



**NEVADA LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION'S COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE
GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT OF THE SYSTEM
OF K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION**

(Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 2, File No. 89, *Statutes of Nevada 2009*)

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The third meeting and work session of the Legislative Commission's Committee to Study the Governance and Oversight of the System of K-12 Public Education was held on May 13, 2010, at 9 a.m. in Room 4412 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 website at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/interim/75th2009/committee/>. 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:

Assemblywoman Bonnie Parnell, Chair
Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Vice Chair
Senator Barbara K. Cegavske
Senator Steven A. Horsford
Assemblyman Paul Aizley
Assemblyman Lynn D. Stewart

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Melinda Martini, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division
H. Pepper Sturm, Chief Deputy Research Director, Research Division
Kristin C. Roberts, Senior Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Colleen Platt, Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Lucinda Benjamin, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division

OPENING REMARKS

- Chair Parnell opened the meeting, welcomed the public, and thanked the Committee staff for their support during the interim. She gave an in-depth review of the current educational governance structure. Chair Parnell also provided information from the “Survey of Opinions” ([Exhibit B](#)) conducted by the Committee and explained the process of providing testimony, the voting process, the “Work Session Document” ([Exhibit C](#)), and work session procedures.
- Assemblyman Aizley announced that he was participating in a “shadowing” program with the Clark County School District, so James Kuzma, Ph.D., Principal, Rancho High School, Las Vegas, was present to observe.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Chair Parnell emphasized the importance of testimony on specific areas of concern and asked those testifying to inform the Committee of their particular points of interest.
- Sandy Ginger, Executive Director, Nevada Association of Student Councils (NASC), provided background and membership information on the NASC. Ms. Ginger stated that the NASC students are actively involved and committed to improving leadership skills. She further informed the Committee that more high schools in Nevada have received the National Council of Excellence Award than any other state nationwide. Concluding, Ms. Ginger informed the Committee that Nevada students are currently elected by their peers as nonvoting representatives to the State Board of Education (State Board). (Please see [Exhibit D.](#))
- Chair Parnell referred to Recommendation No. 1 of the “Work Session Document” regarding the change in representation on the State Board to have one student representative appointed by the Nevada Youth Legislature, which is different from the current selection process where a student representative is elected by members of the Nevada Association of Student Councils.
- Zhan Okuda-Lim, Student Representative, State Board of Education, Nevada Youth Legislator, and student representative of NASC, explained the student council election process used in Nevada high schools to elect student representatives to the State Board. Mr. Okuda-Lim expressed support for the election of three nonvoting members from the NASC to the State Board, as proposed in Recommendation No. 1 in the “Work Session Document.” (Please see [Exhibit E.](#))
- Senator Joyce L. Woodhouse, Clark County Senatorial District No. 5, read a letter from Taylor Ashton, State Executive Board President, NASC, into the record and discussed the proposed amendment to *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 385.021 regarding the membership of the State Board. (Please see [Exhibit F.](#))

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Okuda-Lim stated he currently serves as a Nevada youth legislator for Clark County Senate District No. 5 and was appointed to the position by Senator Shirley A. Breeden, Senatorial District No. 5. In Mr. Okuda-Lim's opinion, a representative should be elected by and accountable to students, and he noted that the NASC has accomplished that goal through its 30-year relationship with the State Board and the Department of Education (DOE). Mr. Okuda-Lim explained that students are elected for a 1-year term and generally serve in their senior year.

- Chair Parnell explained the reason for amending NRS 385.021 was because of the importance of having students develop relationships with their peers and to strengthen communication between NASC and the Nevada Legislature.

Responding to a statement from Senator Horsford, Mr. Okuda-Lim explained that he sponsored and introduced a resolution at the second NASC's State Executive Board meeting to promote communication and cooperation between the Nevada Youth Legislature and the NASC. He further explained that a similar resolution would be introduced for the 2010-2011 School Year.

- Chair Parnell suggested that the NASC consider establishing a youth legislative liaison to provide testimony before the Senate and Assembly Standing Committees on Education during legislative sessions.
- Ms. Ginger supported the creation of a new position, NASC Legislative Liaison. She stated that an amendment to the *Constitution of the Nevada Association of Student Councils* to create the position would need to be submitted to the NASC's State Executive Board at the next NASC conference. Ms. Ginger provided information on the process of how students are elected to positions in NASC.
- Chair Parnell informed the Committee about award-winning students from the Las Vegas Academy of International Studies, Performing and Visual Arts, which demonstrates successful outcomes for Nevada students.
- Senator Cegavske queried if exit questionnaires are provided through the NASC to high school students who have decided to leave high school to ascertain the students' reasons for leaving school.
- Mr. Okuda-Lim explained that the Valley High School Student Council does not currently sponsor an exit questionnaire for students who have decided to leave high school. He provided information about a program titled "Raising Student Voice and Participation," sponsored by the National Association of Student Councils, which is being implemented in Nevada. The program is conducted by student leaders nationwide to gather information from high school student bodies on suggested improvements. The student leaders meet with the students at the school and then the student body develops a civic action plan, incorporating suggestions from the school

administration. Mr. Okuda-Lim informed the Committee that a similar program is being implemented by the NASC.

- Senator Cegavske supported the NASC request to be included on the State Board, but she expressed concern that other students should also have an opportunity to be a member of the State Board so no students are excluded. Senator Cegavske suggested broad language be used in developing the recommendation so as not to exclude individuals who are not on the student council or the Nevada Youth Legislature.
- Robin Reedy, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor, read a letter from Governor Jim Gibbons into the record. (Please see [Exhibit G.](#))
- Jill Derby, member of the Nevada Education Reform Blue Ribbon Task Force, provided information on the progress of the Race to the Top (RTTT) grant application. She noted the lack of an agency or a single-source entity to monitor accountability of changes proposed for Nevada's educational system.
- Ray Bacon, Executive Director, Nevada Manufacturers Association, opined there is a need to establish an entity to provide accountability in the governance structure of K-12 public education and between the entities within the Department of Education. He supported the need to: (1) create a chain of command between the boards and superintendents; (2) create a reporting process within the existing and proposed organizational structure; (3) designate a person or entity to report to the Governor of the State of Nevada; and (4) examine the relationship between the State and local boards of education and superintendents. Mr. Bacon commented on Recommendation Nos. 18 through 20 in the "Work Session Document" regarding the Commission on Professional Standards in Education (NRS 391.011) and informed the Committee that under the RTTT grant application there are new alternative programs focused on teacher effectiveness. Mr. Bacon commented on the issue of administrator effectiveness in the RTTT grant application and was of the opinion that preserving the historical documentation of the changes is important for posterity. In conclusion, Mr. Bacon expressed support for the submission of the RTTT grant application and the need to establish a central entity for oversight and accountability. (Please see [Exhibit H.](#))
- Chair Parnell explained that the Committee's "Work Session Document" addresses reorganization of the current educational structure of the State and that any recommendations approved by the Committee as a result of the deliberations would be submitted to the 2011 Legislative Session. She explained that a decision on the RTTT grant application is expected in September 2010. The Chair expressed support for increased communication between all branches of government involved in K-12 public education.
- Mr. Bacon explained that the expenditure of funds from the RTTT grant application would be expended over a four-year time period, and in his view the Committee's

actions may affect the long-term implementation and effectiveness of the RTTT program.

