools (NRS 386.576 through 386.578)***
- 3. Definition of an "Educational Management Organization" (NRS 386.562)***

- Dr. Canavero, previously identified, provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation ([Exhibit I](#)) that proposed the following recommendations for statutory changes:
 - NRS 386.580—Extend enrollment preferences or lottery exemptions to all charter schools while maintaining safeguards already provided for in statute.
 - NRS 386.576—Request an item for special consideration to seed the revolving loan account for charter schools.
 - NRS 386.562(2)—Revise to adopt the NAPCS definition, or add "educational" to the existing definition.

In response to Assemblywoman Dondero Loop, Dr. Canavero stated these recommendations would not change existing safeguards in statute related to leasing or operating contracts with the schools. He said that if an EMO is terminated, the school cannot be evicted.

Status of the Internal Revenue Service's Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Titled, "Determination of Government Plan Status" (76 Federal Register 69,172 [Nov. 8, 2011]) Regarding the Possible Impact to the Participation of Charter School Teachers in State Retirement Plans

- John Hawk, Ed.D., President, Charter School Association of Nevada, provided information regarding protecting charter school retirement funds and a letter to IRS Commissioner Douglas Shulman ([Exhibit J](#) and [Exhibit J-1](#)). He described the Association's advocacy efforts to oppose the IRS determination prohibiting charter school employees from participating in state retirement plans. Dr. Hawk testified this determination would be detrimental for charter schools to attract quality teachers and administrators. He requested assistance from the Committee and staff to intervene by the June 18, 2012, deadline on behalf of the 800 public employees currently in the workforce in Nevada's charter schools.
- Chair Bobzien assured Dr. Hawk that staff would be looking into this matter closely.
- Melinda Martini, Principal Research Analyst, LCB, provided an article from the *East Valley Tribune*, Arizona, titled "Charter school teachers face exit from Arizona state retirement system" ([Exhibit K](#)).

Presentations of Charter Schools in Nevada

Oasis Academy, Fallon

- Melissa Mackedon, Administrator, Oasis Academy, provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled "Oasis Academy Bighorns" ([Exhibit L](#)). She noted she is a member of the SPCSA Board. Ms. Mackedon petitioned for a statutory change to allow qualified parents a lottery exemption for their children if they would serve as Board members as an incentive due to the difficulty to fulfill this requirement, especially in rural communities.

She reiterated that the proposed IRS determination, previously discussed, would negatively impact their efforts to recruit and hire qualified teachers.

Explore Knowledge Academy, Las Vegas

- Abbe Mattson, Executive Director, Explore Knowledge Academy, offered a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation that provided a pictorial tour of the Explore Knowledge Academy ([Exhibit M](#)). She stated students learn through hands-on, self-directed research using the Common Core State Standards. Ms. Mattson explained how students create timelines, schedules, and milestones using written and public speaking skills to complete a project.

STATUS OF NEVADA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT CONSORTIUM

Presentation of the Proposed Assessment System and Timeline for Implementation

- Carol Crothers, Director, Office of Assessments, Program Accountability and Curriculum, NDE, provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Nevada Assessments: 2012-2018” ([Exhibit N](#)). She stated Nevada is a member of the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC), which is a multi-state assessment consortium. Ms. Crothers explained that the SBAC will develop assessments to replace English language arts and mathematics tests in the 3rd through 8th grades and 11th grade.

Ms. Crothers explained the types of testing that will be administered in Nevada from school years (SY) 2012 through 2018. She stated the SBAC assessments should be operational by the SY 2014–2015 for reading, writing, science, and mathematics.

Discussion of the Infrastructure Required to Support the Proposed Assessment System

- Glenn Meyer, Director, Information Technology, NDE, stated a technology assessment for all school districts will be completed soon and the results and recommendations will be compiled by August 2012. He added the report will detail improvements Nevada may need to connect with the SBAC system, such as the system platform and its maintenance.

