

**NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
NEVADA STATE BOARD FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

June 2 and June 3, 2006

Department of Education
State Board Conference Room
700 East Fifth Street, Carson City, Nevada

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING - JUNE 2, 2006

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Cliff Ferry, President
Barbara Myers, Clerk (left at 7:40 P.M.)
Sharon Frederick, Member
Dr. John Gwaltney, Member
Dorothy Nolan, Member
Gary Waters, Member
Madisen McGrath, NASC Student Representative

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Marcia Washington, Vice President
Patrick Boylan, Member
Dr. Merv Iverson, Member
Cindy Reid, Member

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services
Douglas Thunder, Deputy Superintendent,
Phyllis Dryden, Director, Career, Technical, and Adult Education
Paul LaMarca, Director, Assessments, Program Accountability and Curriculum
Frankie McCabe, Director, Special Education, ESEA and School Improvement
Jacquie Moore, Consultant, ESEA
Orval Nutting, Consultant, Office of Fiscal Accountability
Bill Strader, Consultant, Textbooks
Doris Arnold, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Public Instruction

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. James E. Irvin, Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

Dana Balchunas, Chief Nurse, Washoe County School District
Cheryl Blomstrom, Carson City, Nevada
Tim Crowley, GROW Network
Janin Franke, GROW Network
Sue Gurlides, Nevada Gifted & Talented Organization
Darlene Hart, GROW Network
Craig Kadlub, Clark County School District
Dotty Merrill, Washoe County School District
Ron Norton, ComputerCorps
Lezlie Porter, Washoe County School District Trustee
Barbara Scheible, Washoe County School District Gifted & Talented Advisory Council
Virginia Smith, School Nurse Consultant, Clark County School District
Chris Webb, Nevada State Association of School Nurses
Rich Young, Iowa City, Iowa

CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Ferry called the meeting to order at 5:15 P.M. with attendance as reflected above. A flexible agenda was approved unanimously. He asked those present to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. President's Report

President Ferry reported on the Charter School Showcase conference put on by the U.S. Department of Education that he had recently attended in Washington, DC. He said the panels and presentations were quite interesting and informative and attendance was worthwhile.

He said he also had attended the recent P-16 Council meeting and noted attendance included representation from both the executive branch and the legislature. He added that this group will be attending a national P-16 meeting in Montana in July.

President Ferry announced that the Deputy Attorney General had recently earned a new honor. Dr. Irvin reported he had achieved a doctorate in educational leadership, explaining this was his newest doctorate, as attorneys all hold doctorates although they are rarely called "doctors."

He asked Phyllis Dryden, Director of Career, Technical and Adult Education, to address the Board. She reported that the Nevada Association of Career and Technical Education (NACTE) will be holding their annual conference next month and invited Board members to attend, noting that the NACTE would cover the costs for the 3-day conference being held July 26-28, 2006.

Member Nolan complimented Ms. Dryden and her staff for their diligent work on this valuable conference.

2. Approval of Consent Agenda

Upon request of Member Myers, President Ferry said item F, pertaining to the re-licensing of certain private schools, would be considered separately.

President Ferry questioned item D and asked Ms. McCabe to speak to the issue. Frankie McCabe, Director, Office of Special Education clarified that any discretionary special education units not distributed by the end of the year would be distributed upon request by each district for a variety of uses, including extended school year services. She noted that the larger districts have a greater need than there are units to be given.

Member Waters made the following motion, seconded by Member Gwaltney:

That the Nevada State Board of Education approve items A through E on the consent agenda, reserving item F to be discussed as a separate item.

The motion passed unanimously.

President Ferry reminded that since attendance was just the quorum of six, each motion would have to receive a unanimous vote in order to pass.

Item F-Approval of Re-Licensing of Private Schools

Member Myers asked Mr. Nutting to explain the request for Spring Mountain Treatment Center. Orval Nutting, Consultant, Office of Fiscal Accountability, reported that the educational programs of both the treatment centers in Clark and Washoe counties were licensed so their credits could be accepted back into the school district. He noted these residential facilities have high security. The Truckee Meadows Center has four teachers, with students at all levels from Alaska, Nevada and Arizona in the program. Member Myers asked what the obligation of these facilities was related to providing education for students placed there. Member Myers added she understands there could be a lack of communication between the centers and the school districts. Mr. Nutting said the children at the treatment centers were there for varying amounts of time and education is provided for them

during that time. He said it is up to the school district whether to allow the credits earned at the centers.

Member Waters made the motion, seconded by Member Nolan:

That the Nevada State Board of Education approve re-licensing of the following private schools: Bethlehem Lutheran School in Carson City, Faith Christian Academy in Gardnerville, and Spring Mountain Treatment Center in Las Vegas.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Importance of School Nurses in Nevada and Consideration of a Request to Support a State Department of Education Consultant Position as an Enhancement to the 2007-2009 Budget Request

Virginia Smith, past director of the Nevada State Association of School Nurses, indicated that she is on a team of 263 school nurses in Nevada that oversees and insures the health care needs and safety for 401,211 students. She referred to the agenda backup materials and said the school nurse is an integral part of the educational team, fully aware of educational goals and working toward the goal of productive and healthy citizens. She explained how a student's health status impacts their performance in the learning environment. Nurses deal not only with minor accidents at school, but with substance abuse, suicide attempts, physical and mental health issues, and much more.