- Dotty Merrill, Ed.D., Executive Director, Nevada Association of School Boards, provided information on the responsibilities of school board officials within the State. She commented on the annual special meeting of school district superintendents and presidents of local boards of trustees in the State. Dr. Merrill expressed support for the recommendation to: (1) conduct an annual meeting of the State Board, school district superintendents and presidents of local state boards; (2) convene an advisory group, which would include members of local boards of trustees; (3) develop a process for qualified parties, including representatives from local boards of trustees, to revise the State academic standards; (4) include a member of the local boards of trustees as a nonvoting member of the State Board; and (5) solicit recommendations for issues to be reviewed by the Legislative Committee on Education, which would include members of local boards of trustees. She expressed concern about the need for ongoing flexibility for Regional Professional Development Programs (RPDPs) to provide assistance to local school districts.
- Senator Cegavske expressed concerns about Recommendation Nos. 15 and 16 and stated that she would not support changes to the Commission on Educational Excellence and the RPDPs at this time. She stated that the current process is successful and already includes the proposed change.
- Craig Stevens, Director of Education Policy and Research, Nevada State Education Association (NSEA), stated support for Recommendation No. 18 and agreed with maintaining flexibility for the RPDP to provide services in a timely manner and to meet the requirements of the RTTT program. Mr. Stevens noted that there is an extensive support staff system in the State, which could be utilized for boards and commissions. In response to comments by Senator Cegavske, Mr. Stevens stated that NSEA supports the Commission on Professional Standards in Education, which is independent from the State Board.
- Kathleen Conaboy, Vice President, Government Affairs, Nevada Virtual Academy, expressed support for the efforts to streamline K-12 education in the State of Nevada. Ms. Conaboy requested that the Committee include charter schools in Recommendation Nos. 1, 5, 13B, 14C, 14F, 15B, 18A, 18C, 20, and 21 in the “Work Session Document.”

In response to a comment from Chair Parnell, Kristin Roberts, Legal Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), explained the terms generally used are “school districts and charter schools” in proposed legislation.

- Bill Hanlon, Regional Director, Southern Nevada RPDP, explained that the RPDP Governing Boards recommend maintaining the current government structure for the RPDPs. He informed the Committee that the superintendents are members of the

RPDP Governing Boards, and the current structure of the RPDPs works very well in responding to the needs of the individual regional school districts. Mr. Hanlon indicated that the RPDP Governing Boards have the flexibility to make adjustments to programs and budgets to address needs during the biennium. Further, he provided information about the costs of training conducted outside the State of Nevada and explained the reorganization of the Southern Nevada RPDP. Concluding, Mr. Hanlon presented an example of the Southern Nevada RPDP providing video equipment to Mineral County to establish distance-learning capability. (Please see [Exhibit I.](#))

In response to a comment from Chair Parnell, Mr. Hanlon stated support for the proposed revision of NRS 391.516 to NRS 391.520, which relate to the RPDPs. He explained the membership of the RPDP Governing Board, establishment and membership of the State Board, and the current RPDP budget process.

Responding to a query from Senator Horsford regarding accountability in the budget process, Mr. Hanlon explained that the success of the RPDPs depends on the ability to quickly respond to requests from local school districts. He clarified that funding requests follow the fiscal agent policies of the RPDP Governing Boards whose members are local district superintendents.

- Chair Parnell clarified that the Committee is tasked with developing a method to ensure the flexibility for the RPDPs to assist the 17 local school districts, but because of the size of the RPDP budgets, there also needs to be a system of greater accountability.
- Assemblyman Aizley commented that in his 13 years of experience in managing Continuing Education in the Division of Educational Outreach at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, there is a need for flexibility, and he was of the opinion that accountability is addressed through the reporting process.
- Keith W. Rheault, Ph.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction, DOE, explained that the DOE would support including the RPDP in the DOE's budget, which is submitted to the Office of the Governor and to the Nevada Legislature. Dr. Rheault explained that a major portion of the RPDP budget is for staff, and specific staff training is not identified. Dr. Rheault supported having an inclusive budget for K-12, with the three RPDP areas retaining the decision-making responsibility once the Nevada Legislature has approved the DOE's budget.
- Nicole Rourke, representative of the Clark County School District (CCSD), provided a synopsis of a letter from Walt Rulffes, Ph.D., Superintendent, CCSD, and President, Nevada Association of School Superintendents (NASS), stating NASS supports maintaining the statewide RPDP's ability to meet the needs of the local school districts in Nevada. (Please see [Exhibit J.](#))
- Chris Wallace, President, State Board of Education, opined that in order to attract candidates and appoint members to the State Board the following was recommended:

(1) only four-year term elected members would be eligible to hold offices on the State Board; (2) the student representative would be from the NASC; (3) two elected members would be from each congressional district; and (4) two-year appointments for three members of the State Board would be made.

In response to a query from Assemblyman Stewart, Mr. Wallace expressed no concern with having nonvoting members on the State Board.

A discussion ensued between Committee members and Mr. Wallace regarding the following State Board issues: (1) appointments to the State Board made by the Governor; (2) membership eligibility; (3) number of meetings held each year; (4) proposed organizational structure revisions; (5) rebranding of membership terms for the State Board; (6) revisions of the scope of the State Board; (7) size changes for the State Board; (8) terms of elected or appointed members; and (9) voting and nonvoting members on the State Board.

- Mr. Wallace was of the opinion that a K-12 member should also be an ex officio or appointed member of the Board of Regents for the University of Nevada, Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE). He supported the recommendation to include: (1) a legislative liaison to work with the Office of the Governor; (2) charter schools in the proposed recommendations; and (3) the Department of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction be allowed the flexibility to hold local districts accountable.

WORK SESSION—DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO:

- *State Board of Education (Nevada Revised Statutes [NRS] 385.021)*
- *Superintendent of Public Instruction (NRS 385.150)*
- *Department of Education (NRS 385.010)*
- *Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools (NRS 389.500 to 389.570)*
- *Commission on Educational Technology (NRS 388.780 to 388.805)*
- *Commission on Educational Excellence (NRS 385.3781 to 385.379)*
- *Regional Training Programs for the Professional Development of Teachers and Administrators also known as Regional Professional Development Programs (RPDPs) and the Statewide Council for the Coordination of the Regional Training Programs (NRS 391.500 to 391.556)*

- *Commission on Professional Standards in Education (NRS 391.011)*
- *Legislative Committee on Education (NRS 218E.605)*
- *Legislative Bureau of Educational Accountability and Program Evaluation (NRS 218E.625)*

“WORK SESSION DOCUMENT”

The “Work Session Document” ([Exhibit C](#)) was prepared by the Chair and staff of the Legislative Commission’s Committee to Study the Governance and Oversight of the System of K-12 Public Education (Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 2, File No. 89, *Statutes of Nevada*, 2009). Pursuant to NRS 218D.160 and NRS 218E.205, the Committee is limited to five legislative measures and must submit its bill draft requests (BDRs) by July 1, 2010, unless the Legislative Commission authorizes submission of a request after that date.

The “Work Session Document” contains a summary of proposals for BDRs or other actions that have been presented during public hearings, through communication with individual Committee members, or through correspondence or communications submitted to the Committee to Study the Governance and Oversight of the System of K-12 Public Education. It is designed to assist the Committee members in making decisions during the work session.

The proposals contained within the document are arranged under broad topics to allow members to review related issues. The Committee may accept, reject, modify, or take no action on any of the proposals. Actions available to the Committee members include: legislation to amend the NRS; transitory sections that do not amend the statutes; resolutions; statements in the Committee’s final report; and letters of recommendation or support. The approved recommendations for legislation resulting from these deliberations will be prepared as bill drafts and submitted to the 2011 Session of the Nevada Legislature.

Committee members should be advised that Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) staff may, at the direction of the Chair, coordinate with interested parties to obtain additional information for drafting purposes or for information to be included in the final report.

Committee members will use a consent calendar to quickly approve those recommendations, as determined by the Chair, that need no further consideration or clarification beyond what is set forth in the recommendation summary. Any Committee member may request that items on the consent calendar be removed for further discussion and consideration.

- The Chair provided information on the items listed on the “Consent Calendar for Work Session” (Consent Calendar), and the procedures for adopting the Consent Calendar as a whole. She suggested an amendment to Recommendation No. 5C, which adds “and Executive Branch liaison” in the letter to the State Board. (Please see [Exhibit K.](#))

- Senator Cegavske opined that the liaison to the Executive Branch should be the Superintendent of Public Instruction and not be an additional position.

