



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

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The third meeting of the Nevada Legislature's Committee on Education was held on Wednesday, March 26, 2014, at 9 a.m. in Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. A copy of this set of "Summary Minutes and Action Report," including the "Meeting Notice and Agenda" ([Exhibit A](#)) and other substantive exhibits, is available on the Nevada Legislature's website at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/interim/77th2013/committee/>. In addition, copies of the audio or video record are available through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (e-mail: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775/684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Chair
Assemblyman Elliot T. Anderson, Vice Chair
Senator Moises (Mo) Denis
Senator Aaron D. Ford
Senator Scott T. Hammond
Assemblywoman Marilyn Dondero Loop
Assemblyman Harvey J. Munford
Assemblyman Lynn D. Stewart

OTHER LEGISLATOR PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Heidi Swank

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Todd M. Butterworth, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division
Risa B. Lang, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Karly O'Krent, Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Andrea McCalla, Program Analyst, Fiscal Division
Tarron L. Collins, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division

OPENING REMARKS

- Chair Woodhouse welcomed members, presenters, and the public to the third meeting of the Legislative Committee on Education (LCE) and presented general Committee information and testimony guidelines.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Bill Thornhill, Clark County resident, presented testimony opposed to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). He suggested giving the right to choose curricula to each school.
- Amy Bauck, Clark County resident, offered testimony in opposition to the CCSS and presented information she expressed as misrepresented during the last meeting. (Please see [Exhibit B.](#))
- Debby Neubecker, Clark County resident and former teacher, provided testimony in opposition to the CCSS. She detailed problems her children have with the current math curriculum and the omission of creative writing. (Please see [Exhibit C.](#))
- Dennis M. Moltz, Carson City resident, presented testimony opposing the CCSS, specifically the math curriculum.
- Carole Fineberg, Washoe County resident, offered testimony opposed to the data collection related to the CCSS. She indicated that the CCSS is making education easier and will not prepare Nevada's students for college. (Please see [Exhibit D.](#))
- A. Jane Lyon, Washoe County resident, provided testimony opposing the CCSS, said the choice of curricula should be left to families, and stated the minimum standards proposed by the CCSS are weak. (Please see [Exhibit E.](#))
- C. T. Wang, Clark County resident, agreed with the previous testimony opposing the CCSS. He commented on presentation materials submitted and that the CCSS are being weakened.
- Robert Kessler, Clark County resident, agreed with previous testimony in opposition to the CCSS. He commented that the standards are being taught to the college admissions tests. (Please see [Exhibit F.](#))
- Tom Fischbach, Clark County resident, provided article headlines and links opposed to the CCSS and opined we live in a republic form of government. (Please see [Exhibit G.](#))

- John Wagner, State Chairman, Independent American Party, presented testimony opposed to the CCSS and encouraged the LCE to return the power to choose curriculum to the local governments.
- Russell Best, Lyon County resident, agreed with the previous testimony provided opposing the CCSS. He noted the *United States Constitution* and math as areas of concern.
- John Eppolito, President, Americans for Better Schools, and Carson City resident, agreed with the previous comments made opposed to the CCSS. He encouraged the Committee to reconsider the CCSS and its intrusive data collection. Mr. Eppolito opined that the CCSS is not about higher standards and commented on the states withdrawing or considering withdrawing from the CCSS. Mr. Eppolito offered to present a Microsoft PowerPoint to the LCE. He recommended: (1) implementation be slowed; (2) the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) testing be stopped; and (3) data collection be left at the district level. (Please see [Exhibit H.](#))
- Linda Buckardt, Clark County resident, provided testimony opposed to the CCSS and commented on the funding mechanism and curriculum. She encouraged the LCE to delay implementation until the curricula can be evaluated. (Please see [Exhibit I.](#))
- Ms. Bauck presented information regarding computers in the classroom and commented that students need to hear lessons verbally with feedback rather than digitally. (Please see [Exhibit J.](#))
- Neva Herrold, Clark County resident, submitted testimony in opposition to the CCSS and opined there are motives beyond curriculum for developing the standards. (Please see [Exhibit K.](#))
- Gary Schmidt, Washoe County resident, encouraged the Committee to delay implementation of the CCSS. He noted the information from the minutes of the February Legislative Committee on Education meeting should include more details, specifically related to Niger Innis's testimony.
- Bonnie Clud, Constitution Party and Washoe County resident, presented testimony opposed to the CCSS and the rigid structure its curriculum provides.
- Steven Conger Jr., Clark County resident, encouraged the LCE to draft Nevada's education standards. He stated the curricula set forth by the CCSS do not fit all students and would like more flexibility.