There was discussion between Assemblyman Stewart and Ms. Crothers regarding other states that do not use the SBAC as a graduation requirement, Nevada's additional requirement for the science proficiency test, and different options for end-of-course exams. Ms. Crothers stated that for federal accountability purposes, the SBAC is required for a limited time. She affirmed that the SBAC would not be a graduation requirement if the State decided to replace the SBAC tests with end-of-course exams.

PRESENTATIONS CONCERNING THE STATEWIDE ADMINISTRATION OF COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS ASSESSMENTS

Presentation on College Readiness Standards and Assessments, Including a Discussion of Common Core State Standards and the Assessments Developed by ACT, Inc. and the College Board

- Melinda Martini, previously identified, provided a copy of the 2011 Resolution from the Board of Regents in favor of adopting a statewide administration of the ACT test in the junior year of high school ([Exhibit O](#)).
- Crystal M. Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation prepared by NSHE and NDE that highlighted the statewide and national readiness assessments” ([Exhibit P](#)). She emphasized the following issues need to be addressed:
 1. Adopting a statewide administration of the ACT test in the junior year;
 2. Determining college-readiness to ensure students are adequately prepared for the rigors of college-level math and English; and
 3. Incorporating Common Core State Standards Assessments for college readiness.
- Carol Crothers, Director, Office of Assessments, Program Accountability and Curriculum, NDE, commented that adoption of the Common Core State Standards will provide a framework for preparing students to be college-and-career ready.

Responding to Assemblyman Munford, Ms. Abba stated students only need evidence of high school graduation for enrollment in a Nevada community college. She added that a student with an Associate’s Degree could transfer to a four-year institution in Nevada.

In response to Assemblywoman Dondero Loop, Ms. Crothers replied that states requiring students to take the ACT or SAT, in addition to any required high school exit exams, pay for test fees from their state budgets.

Responding to Assemblyman Stewart’s inquiry, Ms. Abba stated that students with an adjusted high school diploma could enroll in a community college.

- Jim Morris, Director for Client Outreach and State Partnerships, ACT, Inc., outlined how ACT can serve Nevada ([Exhibit Q](#)). He provided information on improvements states are making to ensure students are college-and-career ready, including:
 1. Providing essential standards;
 2. Providing common expectations;
 3. Providing clear performance standards; and
 4. Providing early monitoring and intervention.

Mr. Morris stated that: (1) students respond to higher expectations when shown areas to improve upon; (2) the statewide administration of the ACT benefits all students, especially minority students and male students; (3) students may request their scores be sent to four higher education institutions without charge, even if college attendance is not yet decided; and (4) ACT's Educational Opportunity Service offers to place students in a college recruitment pipeline.

- Wayne J. Camara, Ph.D., Vice President, Research and Development, The College Board, provided information regarding The College Board and explained it connects students to college success and opportunity. He stated that 27 higher education institutions in Nevada are members of The College Board. Dr. Camara urged the Committee to consider utilizing a statewide administration of the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test in the 10th grade in order for students to have diagnostic information to prepare for graduation and set goals. He noted that early childhood education and intervention in grades 3 through 5 contributes significantly more to student success than any test for increasing college enrollment ([Exhibit R](#)).

Reports by School Districts Concerning the Statewide Administration of College and Career Readiness Assessments

- Chair Bobzien requested the presenters offer direction in preparation of the 2013 Legislative Session.
- Lindsay E. Anderson, Director, Department of Government Affairs, WCSD, provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation regarding college-and-career readiness assessments ([Exhibit S](#)). She stated superintendents from the WCSD and the CCSD support the Board of Regents' resolution for a statewide administration of college-and-career readiness assessments.

Ms. Anderson noted the WCSD would support administering a college-and-career readiness assessment in the 11th grade if funding were available.