A discussion ensued by Committee members on the history of the State Board, its relationship with legislative committees, and the need to have a representative from the State Board establish a relationship with legislative committees. Chair Parnell noted that the discussion warranted removal of Recommendation No. 5C from the Consent Calendar. The Chair also directed the Committee to examine Recommendation No. 20 and stated that the addition of charter schools was suggested, so the item could also be removed from the Consent Calendar.

In response to a comment from Senator Cegavske, Kristin Roberts, previously identified, explained that the language is broad, and to be more specific, the words “without limitation” could be added in the recommendations. It was the consensus of the Committee to amend Recommendation No. 5C to include “without limitation.”

- Senator Cegavske requested the addition of “all legislators” to Recommendation No. 12 to send a letter to all legislators expressing the Committee’s concerns with the ability of the DOE to enforce, monitor, and assist all school districts to the extent needed. There was no opposition to the suggestion.

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

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION NOS. 12 (AS AMENDED), 14H, 15F, 20 (AS AMENDED), 21, 23B, AND 25 ON THE “CONSENT CALENDAR FOR WORK SESSION” WITH REMOVAL OF RECOMMENDATION NO. 5C. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYMAN AIZLEY AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- The Consent Calendar was approved as moved and no action was taken on Recommendation No. 5C.

PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (NRS 385.021)

1. A. Amend the NRS (primarily at NRS 385.021) to support the State Board of Education as follows:

- **Elected voting members, one per each congressional district. Members shall be elected at the 2012 General Election and take office on January 1, 2013.**
- **Three appointed voting members, as follows:**
 - ü **One appointed by the Governor;**
 - ü **One appointed by the Senate Majority Leader; and**
 - ü **One appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.**
- **Three nonvoting members, as follows:**

- ü **One student representative appointed by the Nevada Youth Legislature (NRS 385.515);**
- ü **One member of a local board of trustees appointed by the Nevada Association of School Boards; and**
- ü **One local school district superintendent appointed by the Nevada Association of School Administrators.**

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions and correspondence received from the Nevada Association of School Boards on April 26, 2010.)

AND

B. Each member appointed by the Governor and legislative leadership must:

- **Be a resident of Nevada; and**
- **Have experience in pre-K, elementary, secondary, or postsecondary education.**

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

AND

C. The appointments made by the Governor and legislative leadership shall be made, to the extent practicable, from a list of nominations provided by education associations and other organizations of Nevada.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

AND

D. Beginning January 1, 2013, provide for staggered four-year terms.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

- At the request of the Chair, Melinda Martini, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB, provided an explanation to the Committee on Recommendation Nos. 1A, 1B, 1C, and 1D, with proposed revisions.
- Senator Horsford supported Recommendation No. 1A for four elected members but suggested the boundaries of the areas of representation not be determined at this time. He explained that the boundaries would be determined through the reapportionment process in 2011. In addition, he proposed the State Board of Education name be changed to “Nevada Commission on K-12 Public Education” and the members’ titles be revamped to reflect the name change.
- At the request of Assemblyman Stewart, Chair Parnell clarified that the representatives would be required to live within their districts.

A discussion ensued regarding: (1) the ratio of elected members to appointed members; (2) appointment of student representatives; (3) the communication and relationship between the State Board and the local school board districts and student bodies; and (4) the entities

that select nonvoting representatives from educational constituencies. Additional discussion ensued regarding selection by the Board of Regents for the University of Nevada, NSHE, with the Committee expressing its intent that the Board of Regents consider candidates from the faculty of the colleges of higher education, the K-12 public education system, and charter schools.

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

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION NO. 1A TO DRAFT LEGISLATION TO AMEND *NEVADA REVISED STATUTES* 385.021 REGARDING: (1) CHANGING THE NAME OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO THE “NEVADA COMMISSION ON K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION” AND TO IDENTIFY MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AS “COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION”; (2) HAVING FOUR ELECTED VOTING MEMBERS SERVE A FOUR-YEAR TERM AND TAKE OFFICE ON JANUARY 1, 2013; (3) HAVING THREE APPOINTED VOTING MEMBERS, ELIGIBLE FOR REAPPOINTMENT, TO SERVE TWO-YEAR TERMS AND APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, SENATE MAJORITY LEADER, AND SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY WITH THE MEMBERS TO INCLUDE A K-12 TEACHER, A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A PUPIL IN A NEVADA PUBLIC SCHOOL, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION A CHARTER SCHOOL, AND A BUSINESS PERSON; AND (4) HAVING FOUR APPOINTED NONVOTING MEMBERS, ELIGIBLE FOR REAPPOINTMENT TO SERVE A ONE-YEAR TERM, TO INCLUDE A STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTED BY THE NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS, A MEMBER OF A LOCAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTED BY THE NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS, A LOCAL SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT APPOINTED BY THE NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS, AND A MEMBER FROM THE NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SENATOR HORSFORD AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A discussion ensued regarding the appointments of members to the Nevada Commission on K-12 Public Education by the Governor and legislative leadership and the requirements for appointees to include: (1) residency in Nevada; (2) experience as a teacher in pre-K, elementary, secondary, or postsecondary education including charter schools, without limitation; (3) experience in business; or (4) being a parent or guardian of a pupil in a public school. It was the consensus of the Committee to amend Recommendation No. 1B to include the requirements discussed.

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

SENATOR HORSFORD MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION NO. 1B AS AMENDED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SENATOR WOODHOUSE AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- The consensus of the Committee was to delete Recommendation No. 1C.

A discussion ensued regarding Recommendation No. 1D that proposed to start the four elected members' terms on January 1, 2013, for staggered four-year terms.

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

ASSEMBLYMAN STEWART MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION NO 1D. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SENATOR WOODHOUSE AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. A. Amend the NRS (primarily at NRS 385.3785) to transfer the duty of the Commission on Educational Excellence to establish a statewide program of educational excellence to the State Board of Education on July 1, 2011.
(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

AND

B. Provide for a transitory section to require the State Board of Education to review the current vision and mission statements for the State Board of Education and revise, as needed, to establish a statewide program of educational excellence and reflect the need for Nevada's students to have the ability to succeed in a global economy. In contemplating revisions, the State Board of Education shall review vision and mission statements from other states. Submit the revised vision and mission statements to the Governor, the Director of the LCB for distribution to the Legislative Commission, the Committee, and the Legislative Bureau of Educational Accountability and Program Evaluation (Bureau) on or before July 1, 2013. The revised vision and mission statements shall be placed on the website of the DOE.
(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

Current vision statement for the State Board of Education: *Quality Education for All.*

Current mission statement for the State Board of Education: *The Nevada State Board of Education/Nevada State Board for Occupational Education is dedicated to fostering excellent educational opportunities provided to all learners by sustaining a coherent, aligned system of instruction and support in partnership with all educational communities.*

- Ms. Martini provided an explanation of Recommendation Nos. 2A and 2B.
- Chair Parnell further explained that Recommendation 2A transfers the duties of the Commission on Educational Excellence to establish a statewide program of educational excellence to the State Board of Education and 2B provides a transitory section requiring the State Board to review national programs of educational excellence and revise the current vision and mission statements for the State Board, as appropriate.
- The Committee **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION NOS. 2A AND 2B TO DRAFT LEGISLATION TO AMEND *NEVADA REVISED STATUTES* 385.3785 TO TRANSFER THE DUTY OF THE COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE TO ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE PROGRAM OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ON JULY 1, 2011, AND REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD TO REVIEW VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS FROM OTHER STATES AND REVISE THE CURRENT STATEMENTS, AS APPROPRIATE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYMAN AIZLEY AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Amend the NRS (primarily at NRS 385.34691) to clarify that the State Board, in developing its State Plan for Improvement, will establish clearly defined goals and benchmarks for improving the academic achievement of students in the State of Nevada.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

- Senator Horsford read Section 9 of Senate Bill 330 that was introduced in the 2009 Legislative Session. He commented that Section 9 provided for specific measurable goals to be established by the State Board. The vote on Recommendation No. 3 was postponed pending the distribution of copies of pages 1 through 9 of S.B. 330 (Second Reprint), which includes Section 9. (Please see [Exhibit L.](#))

4. Amend the NRS (primarily at NRS 385.040) to require the State Board of Education to meet not fewer than nine times in any calendar year, beginning January 1, 2013.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

- Chair Parnell explained that, based upon the “Survey of Opinions,” information was received regarding the number of meetings that should be held by the State Board.