- Carol B. Wright, Washoe County resident, voiced data collection as her primary concern with the CCSS. She provided a packet of information regarding the CCSS and data collection. (Please see [Exhibit L.](#))
- Mike Cook, Clark County resident, presented testimony opposed to the CCSS and indicated implementation should be re-evaluated.
- Mr. Eppolito commented that the CCSS is required to be adopted in its entirety.
- Chair Woodhouse noted the CCSS would be on the agenda for the next meeting of the LCE held on April 22, 2014. Replying to earlier public comment, she stated Mr. Innis's submitted testimony is an exhibit to the proposed draft minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 25, 2014, IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

VICE CHAIR ANDERSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 25, 2014, MEETING HELD IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA. SENATOR DENIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

Prior to the vote, discussion ensued between Chair Woodhouse, Vice Chair Anderson, Senator Denis, and Mr. Butterworth regarding whether Mr. Innis's testimony would be added to the minutes and the type of minutes prepared. Chair Woodhouse clarified the submitted testimony of Mr. Innis would be part of the final approved minutes. Mr. Butterworth stated the minutes are summary minutes, and the entire meeting is available by video record.

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

THE PREVIOUS MOTION BY VICE CHAIR ANDERSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 25, 2014, MEETING HELD IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA AND SECONDED BY SENATOR DENIS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

PRESENTATION ON THE COMPLETE COLLEGE AMERICA INITIATIVE IN NEVADA AND THE RELATED IMPACT OF COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

(As directed by Chair Woodhouse, this agenda item was taken out of order.)

- Daniel J. Klaich, J.D., Chancellor, Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), and Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, NSHE, provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled "Creating a Culture of Completion," regarding: (1) creating a culture of college completion in Nevada; (2) the Complete College America initiative; (3) policy changes;

(4) access and affordability to higher education; and (5) “15 to finish.” (Please see [Exhibit M](#) and [Exhibit M-1.](#))

Responding to Senator Ford’s inquiry regarding why Nevada ranks low in its college attainment percentages and what the future holds relating to the low rankings, Mr. Klaich stated this challenge is cultural and historical. He commented that, historically, Nevada has been able to provide a good wage through the hospitality industry, creating a middle class without the workforce needing to be educated beyond high school. In addition, the culture in Nevada has not valued higher education. Mr. Klaich opined that the low rankings will improve in the future but not without hard work.

Continuing, Mr. Klaich and Ms. Abba explained creating a culture of completion and noted improvements in Nevada’s higher education outcomes. Mr. Klaich commented on funding mechanisms and future goals. Ms. Abba explained the types of certificates awarded that require 30 or more units and the increased number obtained. She detailed affordability factors and financial aid.

- Vice Chair Anderson queried whether the increase in college participation for low-income families in 2010 was due to the economy.
- Ms. Abba said that it was.

Discussion ensued among Senator Ford, Mr. Klaich, and Ms. Abba regarding: (1) what Nevada is doing to accommodate low-income populations; (2) what is being done to encourage business partnerships; and (3) tuition caps in Nevada. Mr. Klaich commented that Nevada is surveying other states to determine best practices but nothing has been put in place as of yet. Ms. Abba added she hoped the data would be available in the next few weeks. Mr. Klaich informed that NSHE has reached out to the Education Commission of the States for help with best practices from around the nation. He stated Nevada used to be known for low tuition rates but in recent years NSHE has moved to being a market rate state. Mr. Klaich noted the problem lies in that Nevada did not adjust the financial aid required when tuition rates increased and stated tuition caps have not been considered.