- Pedro Martinez, Deputy Superintendent, CCSD, commented on the negative results from assessments that are not appropriately aligned to curriculums. He offered a summary of State exit exams ([Exhibit T](#)) and reported that students are entering college with high remediation rates due to the misalignment of the HSPE. Mr. Martinez stated that the CCSD is in favor of interim and formative assessments and the implementation of the SBAC.

Mr. Martinez recommended members consider suspending the HSPE. He stated the CCSD would support either the ACT or SAT test for 11th grade students, or students beginning 12th grade.

Responding to Assemblyman Stewart, Mr. Martinez opined that the cost of replacing the HSPE with an ACT or SAT test would balance out when considering costs incurred for students that need to re-take the HSPE in order to graduate.

In response to Assemblyman Munford, Mr. Martinez stated for students behind in credits and who did not pass the HSPE, the District has developed individual plans.

- Chair Bobzien announced that he was informed that the NCLB Waiver under federal consideration is contingent on the HSPE remaining in place until the SBAC begins in SY 2014–2015.

A general discussion ensued regarding the availability of any other high school assessments. Ms. Anderson stated she was not aware of any. Ms. Abba, previously identified, said she was not aware of any tests similar to the ACT or SAT for college entrance. Mr. Martinez commented that the CCSD is not limiting itself to the ACT or SAT, but pointed out that the ACT or SAT tests expose students to scholarship opportunities. Carol Carothers, previously identified, noted some states develop their own college-and-career readiness test.

PRESENTATION OF A PROPOSAL FOR A STUDENT REGENT TO PARTICIPATE AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

- Michael Z. Stannard, Director, Department of Legislative Affairs, Associated Students of the University of Nevada (ASUN), stated Nevada is one of only 11 states without student representation on its Board of Regents. He added that the ASUN has conferred with many legislators, regents, members of the community, Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), and the Governor's Office about their proposal for a student to participate as a member of the Board of Regents. (See [Exhibit U](#) and [Exhibit U-1](#).)
- John Kucera, ASUN, referred to a document that detailed options for instituting a student representative ([Exhibit V](#)).
- Mr. Stannard stated a common complaint from students is their points of view are not adequately reflected in Board of Regents' policies and are excluded from having any tangible impact on crafting, amending, or voting on new policies.
- Mr. Kucera commented that Nevada college students will continue to seek a student regent on the Board until it is accomplished.
- Chair Bobzien requested legal counsel to interpret the constitutionality of this type of appointment, and to offer the ASUN representatives suggestions for planning their campaign.
- Colleen Platt, Senior Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB, stated that Article 11, Section 7, of *The Constitution of the State of Nevada* provides for election of members to the Board of Regents and that an amendment would be needed to appoint a student representative as a member. She explained the process to amend the *Constitution*.

Responding to Assemblyman Munford's query regarding methods for appointing student regents, Mr. Stannard offered that states use different methods for appointing a qualified

student regent. He said that ASUN proposes each NSHE institution submit up to three candidates to be confirmed by the Governor, or the Board of Regents, for a final selection.

- Assemblyman Stewart voiced his support of a student representative on the Board of Regents.
- Chair Bobzien requested this matter be added as an item for consideration at the work session. He suggested the representatives from ASUN confer with staff for specific recommendations.
- Kristin Roberts, Senior Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB, assured Chair Bobzien that legislative counsel would be available to the representatives.
- Chair Bobzien suggested specific direction be given regarding the Board accepting applications. Chair Bobzien suggested ASUN representatives apprise NSHE for possible input. He thanked the ASUN representatives for their work regarding this matter.

PRESENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL CONCERNING POSSIBLE MODIFICATION OF ASSEMBLY BILL 546 OF THE 76TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION, VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR

- Chair Bobzien stated he intends to advance the issue of early childhood education next session.
- Margot Chappel, Director, Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office, Department of Health and Human Services, testified that the State Early Childhood Advisory Council was established by an executive order through the Governor's Office. She provided a table that contained proposals to revise language in A.B. 546 ([Exhibit W](#)), and a summary of recommendations for a coordinated system of early childhood care and education ([Exhibit W-1](#)). Ms. Chappel suggested the Committee consider adopting the Council's definition of school readiness.
- Chair Bobzien thanked Ms. Chappel and the Council for their work. He requested the results of the Council's needs assessments for kindergarten entry be provided to Committee members. Chair Bobzien noted recommendations may be needed at the work session regarding early childhood education specific to the data system.

REPORT ON THE INTERIM COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW METHOD FOR FUNDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NEVADA (SENATE BILL 11, CHAPTER 424, *STATUTES OF NEVADA 2011*)

- Melinda Martini, previously identified, provided a copy of S.B. 11 ([Exhibit X](#)).
- Julie Waller, Senior Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB, stated the focus of the Committee to Study the Development of a New Method for Funding Public Schools in Nevada is to ensure funds are equitably distributed to meet students' educational needs, especially for students with disabilities, English language learners, pupils at-risk,

and to small schools in remote areas ([Exhibit Y](#)). She noted the CCSD secured \$125,000 in donations to pay the consultant fee for the Study. Ms. Waller stated the final report for the Study is due in August 2012.

REPORT ON THE ASSESSMENT MADE BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF THE FEASIBILITY OF SHARING SERVICES, FUNCTIONS, AND PERSONNEL WITH OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS (ASSEMBLY BILL 551, CHAPTER 183, *STATUTES OF NEVADA 2011*)

- Lindsay Anderson, Director, Department of Government Affairs, WCSD, provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation ([Exhibit Z](#)) that detailed how districts have worked together to share services, functions, and personnel in the areas of technology, nutrition services, purchasing, transportation, and human resources over the past seven months.
- Caroline B. McIntosh, President, Nevada Association of School Superintendents, shared a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation that highlighted tuition agreements, sharing professional development, school psychologists, occupational, physical, and speech language therapists, school nurses, transportation and maintenance programs ([Exhibit AA](#)).
- Nicole Rourke, Executive Director, Government Affairs, CCSD, submitted a report titled “Consolidation of Services with Other School Districts AB 551” ([Exhibit BB](#)). She stated the CCSD worked with neighboring districts to consolidate expenses in the past and will continue by sharing curriculum, technology, food services, transportation, and operations. Ms. Rourke added that the CCSD is currently exploring the possibility of sharing insurance and risk management services with other districts.
- Chair Bobzien requested any recommendations to further assist in this endeavor be submitted for consideration at the work session.

PRESENTATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAM DEVELOPED BY COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS (CIS) TO HELP AT-RISK STUDENTS STAY IN SCHOOL AND GRADUATE

- Erin Smith, Vice President, Board of Directors, CIS of Southern Nevada, gave an update on CIS activities. She stated CIS serves 22,000 students, teachers, administrators and parents in 37 schools in Nevada. Ms. Smith reported on the effectiveness of the program and noted that 95 percent of case-managed students were promoted to the next grade level and 90 percent of seniors graduated, at an average cost of \$200 per student. She submitted a roster of members ([Exhibit CC](#)). Ms. Smith thanked the legislators for the \$709,000 appropriation from the State General Fund during the 2007 Legislative Session.
- Terri A. Clark, Chief Executive Officer, CIS of Nevada, stated that prior to 2007, Elko School District did not qualify for a federal food program. She reported that since that time, CIS has served over 36,000 breakfasts and provided over 5,400 backpacks to students. Ms. Clark pointed out that CIS manages a program to connect youth in rural areas to mental health services targeted toward prevention of pregnancies and

incarcerations. She provided data highlights, which included improvements in school attendance ([Exhibit DD](#)) and thanked the legislators for investing in Clark County and especially in the rural areas.