A discussion ensued noting that the NRS requires the State Board to hold at least four meetings annually. Based upon information obtained from the Superintendent of Public Instruction, it was noted that the State Board currently meets nine times each year. The meetings cost less due to the use of teleconference and videoconference equipment.

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

ASSEMBLYMAN AIZLEY MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION NO. 4 TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO MEET NOT FEWER THAN NINE TIMES IN ANY CALENDAR YEAR, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2013. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYMAN STEWART AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- As directed by the Chair, the vote on Recommendation No. 3 was taken out of order pending the distribution of information on S.B. 330 to the Committee, which was introduced in the 2009 Legislative Session but did not pass.

A discussion ensued regarding the process for establishing benchmarks and timelines to be used by the State Board to improve academic achievement and to define corrective action if established goals are not attained.

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

ASSEMBLYMAN AIZLEY MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION NO. 3 TO INCLUDE BENCHMARKS FOR IMPROVING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF STUDENTS IN THE STATE OF NEVADA AND INCLUDE THE LANGUAGE FROM SENATE BILL 330 FROM THE 2009 SESSION REGARDING CAREER-READINESS PROGRAM GOALS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SENATOR WOODHOUSE AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. A. Amend the NRS (primarily at NRS 385.040) to require the State Board of Education to hold an annual special meeting of the school district superintendents and presidents of the local boards of trustees in the State. The primary purpose of the meeting shall be to discuss the State's goals and benchmarks for improving the academic achievement of students in Nevada and the effect on local school districts.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions and correspondence received from the Nevada Association of School Boards on April 26, 2010.)

AND/OR

- B. Amend the NRS (primarily at NRS 385.040) to require the State Board of Education to hold an annual special meeting of the chairs of all boards, commissions, and councils included in the education governance system. The primary purpose of the meeting shall be to discuss progress in meeting the State's goals and benchmarks for improving the academic achievement of students in Nevada.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

AND/OR

C. To improve communication between the State Board of Education and the Legislature, send a letter to the State Board of Education expressing a need for a legislative liaison. (NOTE: This item is included on the “Consent Calendar for Work Session.”) *(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)*

- Chair Parnell provided an explanation of Recommendation Nos. 5A and 5B to amend the NRS (primarily at NRS 385.040) to require the State Board to hold an annual special meeting of the school district superintendents and presidents of the local boards of trustees in the State and require the State Board to hold an annual special meeting of the chairs of all boards, commissions, and councils included in the education governance system. She further explained that the recommendation is for the State Board to meet each year with all stakeholders in K-12 public education to discuss, update, revise, and assess the benchmarks for improving the academic achievement of students in Nevada.
- The Committee **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED FOR APPROVAL TO DRAFT LEGISLATION TO AMEND *NEVADA REVISED STATUTES* 385.040 COMBINING RECOMMENDATION NOS. 5A AND 5B, WITH THE INCLUSION OF CHARTER SCHOOLS AND FOR THE ANNUAL SPECIAL MEETING TO BE ONE OF THE NINE REQUIRED MEETINGS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SENATOR HORSFORD AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

No action was taken on Recommendation No. 5C, which was previously discussed and then removed from the “Consent Calendar.”

**PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
(NRS 385.150)**

- 6. Amend the NRS to require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to be the educational leader of the State.**
(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)
- 7. A. Amend the NRS to provide that the Superintendent of Public Instruction require the observance of all laws relating to schools and education.**
(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

AND

B. Amend the NRS to require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to request a plan for corrective action for school districts, board of trustees of a school district, charter schools, or the governing body of a charter school that have not observed all laws relating to schools and education.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

- 8. A. Amend the NRS (primarily at NRS 385.230) to require the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in consultation with the State Board of Education, to compile and present in person an annual written report concerning the state of public education in Nevada. The report shall be made public and be presented, at a minimum, to the Governor, the Legislative Committee on Education each interim, and to the standing education committees during each legislative session.**

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

AND

B. Amend the NRS (primarily at NRS 385.230) to require the following additional information in the report:

- **A description of the vision and mission of the State Board of Education and the DOE;**
- **A description of the goals and benchmarks for improving the academic achievement of students in Nevada as included in the State Improvement Plan (NRS 385.34691);**
- **An analysis of the progress made in the previous year toward reaching the goals and benchmarks for improving the academic achievement of students in Nevada;**
- **An analysis of the extent to which internationally benchmarked standards and assessments have been adopted and implemented in Nevada to prepare students for success in college and careers;**
- **An analysis of the extent to which school districts have recruited and retained effective teachers and principals;**
- **An analysis of the extent to which the data systems that link student achievement to teacher and principal performance has been developed and implemented;**
- **An analysis of the extent to the lowest performing schools in the State have been turned around; and**
- **A summary of innovative education programs implemented in the State that appears to be effective in increasing the academic achievement of certain populations of students.**

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

- **Ms. Martini provided an explanation of Recommendation Nos. 6, 7A, 7B, 8A, and 8B, including the existing law for appointment of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.**

A discussion ensued regarding qualifications of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the areas of authority of superintendents and local elected boards of trustees, as well as the Chancellor and the NSHE.

- Keith W. Rheault, previously identified, provided an explanation of the authority of local elected boards of trustees and superintendents regarding policy changes, which would match State requirements.

A discussion ensued regarding the duties of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Chris Wallace, previously identified, and Dr. Rheault supported setting minimum standards in statute for the position.

- Chair Parnell suggested the Committee submit a letter to the State Board explicitly stating the intent of including job qualifications for the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- Ms. Martini read NRS 385.175 into the record, which describes the general duties of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- Chair Parnell suggested the language in Recommendation No. 7A be added to the existing statute.
- Senator Horsford requested that following the State Board's annual review of the Superintendent of Public Instruction position, the Governor and the Legislature receive information regarding recommendations made by the State Board to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for improvements to the K-12 public education process, which would also demonstrate accountability between the State Board and the position.

In response to questions from the Committee, Jan Biggerstaff, member, State Board of Education, explained the process used to fill vacancies for the Superintendent of Public Instruction position.

In response to the questions from the Committee, Dr. Rheault informed the Committee that the Superintendent of Public Instruction position is unclassified and the salary is set by the Legislature.

- Following discussion by the Committee, Chair Parnell suggested a letter be drafted to the State Board of Education based on the increased authority proposed by the Committee that a position audit and analysis be conducted for the Superintendent of Public Instruction position and any recommended adjustments or revisions to the title or salary be submitted to the Legislature for review.

A discussion ensued regarding information on the local evaluation of teachers and principals, which is a requirement included in the RTTT grant application. Dr. Rheault

clarified that the evaluation information would not be available until July 2012, after the longitudinal data system becomes operational. Additional discussion was held on:

1. Corrective action plans for deficient areas at the local level;
2. Consequences of not achieving identified improvements;
3. Corrective action plans;
4. Failure to submit required data;
5. Oversight by the State Board of Education; and
6. Requirement for a written report concerning the state of public education in Nevada.