- Vice Chair Anderson inquired when Nevada’s increased tuition became a deterrent to education thus taking in less revenue.
- Mr. Klaich responded that NSHE has evaluated each facility individually and held off increasing tuition rates at institutions that were deemed unaffordable.
- Ms. Abba commented that financial aid is the equalizing factor in making higher education affordable. She noted the perception of tuition prices needs to be evaluated and clarified for low-income families.

Responding to Senator Ford's inquiry whether the demand for financial aid is present among low-income families, and the number of students who decide not to attend college due to misconceptions about their out-of-pocket costs, Ms. Abba stated that she did not have the exact numbers but noted the number of students qualifying for free and reduced lunches has increased by over 20 percent in the last three years. Senator Ford encouraged Ms. Abba to seek the data for future analysis.

- Assemblyman Munford commented on the opportunities for a college degree.
- Mr. Klaich continued with his presentation regarding part-time students and discouraged creating policy with respect to part-time students.
- Ms. Abba provided statistics related to part-time students.

In response to Senator Ford's inquiry regarding what NSHE is asking of part-time students, Ms. Abba replied they are asking students who are taking approximately 12 units to take 15 units, obtain additional financial aid, and commit to a degree in four years.

- Assemblywoman Dondero Loop inquired to which students Ms. Abba is referring.
- Ms. Abba stated the majority are traditionally aged students, approximately 18 to 24 years old.
- Mr. Klaich noted the anticipated improvement in graduation rates if the students will commit to one more class. He stated the goal must be to get Nevada's students graduated and into the workforce. Mr. Klaich encouraged the LCE to consider requiring Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship recipients to take a minimum of 15 units.
- Senator Ford commented funds are a big part of making college accessible and noted the increase in graduation rates. He inquired how NSHE can present a need for additional funding to increase graduation rates even further.
- Mr. Klaich replied that reduced funding in recent years caused NSHE to re-evaluate and make necessary changes. Additional funding for need-based financial aid would increase graduation rates.

Discussion ensued between Chair Woodhouse and Ms. Abba regarding how students are tracked when they start college in Nevada and whether competency-based degrees have been considered. Ms. Abba reported that through the National Student Clearinghouse, Nevada is able to track all students who start college at a Nevada institution. She stated competency-based degrees have not been considered but will be.

- Senator Hammond inquired whether NSHE has considered creating a list of undergraduate courses that would be transferable, wherever a student ended up for their major course work.
- Ms. Abba explained from a regional prospective there has been consideration toward standardizing undergraduate courses, but Nevada was not involved in the implementation.
- Chair Woodhouse commented on conferences she attended for Complete College America and the improvements NSHE had made. She queried whether NSHE has done anything to identify students with enough credits to graduate, but who have not received a degree.
- Mr. Klaich responded there was an outreach initiative to these students, encouraging them to return to school for a degree or certificate.

Responding to Assemblyman Stewart regarding cooperation between NSHE and businesses, Mr. Klaich replied that the drone research coming to Nevada has prompted NSHE to evaluate educational skill certificates in order to keep an educated workforce meeting the needs of the local economy.

- Chair Woodhouse called for public comment Agenda Item No. V; however, no testimony was presented.

PRESENTATION ON DIGITAL EDUCATION IN K-12 SCHOOLS

- Jesse Welsh, Ed.D., Academic Manager, Innovative Learning Environments, Clark County School District (CCSD), provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Digital Education in PreK-12 Education,” that included: (1) academic standards, (2) online and blended learning; (3) digital resources; (4) professional development and support; and (5) successes and challenges. (Please see [Exhibit N.](#)) Dr. Welsh also provided the Digital Learning Now! press release that identified Nevada as the most improved digital learning state in the nation, having gone from a D in 2012 to a B in 2013. (Please see [Exhibit N-1.](#))

- Steve Canavero, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement, Nevada’s Department of Education (NDE), provided testimony regarding digital education, including the Digital Learning Now! report and information regarding the Commission on Educational Technology, which was established under NRS 388.790.
- Susan Keema, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Department, Carson City School District (District), offered a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Education in a Digital Age,” an update of the District’s 1:1 Mobile Technology Laptop Project that included: (1) Commitment and Support; (2) “Universal” Skills; (3) Implementation; (4) Stakeholders Engagement; (5) Future Implementation; (6) Successes; (7) Student Engagement; (8) Challenges; and (9) Suggestions. (Please see [Exhibit O](#).) She also provided a brochure and two frequently asked questions (FAQs) documents. (Please see [Exhibit O-1](#).)