In response to Assemblywoman Dondero Loop, Ms. Clark stated data compiled by CIS for source data, grade point averages, absences, and reduced retention hours is processed through a national database that generates reports for each state.

- Assemblywoman Dondero Loop thanked the presenters for their work for Nevada students.

Discussion ensued among Assemblyman Munford, Ms. Clark and Garth Winkler, past president of the CIS Board, regarding funding sources. Ms. Clark stated CIS is funded by various sources including grants, corporate gifts, and private donations. Mr. Winkler stated the Board continually seeks funding sources due to the increased need for CIS services. He encouraged the Committee to consider continued funding based on CIS's proven results for student achievement and high school graduations. Ms. Clark reported CIS currently has 23 paid employees and approximately 200 volunteers. She stated the K–12 case-managed students and families are tracked over the summer by e-mail and phone calls. Assemblyman Munford commended the work CIS is doing in low-income urban areas.

There was discussion among Senator Manendo, Assemblywoman Dondero Loop, and Ms. Clark regarding problems with food services and Ms. Clark explained that to identify students in need, CIS confers with counselors, principals, administrators, and teachers. She added that CIS works in tandem with other organizations and that each student has an individual case plan. Assemblywoman Dondero Loop stated she has worked at schools that CIS serves. She noted some parents needed assistance understanding the application process, possibly due to language barriers.

PRESENTATION OF PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY SAVE THE CHILDREN

- Andrew Hysell, Associate Vice President, Policy and Advocacy, Save the Children, offered a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Save the Children’s US Programs” and a document titled “Helping Nevada’s Children Succeed” ([Exhibit EE](#)). He stated Save the Children focuses on literacy and early intervention by: (1) training teachers; (2) upgrading school libraries; (3) buying licenses and computer programs; (3) tutoring; and (4) offering after school programs and six-week summer school programs. He added that data to track student progress is compiled from attendance, number of books read, quizzes passed, and standardized testing. Mr. Hysell noted 20 percent of American children live in rural areas.

REPORT OF TYPES OF HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS OFFERED BY OTHER STATES

- Melinda Martini, previously identified, provided a copy of a letter from Senator Moises Denis, Chairman of the 2011 Senate Committee on Education, concerning S.B. 116, regarding an adjusted adult diploma for certain disabled students ([Exhibit FF](#)).

Responding to a request from Chair Bobzien, H. Pepper Sturm, Chief Deputy Research Director, Research Division, LCB, provided information on high school diplomas offered in other states ([Exhibit GG](#)). He reported that currently no state authorizes an adult diploma option similar to Nevada. Mr. Sturm commented that Nevada leads the country in the number of diploma options offered.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ray Bacon, President, Nevada Manufacturers Association, pointed out the omission of the “Work Keys” assessment during previous testimony presented on the ACT testimonies. He stated employers nationwide are utilizing the Work Keys because the assessment offers consistency. Mr. Bacon endorses the use of the Work Keys assessment.
- Carolyn McIntosh, Superintendent, Lyon County School District, stated that every school district needs the national benchmarking for students that ACT provides. Ms. McIntosh also endorsed the Work Keys assessment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nita Barnes
Senior Research Secretary

Melinda Martini
Principal Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Assemblyman David P. Bobzien, Chair

Date: _____

LIST OF EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the “Meeting Notice and Agenda,” provided by Melinda Martini, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB).

[Exhibit B](#) is a list of “State Public Charter School Authority Board Members,” offered by Kathleen A. Conaboy, Chair, State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA).

[Exhibit C](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “State Public Charter School Authority Overview,” by Steven Canavero, Ph.D., Director, SPCSA, and Kathleen Conaboy, Chair, SPCSA.

[Exhibit D](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Clark County School District Sponsored Charter Schools,” submitted by Daniel J. Tafoya, Coordinator, Office of Charter Schools, Clark County School District (CCSD).