Further discussion ensued by the Committee regarding the authority of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to require the observance of all laws relating to schools and education.

- Senator Horsford requested that DOE staff submit recommendations to the 2011 Legislative Session on making appointments to fill vacancies and conducting evaluations that are consistent with other State agencies.

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

ASSEMBLYMAN STEWART MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION NOS. 6, 7A, 7B, 8A, AND 8B AS AMENDED TO CHANGE “AND CAREERS” TO “OR CAREERS”; AMEND *NEVADA REVISED STATUTES* TO PROVIDE AUTHORITY TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES REQUIRED BY LAW. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SENATOR WOODHOUSE AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Senator Cegavske stressed the importance of the State Board to demonstrate leadership in education for the school districts of Nevada, which also requires collaboration with the Office of the Governor. Senator Cegavske stated support for the motion, but emphatically maintained the importance of a connection between the Office of the Governor and the Superintendent of Public Instruction and that the position should be appointed.

**PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
(NRS 385.010)**

9. Provide for a transitory section to require the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to review the current mission statement for the DOE and develop a vision statement and revise the mission statement, as needed, to support a statewide program of educational excellence and reflect the need for Nevada's students to have the ability to succeed in a global economy. In contemplating revisions, the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall review vision and mission statements from other states. Submit the vision and mission statements to the Governor, the Director of the LCB for distribution to the Legislative Commission, the Committee, and the Bureau on or before January 1, 2012. The revised vision and mission statements shall be placed on the website of the DOE.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

Current Mission Statement for the Department: *The Nevada Department of Education provides leadership, resources, assistance and oversight, in partnership with school districts and others, to support student achievement and future success.*

10. A. Amend the NRS to create the Division of Reform and Innovation in the DOE. The Division would be primarily responsible for developing, monitoring, implementing, and evaluating reform and innovative education programs for the pre-K through grade 12 public education system. The programs would include those funded through federal grants and those funded with State General Funds.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions and Committee discussion at the March 2010 meeting.)

AND

- B. Amend the NRS to authorize the Superintendent of Public Instruction to appoint a Deputy Superintendent of the Office of Reform and Innovation who:

- Holds a master's degree in an education-related field; and
- Has experience in the review and implementation of reform and innovative education-related programs in K-12.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions and Committee discussion at the March 2010 meeting.)

11. Provide for a transitory section to require performance indicators be established for each office established within the Department of Education during the 2011-2013 biennium and be reported to the 2013 Legislature.

(Based upon Committee discussion at the March 2010 meeting.)

12. Provide a letter to the Governor, legislative leadership, State Board, Legislative Committee on Education, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction stressing the Committee's concern with the ability of the DOE to enforce, monitor, and assist all school districts to the extent needed. Concerns not only involve the number of staff, but also the geographic placement of staff to adequately address needs. The Committee urges all parties to make a study of the structure of the DOE, as compared to other departments of education in the country, a priority during the 2011-2012 Interim and make recommendations to the 2013 Legislature.

(NOTE: This item is included on the "Consent Calendar for Work Session.")

(Based upon Committee discussion at the March 2010 meeting.)

- MS. Martini provided an explanation of Recommendation Nos. 9, 10A, 10B, 11, and 12.
- Assemblyman Stewart was of the opinion that the Superintendent of Public Instruction should not be limited in the selection of a new Deputy Superintendent.
- Chair Parnell further explained that the recommendation would reduce the number of current commissions and councils in the State and is aligned with the focus of the RTTT grant application.
- Senator Cegavske questioned how often the State Board website is updated and stated that the Superintendent of Public Instruction would have the authority to determine the need to develop a division for reform and innovation in the DOE to be staffed by a current Deputy Superintendent, without having to create a new position.
- Senator Horsford suggested the State Board present a reorganization plan of the DOE to the 2011 Legislative Session to include the establishment of divisions for reform and innovation, assessment and accountability, and technology.
- Chair Parnell requested Recommendation No. 12, approved on the Consent Calendar, be amended to include ". . . require all parties to make a study. . . ."

· THE COMMITTEE APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:

SENATOR HORSFORD MOVED TO FURTHER AMEND THE ACTION WHEREBY RECOMMENDATION NO. 12 WAS APPROVED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR TO REQUIRE AN EVALUATION OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BE CONDUCTED BY THE STATE BOARD AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE 2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SENATOR WOODHOUSE AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Chair Parnell stated Recommendation No. 10 would not be considered.

A discussion ensued regarding reports from individual school districts using performance indicators and the need for training on the development of performance indicators.

- Senator Woodhouse informed the Committee that the Legislative Committee for the Fundamental Review of the Base Budgets of State Agencies (NRS 218E.440) will address the issue of performance indicators for the DOE (Recommendation No. 11).
- Chair Parnell explained that Recommendation No. 9 requires the State Board and Superintendent of Public Instruction to review the current mission statement and develop a vision statement to support a statewide program of educational excellence.
- Senator Horsford requested that the State Board and Superintendent of Public Instruction determine the mission of the DOE and primarily focus on the issue of whether the DOE is a regulatory agency, a provider of technical assistance, or a hybrid of both.
- The Committee **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

SENATOR HORSFORD MOVED FOR THE APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION NO. 9, AS AMENDED, TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO DEFINE THE MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TO DEVELOP A VISION STATEMENT TO BE SUBMITTED TO ALL LEGISLATORS AT THE 2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SENATOR WOODHOUSE AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH
ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
(NRS 389.510)**

- 13. A. Repeal provisions in the NRS (primarily at NRS 389.500 to 389.570) governing the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools and amend the NRS, as applicable, to transfer the duties of the Council to the DOE.
(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)**

AND

B. Amend the NRS to direct the DOE to develop a process for qualified parties to revise the State academic standards. The parties convened to revise the State academic standards shall serve without compensation, unless legislative appropriations to support compensation have been approved or funding is otherwise available for this purpose. The revision process must include:

- **Superintendent of Public Instruction;**
- **K-12 teachers;**

- **Members of local boards of trustees;**
- **Representatives from the Regional Training Programs for the Regional Professional Development Programs of Teachers and Administrators;**
- **Business and industry professionals actively engaged in career fields dependent on the academic standards content areas;**
- **Parents or legal guardians of pupils who attend public schools and are not otherwise affiliated with the public school system of this State;**
- **Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) faculty from the colleges of education in the State;**
- **Professional educational organizations knowledgeable in the subject area; and**
- **Other parties as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.**

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions and correspondence received from the Nevada Association of School Boards on April 26, 2010.)

AND

C. Amend the NRS to require the DOE to forward the recommended revisions of the academic standards to the State Board of Education for review and adoption, as appropriate.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

- Ms. Martini provided an explanation of Recommendation Nos. 13A, 13B, and 13C.
- Chair Parnell proposed language revisions for Recommendation No. 13B to add the requirement to include individuals who are knowledgeable in State and national academic standards.
- Senator Cegavske expressed support for the proposed language and noted the importance of having standardized measurements, in addition to the need to have qualified individuals. Senator Cegavske requested charter schools be added where appropriate.
- Chair Parnell said the effective date for Recommendation Nos. 13A, 13B, and 13C would be July 1, 2011, which she stated is important to note.
- The Committee **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

SENATOR CEGAVSKE MOVED FOR APPROVAL TO REPEAL PROVISIONS IN *NEVADA REVISED STATUTES* 389.500 TO 389.570 AS STATED IN RECOMMENDATION NO. 13A, AND AMEND *NEVADA REVISED STATUTES* IN RECOMMENDATION NOS. 13B, AND 13C WITH THE PROPOSED LANGUAGE REVISIONS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYMAN STEWART AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE
COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY
(NRS 388.790)**

14. A. Repeal provisions in the NRS (primarily at NRS 388.780 to 388.805) governing the

Commission on Educational Technology and amend the NRS, as applicable, to transfer the duties of the Commission to the DOE.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

AND

B. Amend the NRS to require the DOE to submit the plan for the use of educational technology in the public schools to the State Board of Education for review and approval, as appropriate.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

AND

C. Amend the NRS to authorize the DOE to convene an advisory group. The members of the advisory group shall serve without compensation, unless legislative appropriations to support compensation have been approved or funding is otherwise available for this purpose. The primary duties of the advisory group would be to assist in the: (1) review and revision of the plan for the use of educational technology in the public schools; and (2) review of the applications for funds from the Trust Fund for Educational Technology and make recommendations for the allocation of funds to school districts.