Discussion ensued among Assemblywoman Dondero Loop, Ms. Keema, and Janice Arthur-Towns, Information Technology Director, Technology Department, Carson City School District, regarding how Nevada’s school districts worked together to improve the State’s digital education grade from a D to a B. Ms. Keema stated that it was the District’s online program, and Ms. Arthur-Towns noted it was through the State’s 1:1 Digital Plan and district-wide coordination that Nevada achieved improvement in its digital education grade.

- Robert Sidford, Coordinator, 21st Century Learning Division, Washoe County School District (WCSD), presented a Microsoft PowerPoint titled “Technology Integration and 21st Century Competencies in Washoe County School District.” He offered statistics that demonstrate teachers use electronic learning devices, but commented that students do not have equal access to electronics. Mr. Sidford noted how difficult it is doing basic things, like job applications, without technology. He added that the project Pathway to Nevada’s Future was a statewide collaboration for training digital teaching methods and aided in improving Nevada’s digital grade. (Please see [Exhibit P](#).)
- Senator Denis commented on the technology used to educate our future teachers and opined it is a tool for educating, not an exclusive learning device. He stated that the support and implementation of digital education in our schools needs to stay constant.
- Chair Woodhouse agreed with Senator Denis and called for public comment on Agenda Item No. IV.
- April Tatro-Medlin, Clark County resident, identified health hazards and dangers to children when Wi-Fi signals that create radiofrequency electromagnetic fields are used in schools. (Please see [Exhibit Q](#) and [Exhibit Q-1](#).)

- Kathleen Conaboy, Chair, Nevada State Public Charter Schools Authority Board, offered a plea to include charter schools in any grant funds made available to public schools.
- John Eppolito, previously identified, commented that some schools in Canada and Europe are removing Wi-Fi networks and noted the CCSS and Nevada Academic Content Standards (NACS) are one in the same. He stated data collection associated with electronic devices is problematic because students can be tracked. Mr. Eppolito opined students should have more teacher instruction, basic computer programming, and less time sitting in front of computers.
- Lauren Tevis, Executive Director, Charter School Association of Nevada, agreed with previous testimony regarding the accessibility of grant funds made to charter schools.

DISCUSSION REGARDING NEVADA'S CLASS SIZE REDUCTION PROGRAM

- Mary Pierczynski, Ed.D., Legislative Liaison, Nevada Association of School Superintendents, provided a chart of information regarding class size reduction (CSR) programs taking place in the 15 rural districts. She noted that CSR is very important to the rural districts and that the funding for CSR should remain categorical, flexible, and continual. (Please see [Exhibit R.](#))
- Lindsay Anderson, Director, Government Affairs, WCSD, provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled "Class Size Reduction," and discussed statistics that show CSR has a positive impact on learning. (Please see [Exhibit S.](#))
- James McIntosh, Chief Financial Officer, CCSD, identified the funding difficulties involved in maintaining reduced class sizes and encouraged the Legislature to continue funding these reductions. He stated the capacity needs that full-day kindergarten and CSR create are being met through portable classrooms.

In response to Vice Chair Anderson's inquiry regarding how many schools have waivers to avoid CSR, Mike Barton, Ed.D., Chief Student Achievement Officer, CCSD, replied there are 25 out of 217 schools in Clark County that have waivers for CSR for kindergarten.

Responding to Senator Ford's inquiry whether a teacher's aide is considered a teacher for purposes of student-to-teacher ratios and what it will cost to make the CCSD in compliance with CSR for kindergarten, Dr. Barton stated an aide is not considered a teacher for CSR purposes, and that the CCSD would need to hire approximately 54 full-time teachers to meet the CSR numbers for kindergarten.

- Senator Hammond queried whether the teacher shortage or budgetary considerations make it difficult to meet the requirements of CSR.
- Dr. Barton replied the challenge is multifaceted; both budgetary and teacher shortages are factors.
- Dr. Barton continued with information and statistics on CSR for kindergarten in the CCSD. He stated that waivers have been requested for the higher elementary grades to ensure CSR is implemented in kindergarten.