[Exhibit E](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Washoe County School District Sponsored Charter Schools,” offered by Michael Doering, Director, Alternative Programs, Office of School Performance, Washoe County School District (WCSD).

[Exhibit F](#) is a copy of Senate Bill 152, State of Utah, 2012 General Session, provided by Jim Griffin, President, Colorado League of Charter Schools, Denver, Colorado.

[Exhibit F-1](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Charter School Facilities Options, focus on achievement,” dated June 14, 2012, provided by Jim Griffin, President, Colorado League of Charter Schools, Denver, Colorado.

[Exhibit G](#) is a chart titled “Overall Charter Accountability Process,” dated June 13, 2012, submitted by Lisa Grover, Senior Director, State Advocacy, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, Washington, D.C.

[Exhibit H](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “State Accountability, Performance Management, and Charter Schools, focus on achievement,” dated June 14, 2012, offered by Jim Griffin, President, Colorado League of Charter Schools, Denver, Colorado.

[Exhibit H-1](#) is a publication titled “Charter School Bond Issuance: A Complete History,” dated June 2011, published by The Educational Facilities Financing Center of Local Initiatives Support Corporation, written by Elise Balboni, Wendy Berry, and Charles Wolfson, provided by Jim Griffin, President, Colorado League of Charter Schools, Denver, Colorado.

[Exhibit I](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Recommendations for Statutory Changes,” provided by Steven Canavero, Ph.D., Director, SPCSA.

[Exhibit J](#) is a report titled “Protecting Charter School Retirement Funds,” by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, presented by John Hawk, Ed.D., President, Charter School Association of Nevada (CSAN), Henderson, Nevada.

[Exhibit J-1](#) is a letter dated March 1, 2012, to The Honorable Douglas Shulman, from Congress Members Jared Polis, Duncan Hunter, George Miller, Rubén Hinojosa, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Rush Holt, Leonard Lance, Rob Andrews, John Carney, Erik Paulsen, Allyson Schwartz, Tom Petri, Jim Himes, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Cory Gardner, Martin Heinrich, and Mike Coffman regarding “Determination of Government Plan Status released by the Internal Revenue Service,” submitted by John Hawk, Ed.D., President, CSAN, Henderson, Nevada.

[Exhibit K](#) is an article titled “Charter school teachers face exit from Arizona state retirement system,” dated February 3, 2012, by Michelle Reese, from the *East Valley Tribune*, Arizona, offered by Melinda Martini, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB.

[Exhibit L](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Oasis Academy Bighorns,” provided by Melissa Mackedon, Administrator, Oasis Academy, Fallon.

[Exhibit M](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Explore Knowledge Academy,” submitted by Abbe Mattson, Executive Director, Explore Knowledge Academy, Las Vegas.

[Exhibit N](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Nevada Assessments: 2012–2018,” dated June 14, 2012, offered by Carol J. Crothers, Director, Office of Assessments, Program Accountability and Curriculum, Nevada’s Department of Education (NDE).

[Exhibit O](#) is a 2011 Board of Regents’ Resolution titled “Encouraging the State of Nevada and district school board trustees and superintendents of public K–12 instruction to adopt the statewide administration of the ACT test for all high school students in their junior year,” provided by Melinda Martini, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB.

[Exhibit P](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Use of Statewide and National Readiness Assessments,” dated June 14, 2012, prepared by Crystal M. Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, Nevada System of Higher Education, and NDE.

[Exhibit Q](#) is a packet of information submitted by Jim Morris, Director, Client Outreach and State Partnerships, Educational Services, ACT, Inc., Iowa City, Iowa, that includes:

- A document titled “ACT, INC: COMPANY OVERVIEW”;
- A document titled “ACT’s College and Career Readiness, At a Glance”;
- A map titled “State Funded Partnerships in College and Career Readiness, 2011-2012,” updated April 6, 2012; and
- A report titled “Staying on Target, The Importance of Monitoring Student Progress toward College and Career Readiness,” dated March 2012, by ACT Research and Policy.