Members of the advisory group shall possess knowledge and experience in the application of educational technology. In addition, the following, at a minimum, shall be represented by membership on the advisory group:

- **School district administrators;**
- **Public school principals;**
- **Elementary school teachers;**
- **Secondary school teachers;**
- **Members of local boards of trustees;**
- **Public libraries;**
- **The NSHE;**
- **Business and industry professionals;**
- **Private sector;**
- **Parents or legal guardians; and**
- **Other parties as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.**

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions and correspondence received from the Nevada Association of School Boards on April 26, 2010.)

AND

D. Amend the NRS to require the State Board of Education to review the recommendations of the DOE, and the advisory group (if convened), concerning the allocation of funds from the Trust Fund for Educational Technology and approve the allocations, as appropriate. The DOE would be responsible for the actual disbursements based upon the allocations approved by the State Board.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

AND/OR

E. Amend the NRS to require the allocation of funds from the Trust Fund for Educational Technology be based upon the priorities included in the plan for the use of educational technology in public schools.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

AND/OR

F. Amend the NRS to require the allocation of funds from the Trust Fund for Educational Technology to each school district be based upon the needs of each school district; not on a per-pupil basis or formula approach.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

AND/OR

G. Amend the NRS to require an annual report that describes the allocation of money to school districts and an analysis of the progress of school districts in carrying out the plan for the use of educational technology in public schools. The report shall be posted on the Department's website and be distributed to all levels of government, including the State Board of Education; Superintendent of Public Instruction; Governor; Committee; Bureau; Interim Finance Committee; and Board of Trustees of each school district.

(Based upon testimony at the January 2010 meeting.)

AND/OR

H. Include a statement in the final report in support of encouraging all entities involved in the development of the plan for the use of educational technology in public schools and the allocation of funds from the Trust Fund for Educational Technology to stay current on the progress of educational technology from a national perspective.

(NOTE: This item is included on the "Consent Calendar for Work Session.")

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

· Ms. Martini provided an explanation of Recommendation Nos. 14A through 14H.

- Senator Cegavske requested that the individuals to be selected as members of the DOE advisory group be knowledgeable in the appropriate areas of technology and requested the addition of language that specifically includes charter schools.
- Chair Parnell suggested the language “may be represented by, but not limited to” be inserted in Recommendation No. 14C.
- Senator Horsford commented that in addition to having technology available in the classroom, the professional development of teachers in how to effectively use the technology as a training tool is also critical.
- Chair Parnell expressed support for: (1) the need to incorporate technology in teaching in the classroom; (2) the allocation of funds as described in Recommendation Nos. 14D through 14H; (3) the need for transparency in the Trust Fund for Educational Technology; and (4) an effective date of July 2011.
- The Committee **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

ASSEMBLYMAN STEWART MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION NOS. 14A; 14B; AND 14C, AS AMENDED BY DISCUSSION; 14D; 14E; AND 14F, AS AMENDED TO INCLUDE CHARTER SCHOOLS; AND 14G. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SENATOR WOODHOUSE AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Recommendation No. 14H was previously approved as part of the Consent Calendar.

**PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE
COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE
(NRS 385.3784)**

- 15. A. Repeal provisions in the NRS (primarily at NRS 385.3781 to 385.379) governing the Commission on Educational Excellence and amend the NRS, as applicable, to transfer the duties of the Commission, except for those relating to establishing a program of educational excellence, to the DOE. (NOTE: See recommendation No. 2. A. under “Proposals Relating to the State Board of Education” for information concerning the establishment of a program of educational excellence in Nevada.)**
(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

AND

B. Amend the NRS to authorize the DOE to convene an advisory group of members who possess knowledge and experience in the school improvement efforts. The members of the advisory group shall serve without compensation, unless legislative appropriations to support compensation have been approved or funding is otherwise available from this purpose. The primary duty of the advisory group would

be to assist in the review of the applications for funds from the Account for Programs for Innovation and the Prevention of Remediation and make recommendations for the allocation of funds to schools.

Members of the advisory group shall represent the ethnic and geographic diversity of the State. In addition, the following, at a minimum, shall be represented by membership on the advisory group:

- School district administrators;**
- Public school principals;**
- Elementary school teachers;**
- Secondary school teachers;**
- Members of local boards of trustees;**
- The NSHE;**
- Parents or legal guardians; and**
- Other parties as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.**

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions and correspondence received from the Nevada Association of School Boards on April 26, 2010.)

AND

C. Amend the NRS to require the State Board of Education to review the recommendations of the DOE, and the advisory group (if convened), concerning the allocation of funds from the Account and approve the allocations, as appropriate. The DOE would be responsible for the actual disbursements based upon the allocations approved by the State Board.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

AND/OR

D. Amend the NRS to require the allocation of funds from the Account for Programs for Innovation and the Prevention of Remediation to be based upon the needs of each school; not on a per-pupil basis or formula approach. This would be in addition to the priorities for the allocation of funds from the Account already specified in NRS 385.3785 concerning adequate yearly progress and federal Title I eligibility.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

AND/OR

E. Amend the NRS to require the annual report that describes the distribution of money to the public schools and consortiums of public schools and the programs for which money was allocated from the Account to be posted on the DOE's website in addition to the submission of the report to the State Board of Education; Superintendent of Public Instruction; Governor; Committee; Bureau; Interim Finance

Committee, and board of trustees of each school district. (*Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.*)

AND/OR

F. Include a statement in the final report in support of encouraging all entities involved in the allocation of funds from the Account for Programs for Innovation and the Prevention of Remediation to stay current on the progress of school improvement from a national perspective.

**(NOTE: This item is included on the “Consent Calendar for Work Session.”)
(*Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.*)**

- Ms. Martini provided an explanation of Recommendation Nos. 15A through 15E, and 15F that was previously approved as part of the Consent Calendar.
- Senator Cegavske requested the addition of language that specifically includes charter schools in Recommendation No. 15B.
- Chair Parnell suggested adding charter schools to the list in Recommendation No. 15B and to revise the language in the second paragraph of the recommendation to read “Members of the advisory group shall represent the ethnic and geographic diversity of the State and who are knowledgeable of innovation and prevention of remediation programs.”
- The Committee **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

SENATOR CEGAVSKE MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION NOS. 15A AND 15B, AS AMENDED BY DISCUSSION, AND 15C, 15D, AND 15E. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYMAN STEWART AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recommendation No. 15F was previously approved as part of the Consent Calendar.

**PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR THE
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS
(NRS 391.500 to NRS 391.556)**

- 16. A. Repeal provisions in the NRS (primarily at NRS 391.516 to 391.520) governing the Statewide Council for the Coordination of the Regional Training Programs and amend the NRS, as applicable, to transfer the duties of the Council to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
(*Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.*)**

AND

B. Amend the NRS to require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to carry out the duties to coordinate not less than four meetings involving:

- **Each coordinator hired by the governing body of each RPDP;**
- **One member of the governing body of each RPDP;**
- **One representative of the Nevada State Education Association, appointed by the president of that Association;**
- **One representative from the Colleges of Education of the NSHE; and**
- **Other representatives, as determined by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.**

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

AND

C. Amend the NRS to require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to forward the uniform standards for statewide professional development; uniform procedures for the evaluation of the training programs; and a report of the long-range planning for statewide professional development to the State Board for review and approval, as appropriate.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

AND

D. Amend the NRS (primarily at NRS 385.34691) to require the State Board to include a representative from each of the three RPDPs in preparing the State Plan for Improvement.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

- Ms. Martini provided an explanation of Recommendation Nos. 16A, 16B, 16C, and 16D.
- Senator Cegavske expressed support for the RPDP program but commented on the request for increased accountability. She opined that the RPDP was currently performing the tasks presented in Recommendation Nos. 16A through 16D and stated she would not support the recommendations. Senator Cegavske proposed that Recommendation Nos. 16A through 16D be eliminated from the “Work Session Document.”
- Chair Parnell clarified that the Statewide Council does not impact how the RPDP is managed, programmed, or operated.

A discussion ensued regarding review and approval of the RPDP long-range plan for statewide professional development and submission to the State Board for review.

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

SENATOR HORSFORD MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION NOS. 16A, 16B, 16C, AND 16D. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SENATOR WOODHOUSE. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SENATOR CEGAVSKE AND ASSEMBLYMAN STEWART VOTING NAY.

- 17. A. Amend the NRS (primarily at NRS 391.536) to revise the manner in which the budgets for the RPDPs are submitted to the Governor and Legislature to require the governing body of each RPDP to submit its proposed budget to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.**

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

AND

- B. Amend the NRS to require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to submit the budgets to the State Board for review and possible inclusion in the budget of the DOE.**

The State Board may reject any portion of the submitted budget, but must submit a written report to the applicable RPDP governing body detailing reasons for the rejection. If the State Board submits a rejection report to the governing body of an RPDP, the governing body may revise and resubmit the budget to the State Board. A copy of the rejection report shall be forwarded to the Governor, Director of the LCB for submission to the Legislature, the Committee, and the Bureau.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

- Ms. Martini provided an explanation of Recommendation Nos. 17A and 17B.

A discussion ensued regarding the: (1) approval process used by the Legislature for budget adjustments; (2) communication between the RPDP and the State Board, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and advisory council; (3) current budget process used by DOE programs, which allows flexibility in the provision of services; and (4) proposed approval process for revisions to the RPDP budgets. In addition, the Committee discussed the communication and fiscal accountability process used by the RPDP to report to the State Board and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

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

SENATOR HORSFORD MOVED TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION NOS. 17A AND 17B, AS AMENDED TO REFLECT THE PROPOSED BUDGET PROCESS; AND PROPOSED TO ADD A REQUIREMENT THAT DURING THE INTERIM BUDGET REVISION REQUESTS FOLLOW THE SAME PROCEDURES AS OTHER AGENCY REQUESTS. THE MOTION

WAS SECONDED BY SENATOR WOODHOUSE. THE MOTION PASSED WITH ASSEMBLYMAN STEWART VOTING NAY.

- In response to a query from Assemblyman Aizley, Ms. Martini explained the review process for changes greater than 10 percent to an approved budget.
- Senator Cegavske stated support for the motion with the caveat that any adverse affects to the school districts be reported to the 2011 Legislature.
- Senator Horsford suggested a letter requesting an evaluation report be submitted to the RPDPs by the individual teachers who attend an RPDP session regarding the services received. The information should also be submitted to the appropriate principal or superintendent of the district that originally requested the professional development services.
- In response to comments from the Committee, Dr. Rheault stated that following every training program the individual teachers currently complete an evaluation. He added that the professional development standards and the evaluation process have also been included in the RTTT grant application.
- The Committee **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

SENATOR HORSFORD MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE DRAFT A LETTER TO THE REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS REQUESTING THE EVALUATION PROCESS BE EXPANDED AND A PARTICIPANT EVALUATION BE COMPLETED FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND THAT THEY BE SUBMITTED TO THE PRINCIPAL OR SUPERINTENDENT OF THE DISTRICT THAT ORIGINALLY REQUESTED THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SENATOR WOODHOUSE AND PASSED WITH ASSEMBLYMAN STEWART VOTING NAY.

**PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION
(NRS 391.011)**

18. Amend NRS 391.011 to revise the membership of the Commission, beginning January 1, 2012, as follows:

A. Five members appointed by the Governor:

- **Four teachers, as follows: One who teaches in a secondary school; one who teaches in a middle school or junior high school; one who teaches in an elementary school; and one who teaches special education. One of the four teachers must be employed by a private school licensed pursuant to Chapter 394 of NRS; and**

- One member who is a parent or legal guardian of a pupil who attends a public school and is not otherwise affiliated with the public school system of this State.

B. Two members appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate.

C. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

In making the appointments, legislative leadership shall ensure that the following positions are represented:

- One counselor or psychologist employed by a school district;
- Two administrators of schools, one of which is a principal of a school; and
- The Dean of the College of Education at one of the universities in the NSHE, or a representative of one of the Colleges of Education nominated by a dean for appointment.

Insofar as practicable, the members appointed to the Commission should reflect the ethnic and geographical diversity of the State.

D. The Superintendent of Public Instruction or his designee shall serve as an ex-officio nonvoting member on the Commission.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

- Ms. Martini provided an explanation of Recommendation Nos. 18A, 18B, 18C, and 18D. She further clarified the proposals included in the “Work Session Document.”
- Additional explanation was provided by Chair Parnell regarding the approval of these recommendations and the affects on the operation of the Commission on Professional Standards in Education.
- Senator Cegavske noted there is currently a group of qualified individuals on the boards and commissions, and she stated that the State Board should appoint the members of the Commission.
- The Committee **CONSIDERED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

SENATOR CEGAVSKE MOVED TO TRANSFER THE DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYMAN AIZLEY. THE MOTION FAILED WITH SENATOR CEGAVSKE AND ASSEMBLYMEN AIZLEY AND STEWART VOTING YEA, AND SENATORS WOODHOUSE AND HORSFORD AND CHAIR PARNELL VOTING NAY.

- Senator Horsford expressed concern regarding changes to the Commission that could adversely affect the professional standards in education regarding teacher licensure,

administrator licensure, and the role of the Commission. He was of the opinion that additional information is needed on other options before a transfer of duties is approved.

19. A. Amend NRS 391.027 to remove cause for disapproval of any regulation adopted by the Commission.

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

AND

B. Amend the NRS to require the Commission to provide a written report and present its activities to the Legislative Committee on Education annually, on or before December 1. The written report and presentation shall include, at a minimum:

- **A summary of the regulations adopted by the Commission;**
- **A work plan designating the activities of the Commission during the next biennium; and**
- **A description of the progress of any regulations required through legislation pertaining to professional licensing in public education from the previous two legislative sessions, including a detailed explanation if certain regulations were not adopted if required by the legislation.**

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

- Ms. Martini clarified Recommendation Nos. 19A and 19B to remove cause for disapproval of any regulation adopted by the Commission and to amend the NRS to require the Commission to provide a written report and present its activities to the Legislative Committee on Education annually, on or before December 1.
- Chair Parnell provided an explanation of Recommendation Nos. 19A and 19B.
- The Committee **CONSIDERED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION NOS. 18A, 18B, 18C, AND 18D TO AMEND *NEVADA REVISED STATUTES* 391.011 TO REVISE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION AND TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION NOS. 19A AND 19B. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SENATOR HORSFORD. THE MOTION WAS NOT PRESENTED FOR A VOTE.

- At the request of the Committee, Ms. Martini provided additional information to clarify Recommendation Nos. 19A and 19B.
- The Committee **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

SENATOR WOODHOUSE AMENDED THE PREVIOUS MOTION AND MOVED TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION NOS. 18A, 18B, 18C, AND 18D TO AMEND *NEVADA REVISED STATUTES* 391.011 TO REVISE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION AND TO REMOVE RECOMMENDATION NOS. 19A AND 19B. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SENATOR HORSFORD. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SENATOR CEGAVSKE VOTING NAY AND ASSEMBLYMAN AIZLEY ABSTAINING.