In response to Vice Chair Anderson's inquiry whether any of the schools that have received CSR waivers are funded as Zoom Schools, Ms. Anderson replied that there are no Zoom Schools waived in kindergarten, and explained that there are six Title I schools in the WCSD with CSR waivers and none of them are Zoom Schools. Dr. Barton stated that in the CCSD there have been no waivers issued for Zoom School kindergarten classes but he will have to get the data for grades 1st through 3rd after the meeting.

Responding to Senator Ford's inquiries regarding: (1) the number of schools in the CCSD that are Title I; (2) the number of CSR waivers issued in the CCSD; (3) how the CCSD is preparing for the increase in population related to kindergarten; and (4) the data to support CSR in the CCSD, Dr. Barton suggested that teacher quality is a key factor in the CSR program and with the increased requirements in curricula, class size is crucial. Senator Ford requested additional information be provided to Mr. Butterworth for submission to the LCE. Ms. Anderson stated there is not data available to make comparisons as to whether CSR helps but noted it is crucial for effective learning. Senator Ford queried the data that supports CSR in Nevada and suggested the CCSD and WCSD look outside of Nevada for supporting documentation.

- Assemblywoman Dondero Loop commented on her teaching experiences and inquired whether team teaching is still part of the CSR model.
- Dr. Barton commented that the CCSD does not use the team teaching model previously in place but uses a creative teaching approach in the middle and upper grades to work around the class size ratios.
- Vice Chair Anderson mentioned the difficulty in isolating variables to measure CSR effectiveness and asked whether the projected student academic growth in the WCSD is being evaluated.
- Ms. Anderson stated the WCSD is trying to evaluate student growth in whatever ways possible, isolate any common improvement factors, and disseminate that information throughout the district.

- Julia Teska, Deputy Superintendent, Business and Support Services, NDE, provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Class Size Reduction,” and detailed the reduction numbers in statute for kindergarten through 3rd grades. She noted concerns, approved legislation, and the lack of performance measures available that justify the spending. (Please see [Exhibit T.](#))

Discussion ensued among Chair Woodhouse, Vice Chair Anderson, Senator Ford, and Senator Hammond regarding their personal experiences and comments on Nevada’s CSR.

- Chair Woodhouse called for public comment on Agenda Item No. VI.
- April Tatro-Medlin, Clark County resident, testified in support of CSR.

DISCUSSION REGARDING “ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS,” HOW THEY MIGHT BE DEFINED IN STATUTE, AND THE CHALLENGE OF MEASURING THEIR PERFORMANCE

- Steve Canavero, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement, NDE, provided information on the background of alternative schools and indicated the State is not ready to fully define the term or report on the performance of these schools. He reported there is a group in place working on the development of regulations for alternative schools and offered to submit a report with recommendations for legislation regarding alternative schools. (Please see [Exhibit U.](#))
- Amy Minor, Project Facilitator, Education Services Division, CCSD, presented a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Alternative Schools,” that informed what Clark County is doing regarding alternative schools, identification of the schools, enrollment numbers, and the correctional school demographics. (Please see [Exhibit V.](#))
- Tammy Malich, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Education Services Division, CCSD, stated that she is part of the statewide workgroup in place to develop the framework creating “Alternative Schools” statutes and performance measures.
- Chair Woodhouse called for public comment Agenda Item No. VII; however, none was presented.

UPDATE ON THE ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO TEACHER LICENSURE, AND A DISCUSSION ABOUT PROVISIONAL AND SPECIAL LICENSURE FOR TEACHERS OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS (STEM), AND CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

- Dena Durish, Director, Educator Effectiveness, NDE, offered testimony regarding the updated regulations reducing the number of courses required for the alternative route to licensure (ARL), reducing the amount of time it takes to acquire a license, and the broadening of parameters enabling teachers to qualify under the ARL.

In response to Senator Ford's inquiry whether teachers who use the ARL are effective teachers and how student performance is measured, Ms. Durish replied that test scores are the best indicators of teacher success and stated there is no data available but teachers with ARLs are very effective.