[Exhibit R](#) is a packet of information offered by Wayne J. Camara, Ph.D., Vice President, Research and Development, The College Board, New York, New York, that includes:

- The written testimony of Wayne J. Camara, Ph.D., dated June 14, 2012;

- A brochure titled “Accuplacer, MyFoundationsLab, Assess and Build Academic Skills and Create A Path To Student Success;” and
- A booklet titled “CLEP, Academic Success in Higher Education.”

[Exhibit S](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “College and Career Readiness Assessments,” dated June 14, 2012, provided by Lindsay E. Anderson, Director, Department of Government Affairs, WCSD.

[Exhibit T](#) is a report titled “Summary of State Exit Exams and the Nevada High School Proficiency Examination (NHSPE),” presented by Pedro Martinez, Deputy Superintendent, CCSD.

[Exhibit U](#) is a map of states displaying Voting and Non-Voting student regents provided by Michael Z. Stannard, Director, Department of Legislative Affairs, Associated Students of the University of Nevada (ASUN).

[Exhibit U-1](#) is a document titled “Nevada Student Regent Proposal,” submitted by Michael Z. Stannard, Director, Department of Legislative Affairs, ASUN.

[Exhibit V](#) is the written testimony of John Kucera, outgoing department member, ASUN.

[Exhibit W](#) is a table titled “Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Legislative Workgroup, AB 546 and Revisions Comparison,” dated June 6, 2012, offered by Margot Chappel, Director, Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

[Exhibit W-1](#) is a document titled “Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC), Legislative Recommendations to Promote School Readiness,” dated April 2012, provided by Margot Chappel, Director, Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office, DHHS.

[Exhibit X](#) is a copy of Senate Bill 11 (Chapter 424, *Statutes of Nevada* 2011) submitted by Melinda Martini, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB.

[Exhibit Y](#) is a document titled “Agenda Item X: Report on the Interim Committee to Study the Development of a New Method for Funding Public Schools in Nevada, (Senate Bill 11, Chapter 424, *Statutes of Nevada 2011*),” dated June 14, 2012, presented by Julie Waller, Senior Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB.

[Exhibit Z](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Assembly Bill 551, WCSD - Feasibility of Sharing Services, Functions and Personnel with Other School Districts,” provided by Lindsay Anderson, Director, Department of Government Affairs, WCSD.

[Exhibit AA](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “AB 551 Shared Services Report, Nevada Rural Districts,” dated June 6, 2012, offered by Caroline McIntosh, President, Nevada Association of School Superintendents, Yerington.

[Exhibit BB](#) is a document titled “Consolidation of Services with Other School Districts, AB 551,” submitted by Nicole Rourke, Executive Director, Government Affairs, CCSD.

[Exhibit CC](#) is a document titled “State Board Roster,” dated June 2012, provided by Erin Smith, Vice President, Board of Directors, Communities In Schools (CIS) of Nevada, Las Vegas.

[Exhibit DD](#) is a document titled “The nation’s leading drop out prevention organization,” presented by Terri A. Clark, Chief Executive Officer, CIS of Nevada, Las Vegas.

[Exhibit EE](#) is two documents submitted by Andrew Hysell, Associate Vice President, Policy and Advocacy, Save the Children, consisting of:

- a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Save the Children’s US Programs”; and
- a report titled “Helping Nevada’s Children Succeed.”

[Exhibit FF](#) is a letter and enclosure dated June 5, 2011, to the Chairman, Legislative Committee on Education, from Senator Moises Denis, Chairman, Senate Committee on Education, regarding Senate Bill 116, offered by Melinda Martini, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB.

[Exhibit GG](#) is a Fact Sheet titled “High School Diploma Options Offered In Other States,” dated June 2012, submitted by H. Pepper Sturm, Chief Deputy Research Director, Research Division, LCB.

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.