In response to questions from the Committee, Chair Parnell was of the opinion that Recommendation No. 19B provides accountability based on the requirement for the Commission to provide a written report on its activities to the Legislative Committee on Education annually, on or before December 1.

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

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION NOS. 19A AND 19B. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYMAN STEWART AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 20. Send a letter to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Board of Education, and the Commission on Professional Standards stressing the importance of streamlining the decision-making process for professional standards in a timely manner consistent with legislative intent. During the decision-making process, it is imperative to seek input from teachers and administrators representing all subject areas and all regions of the State, as well as seek the advice of national experts on the current state of professional licensing in education. The areas of reciprocity with other states, the effect of rigorous standards for teachers and administrators on student academic achievement, and certification needs of teachers who teach diverse populations have all been cited as areas in need of research and review by the Commission.**

(NOTE: This item is included on the "Consent Calendar for Work Session.")

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

Recommendation No. 20, as amended, was previously approved as part of the Consent Calendar.

PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION (NRS 218E.605)

- 21. Send a letter to the Chair of the Legislative Committee on Education urging the solicitation of recommendations for issues to be reviewed by the Committee during the interim from the State Board of Education, Nevada State Education Association, the Nevada Association of School Administrators, local boards of trustees, a statewide organization for parents of pupils, and other organizations and entities related to**

education in this State. In addition, urge the Chair to consider any legislation approved through a previous legislative session and other educational topics considered by that session for potential issues to be reviewed by the Committee.

(NOTE: This item is included on the "Consent Calendar for Work Session.")

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions and correspondence received from the Nevada Association of School Boards on April 26, 2010.)

Recommendation No. 21, as amended, was previously approved as part of the Consent Calendar.

**PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE LEGISLATIVE BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL
ACCOUNTABILITY AND PROGRAM EVALUATION
(NRS 218E.625)**

- 22. A. Amend the NRS to require the Bureau to assist the Legislative Committee on Education in monitoring the progress of changes and reformations of the State Board of Education, DOE, RPDPs, Commission on Professional Standards in Education, and the system of public education in this State generally, including an analysis of the effectiveness of the changes and reformations.**

(Based upon findings of the Survey of Opinions.)

- 23. A. Amend the NRS to require the written report describing the duties and findings of the Bureau to be submitted to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau on or before October 1 instead of December 31. Add a requirement for the Bureau to submit the report to the Legislative Committee on Education prior to its first meeting each interim.**

(Based upon testimony at the March 2010 meeting of the Committee.)

AND

- B. Include a statement in the final report in support of encouraging staff of the Bureau to meet with the Chair of the Legislative Committee on Education prior to the first meeting of the Committee to discuss the duties and findings of the Bureau, which may be helpful to the Committee during the interim.**

(NOTE: This item is included on the "Consent Calendar for Work Session.")

(Based upon testimony at the March 2010 meeting of the Committee.)

- 24. Amend NRS 385.359, which currently requires the Bureau to contract with a person or entity to review and analyze the reports of accountability and plans for improvement developed by school districts and the State Board of Education and instead authorize the Bureau, at the direction of the Committee, to convene a group of key stakeholders in education to conduct the review and analysis.**

(Based upon correspondence received from representatives of the Bureau.)

25. Send a letter to the Bureau requesting a report on the progress of the DOE in accessing and utilizing federal funds. In providing the reports, indicate the amount of federal funds that have been returned to the federal government by budget account. The report should be sent to the Interim Finance Committee and the Legislative Committee on Education.

(NOTE: This item is included on the “Consent Calendar for Work Session.”)

(Based upon testimony at the March 2010 meeting of the Committee.)

- Ms. Martini provided an explanation of Recommendation Nos. 22A, 23A, 23B, 24, and 25.
- Chair Parnell commented on the Legislative Bureau of Educational Accountability and Program Evaluation (LBEAPE) and the oversight activities of BEAPE.

Recommendation Nos. 23B and 25 were previously approved as part of the Consent Calendar.

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

SENATOR HORSFORD MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION NOS. 22A, 23A, AND 24 TO AMEND THE *NEVADA REVISED STATUTES* TO REQUIRE THE LEGISLATIVE BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND PROGRAM EVALUATION TO ASSIST THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN MONITORING THE PROGRESS OF CHANGES AND REFORMATION OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SENATOR WOODHOUSE AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Senator Cegavske, Senator Horsford, and Assemblyman Stewart expressed appreciation for the Chair’s expertise, leadership, and distinguished service to the State of Nevada.
- Chair Parnell thanked the members for their service on the Committee to Study the Governance and Oversight of the System of K-12 Public Education. The members also expressed appreciation to the staff of the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Craig Stevens, previously identified, expressed appreciation for the work performed by the Chair and requested the changes and final actions approved by the Committee during the work session be sent to the NSEA.
- Jan Biggerstaff, previously identified, commented on the importance of the accomplishments made by the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucinda Benjamin
Senior Research Secretary

Melinda Martini
Senior Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Bonnie Parnell, Chair

Date: _____

LIST OF EXHIBITS

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

[Exhibit B](#) is the “Survey of Opinions” conducted by the Committee to Study the Governance and Oversight of the System of K-12 Public Education provided by Melinda Martini, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit C](#) is the “Work Session Document” for the Legislative Commission’s Committee to Study the Governance and Oversight of the System of K-12 Public Education (Assembly Concurrent Resolution [A.C.R.] No. 2, File No. 89, *Statutes of Nevada 2009*), provided by Melinda Martini, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB.

[Exhibit D](#) is the written testimony of Sandy Ginger, Executive Director, Nevada Association of Student Councils (NASC), provided by Ms. Ginger.

[Exhibit E](#) is the written testimony, dated May 13, 2010, of Zhan Okuda-Lim, Student Representative, State Board of Education, Nevada Youth Legislator, and student representative of NASC.

[Exhibit F](#) is the written testimony, dated May 13, 2010, of Taylor Ashton, State Executive Board President, NASC, presented by Senator Joyce L. Woodhouse, Clark County Senatorial District No. 5.

[Exhibit G](#) is a letter to Assemblywoman Bonnie Parnell, Chairman, Legislative Commission’s Committee to Study the Governance and Oversight of the System of K-12 Public Education, dated May 12, 2010, from Jim Gibbons, Governor, State of Nevada, presented by Robin Reedy, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor.

[Exhibit H](#) is a letter to Mindy Martini, Senior Policy Analyst, Research Division, LCB, dated April 24, 2010, from Ray Bacon, Executive Director, Nevada Manufacturers Association, Reno, Nevada, provided by Mr. Bacon.

[Exhibit I](#) is a letter to Chairwoman Parnell, dated May 13, 2010, from Bill Hanlon, Director, Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program, North Las Vegas.

[Exhibit J](#) is a letter, dated May 12, 2010, to the Honorable Bonnie Parnell, from Walt Rulffes, President, Nevada Association of School Superintendents, presented in summary by Nicole Rourke, representative of the Clark County School District.

[Exhibit K](#) is the “Consent Calendar for the Work Session” for the Legislative Commission’s Committee to Study the Governance and Oversight of the System of K-12 Public Education (A.C.R. 2, File No. 89, *Statutes of Nevada 2009*), provided by Melinda Martini, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB.

[Exhibit L](#) consists of pages 1 through 9, which includes Section 9 as discussed during the meeting, of Senate Bill 330 (Second Reprint) from the 2009 Legislative Session but not enacted. The complete text of S.B. 330 (Second Reprint) is available at: http://leg.state.nv.us/Session/75th2009/Bills/SB/SB330_R2.pdf.

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.