- Andre Yates, Director, Licensure Services and Human Capital Management Services, CCSD, commented teachers should not have to take additional content course work when their student performance indicators show that they are the best in their fields. He opined that the ARL program will also aid in the recruitment of new teachers.
- Senator Ford requested clarification whether teachers receiving an alternative license have high student performance ratings and are effective leaders in the classroom.
- Mr. Yates confirmed the clarification and presented an example.
- Ms. Durish offered an example of a drama teacher who acquired an alternative license from the CCSD to teach science and received a "teacher of the year" award for teaching science courses.
- Assemblywoman Dondero Loop provided examples of ARL teachers in the WCSD and the rural districts.
- Ms. Durish continued her presentation providing information regarding required course work and credits and provided examples of ARLs.
- Mr. Yates offered a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled "Updates and Discussion on Licensure," regarding implementation of an ARL in the CCSD and introduced many examples and noted the number of teachers in the CCSD who have obtained an alternative license. (Please see [Exhibit W](#).)
- Assemblyman Stewart inquired whether there are still military personnel programs for teaching in the CCSD.

- Mr. Yates replied that there is an aviation program and a Troops to Teachers program that incentivizes military personnel financially to become teachers.
- Kristine Minnich, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services Division, CCSD, offered supporting statistics for the CCSD and encouraged the Legislature to continue to support the ARL programs.
- Dana Ryan, Ed.D., Director, Career and Technical Education and Signature Academies, WCSD, shared challenges keeping quality teachers in career and technical education, specifically in the fields of: culinary arts, natural resource management, medical careers, engineering, video production, business and marketing, drafting, and information technology. She provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Career and Technical Education - Education for the Future.” Dr. Ryan stated Career and Technical Education (CTE) provides a technical context in which to apply NACS and practice twenty-first-century skills on the journey to college- and career-readiness. (Please see [Exhibit X](#).)

Discussion ensued among Senator Ford, Dr. Ryan, Ms. Durish, and Mr. Yates regarding what other states are doing for ARLs and how Nevada can ensure a supply of quality teachers when lowering the standards for licensure. Dr. Ryan replied that she did not know what other states are doing but commented the WCSD wants only the best teachers and to retain those great teachers. Ms. Durish responded that the group NASDTEC, which is the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification, has a database available to provide information on what other states are doing. Mr. Yates shared the concerns provided by Dr. Ryan and presented an example that indicates the need for flexibility in an ARL.

- Assemblywoman Dondero Loop commented that ARL means alternate, not lower quality, and commented that Nevada is progressing in the right direction.
- Assemblyman Stewart proposed that to add flexibility in attracting quality ARL teachers, there should be a probationary period.
- Mr. Yates agreed with Assemblyman Stewart’s suggestion.
- Discussion ensued among Senator Denis, Ms. Durish, and Mr. Yates regarding whether there is a way to determine teacher effectiveness and accountability and whether there is available data to determine performance measures. Ms. Durish responded that Nevada will be looking into ways to determine effectiveness and accountability in the classroom and implementing the measures to Nevada’s accountability framework in the near future. Mr. Yates stated that ARL teachers are required to have five satisfactory evaluations before they can renew their ARL. Ms. Durish noted the specific regulations for previous requirements of an ARL and stated that now each provider determines its own set of baseline standards.

- Assemblywoman Dondero Loop provided some background information on Assembly Bill 428 (Chapter 130, *Statutes of Nevada*) from the 2009 Session and recommended the NDE review the bill for licensure requirements.
- Chair Woodhouse inquired whether the Commission on Professional Standards (CPS) has considered using the edTPA assessment, formerly known as the Teacher Performance Assessment, or another test to determine ARL teacher effectiveness, and if not, please explain.
- Ms. Durish noted that the edTPA is being used by other states and the Educational Testing Service (ETS) just made a presentation to the CPS to administer testing for Nevada but Nevada has opted to wait six to nine months before determining which assessment would be best.
- Andrew Diss, Outreach Director, StudentsFirst, stated that the presentation by StudentsFirst will try to answer some of the questions asked earlier by the members of the Committee.
- Rae Shih, Policy Analyst, StudentsFirst, presented a document titled “Teacher Preparation in Nevada,” that included: (1) the Need for Rigorous Alternative Routes to Licensure; (2) Improving Alternative Routes to Licensure; and (3) Improving Teacher Preparation Program Accountability. (Please see [Exhibit Y](#).)
- Chair Woodhouse called for public comment on Agenda Item No. VIII.
- Kim Metcalf, Ph.D., Dean, College of Education, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), commented that while creating educational policy, policymakers should consider empirical data. He suggested the LCE use either UNLV or University of Nevada, Reno for resource data when considering policy.
- April Tatro-Medlin, Clark County resident, testified regarding the difficulties Nevada has in obtaining teachers and noted Nevada has lost many great teachers. She encouraged support of Nevada’s teachers and stated the electromagnetic fields that Wi-Fi creates are harmful to students. (Please see [Exhibit Q](#) and [Exhibit Q-1](#).)

PRESENTATION ON SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING STRATEGIES IN THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

(Due to time constraints, this presentation will be rescheduled for a future meeting.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

- April Tatro-Medlin, Clark County resident, made comments regarding individuals from nonprofit organizations volunteering in schools. She encouraged the LCE to develop standards for volunteers prior to allowing them contact with Nevada students.

The following is a list of persons who submitted documents for the record. All written testimony provided is included in the public record as an exhibit.

- Christy Armbruster, M.D., Clark County resident ([Exhibit Z](#)).
- Carlos Cardoso, Washoe County resident ([Exhibit AA](#)).
- Juanita Cox, Washoe County resident ([Exhibit BB](#)).
- Jill Dickman, Washoe County resident ([Exhibit CC](#)).
- Peter Hennessey, Ph.D., Carson City resident ([Exhibit DD](#)).
- Jeanne Herman, Washoe County resident ([Exhibit EE](#)).
- D. Alexandra T. Profant, Washoe County resident ([Exhibit FF](#)).
- Joannah Schumacher, Washoe County resident ([Exhibit GG](#)).
- Trudy Stanford, Nevada resident ([Exhibit HH](#)).
- Kandelyn Western, Nevada resident ([Exhibit II](#)).
- Christina Leventis, Parent Led Reform and Clark County resident ([Exhibit JJ](#)).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tarron L. Collins
Senior Research Secretary

Todd M. Butterworth
Senior Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Chair

Date: _____

LIST OF EXHIBITS

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

[Exhibit B](#) is a letter dated March 26, 2014, to the Legislative Committee on Education (LCE) from Amy Bauck, Clark County resident.

[Exhibit C](#) is written testimony provided by Deb Neubecker, Clark County resident.

[Exhibit D](#) is a letter dated March 26, 2014, to the LCE by Carole Fineberg, Reno resident.

[Exhibit E](#) is a letter dated March 26, 2014, to the LCE by A. Jane Lyon, Reno resident.

[Exhibit F](#) is an e-mail dated March 26, 2014, to the LCE by Robert R. Kessler, Reno resident.

[Exhibit G](#) is a packet of information submitted by Tom Fischbach, Clark County resident.

[Exhibit H](#) is a packet of information submitted by John Eppolito, President, Americans for Better Schools, and Washoe County resident.

[Exhibit I](#) is a packet of information submitted by Linda Buckardt, Clark County resident.

[Exhibit J](#) is a letter dated March 26, 2014, to the LCE from Amy Bauck, Clark County resident.

[Exhibit K](#) is prepared testimony provided by Neva Herrold, Clark County resident, dated March 26, 2014.

[Exhibit L](#) is a packet of information submitted by Carol B. Wright, Washoe County resident.

[Exhibit M](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Creating a Culture of Completion,” provided by Daniel J. Klaich, J.D., Chancellor, Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE).

[Exhibit M-1](#) is a document titled “Why Should the State of Nevada Invest More in the Millennium Scholarship and Need-Based Financial Aid?” provided by Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, NSHE.

[Exhibit N](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Digital Education in PreK-12 Education,” provided by Jesse Welsh, Ed.D., Academic Manager, Innovative Learning Environments, Clark County School District (CCSD).

[Exhibit N-1](#) is a press release document titled “Nevada: Most Improved in 2013 Digital Learning Report Card,” by Digital Learning Now! provided by Jesse Welsh, Ed.D., Academic Manager, Innovative Learning Environments, CCSD.

[Exhibit O](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Education in a Digital Age,” provided by Susan Keema, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Department, Carson City School District (District).

[Exhibit O-1](#) is a packet of information provided by Susan Keema, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Department, Carson City School District (District) that included:

- A brochure titled *Student 1:1 Mobile Laptop Project*;
- A frequently asked questions document titled “Mobile 1:1 FAQ’S - Parent FAQ’s,” dated February 26, 27, 28;
- A frequently asked questions document titled “Mobile 1:1 FAQ’S - Teacher FAQ’s,” dated February 26, 27, 28.

[Exhibit P](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Technology Integration and 21st Century Competencies in Washoe County School District,” offered by Robert Sidford, Coordinator, 21st Century Learning Division, Washoe County School District (WCSD).

[Exhibit Q](#) is a packet of information including a letter dated March 26, 2014, offered by April Tatro-Medlin, Clark County resident.

[Exhibit Q-1](#) is a packet of information that includes a letter dated March 28, 2014, to the 2013-2014 Interim Legislative Committee on Education (LCE) submitted by April Tatro-Medlin, Clark County resident that included:

- Wikipedia Definitions;
- Other reference materials; and
- A CD titled “No WiFi in Schools,” available in the Research Library represented by a bibliography of documents.

[Exhibit R](#) is a chart of information submitted by Mary Pierczynski, Ed.D., Legislative Representative, Nevada Association of School Superintendents.

[Exhibit S](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Class Size Reduction,” offered by Lindsay Anderson, Director, Government Affairs, WCSD, dated March 26, 2014.

[Exhibit T](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Class Size Reduction,” provided by Julia Teska, Deputy Superintendent, Business and Support Services, NDE, dated March 26, 2014.

[Exhibit U](#) is a document titled “Alternative Schools Performance Framework Project,” by Steve Canavero, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent for Student Achievement, Nevada’s Department of Education.

[Exhibit V](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Alternative Schools,” offered by Andre Denson, Ed.D., Chief Educational Opportunity Officer, Educational Opportunities Unit, CCSD, and Tammy Malich, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Education Services Division, CCSD.

[Exhibit W](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Updates and Discussion on Licensure,” provided by Andre Yates, Director, Licensure Services and Human Capital Management Services, CCSD.

[Exhibit X](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Career and Technical Education - Education for the Future,” offered by Dana Ryan, Ed.D., Director, Career and Technical Education and Signature Academies, WCSD.

[Exhibit Y](#) is document titled “Teacher Preparation in Nevada,” submitted by Rae Shih, Policy Analyst, StudentsFirst.

[Exhibit Z](#) is written testimony provided by Christy Armbruster, M.D., Clark County resident, dated March 26, 2014.

[Exhibit AA](#) is written testimony provided by Carlos Cardoso, Washoe County resident.

[Exhibit BB](#) is written testimony provided by Juanita Cox, Washoe County resident, dated March 26, 2014.

[Exhibit CC](#) is written testimony provided by Jill Dickman, Washoe County resident.

[Exhibit DD](#) is a letter to the Members of the Interim Committee on Education dated March 25, 2014, from Peter Hennessey, Ph.D., Carson City resident.

[Exhibit EE](#) is written testimony provided by Jeanne Herman, Washoe County resident, dated March 23, 2014.

[Exhibit FF](#) is written testimony provided by D. Alexandra T. Profant, Washoe County resident, dated March 26, 2014.

[Exhibit GG](#) is written testimony provided by Joannah Schumacher, Washoe County resident, dated March 25, 2014.

[Exhibit HH](#) is written testimony provided by Trudy Stanford, Nevada resident, dated March 26, 2014.

[Exhibit II](#) is written testimony provided by Kandelyn Western, Nevada resident, dated March 24, 2014.

[Exhibit JJ](#) is a letter to the Editor provided by Christina Leventis, Parent Led Reform and Clark County resident, dated March 22, 2014.

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 and other materials distributed at the meeting 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.