She explained that the request for a school nurse consultant at the state level is important to help establish consistent policies and procedures for nurses in the state. She referred to the handouts describing the requirements and duties of a school nurse consultant. She explained there are multiple educational mandates that all school nurses must be aware of and abide by, in addition to standards set by the Nevada State Nursing Association for such things as immunizations, custody and confidentiality issues, and epidemiology.

She went on to say the state position would centralize school district responses to health concerns, and the consultant must have a depth of knowledge and skills in both school nursing and the education system and be able to work with all Nevada school nurses to handle student health concerns.

She noted in Nevada there are chief school nurses in almost all districts, but there is no central consistent point, adding that 39 other states currently have a state school nurse position. She gave two examples of the necessity for a state position: a parent group of diabetic students presented information to the State Board of Nursing who set policy without any school nurse input. The policy will be re-considered, as it has been deemed to not be in the best interests of the safety of the students. Another policy involving administration of a potentially dangerous medication by non-nursing staff untrained in recognizing any dangerous side effects was also passed without any input from school nurses, who became aware of the policy only when they read about it. She said a state position would be a contact point when these types of issues arose and would be able to provide important background from a school nurse perspective.

Ms. Smith responded to Member Nolan's question by saying there is a definite need for more school nurses in the state. She said Nevada does have a mandate for a ratio of 1 to 750, but this has never been funded and currently most nurses cover about 4,000 students each. She said she was hopeful a consultant position could help in achieving the mandate.

She referred to the "20-10 initiative" where many individuals are coming to the school districts to discuss various health issues and stressed it is vitally important that the school nurses be involved in these initiatives, including the issues of immunizations, mental health, risk behaviors, oral health, as well as the state wellness plan and the state disaster plan.

She closed with the recommendation that a state position could help develop a centralized effort to obtain Medicaid reimbursement for case funding, nursing care procedures, care coordination, patient and student counseling, and instruction in emergency care. She said the Nevada State Education Association and the Clark County School District are in full support of the request for the state position.

In response to Member Myers question about the recent appointment by the Governor of a Lyon County school nurse to the State Nursing Board, Chris Webb, president of the Nevada State Association of School Nurses, noted that the appointment was for the seat of licensed practical nurse. The appointee has served in Lyon County schools, but does not meet school nurse requirements. She added that the State Nursing Board has contacted her association about having a seat on the Board for a qualified school nurse and this will be discussed in the future.

Superintendent Rheault said the position would require a master's degree plus experience. The salary would be a consultant level grade 39, which currently tops out at about \$68,000 per year.

Member Fredericks commented on the matter of issuing medications to students. Ms. Webb said the policy and interpretation of the law varies from district to district, with some requiring orders from a medical director upon written permission of a parent, some require a signature of both a doctor and the parent, others allow students to carry over-the-counter medications, and others require written permissions for even an aspirin. She said the state nurse consultant could help provide direction toward more uniform policies, as this position would have extensive background in both nursing and education.

After brief discussion pertaining to how and by whom various medications can be administered, Member Gwaltney said he saw the importance of an advocate for school nurses at the state level, but asked if this state position would be responsible for bringing health policies before the State Board of Education, as he had concern about the State Board of Education approving regulations or setting policy about health or nursing.

Ms. Smith said she envisioned the state position as being the communicator to the State Board on what the impact is of various policies on students, as the State Nursing Board does not have the experience of operating in a school setting. She said a state position being able to sit at the table as these policies are discussed would help as now there is great difficulty with school nurses trying to adhere to both State Nursing Board policy and state and local educational policy.

Superintendent Rheault referred to the summary in the handout, explaining that the state position would be more of a coordinator toward developing and promoting quality standards and fostering a better understanding and level of knowledge among educators, parents and the general public of the relationship between health status and a student's capacity to learn, rather than trying to bring policy before the Board. Most of the policy is set by legislation or by the State Board of Nursing and the consultant would be more of a liaison and coordinator of health care issues, as well as helping to interpret and advise laws and regulations in a consistent manner for all districts.

Member Waters noted he has long been an advocate of such a position and asked that copies of the presentation be made available to Board members. He added that health procedure and health policy should not be confused, and that an interface between health and education issues is increasingly important. He referred to the Stimson-Morrill Act, noting that a school nurse consultant could have guided the process of implementation and made it more efficient. He said he fully supports the request, as health issues definitely affect student achievement.

Superintendent Rheault noted the last time immunization requirements were increased, since the Department had no one responsible for monitoring health regulations, it was not aware of the changes

until after the regulation was passed. He said it would have been quite helpful to have had someone involved in the process or at least be able to give input.

Dana Balchunas, Director of Student Health Services for the Washoe County School District, noted there is no place for a school nurse to turn for clarification when district policy conflicts with State Board of Nursing policy, especially when the health of the student is involved. She said a state position could help provide this clarification in a consistent manner.

President Ferry asked who else in education supported this concept. Ms. Smith said the Nevada State Education Association has endorsed the request. President Ferry asked that the nurses ascertain which school superintendents feel this is important to their district.

After a short break, President Ferry reminded the Board they would be making a decision on new positions once the Department knew how many positions could be included in the budget.

4. Importance of Gifted and Talented (GT) Programs in Nevada and Consideration of a Request to Support a State Department of Education Consultant Position

Sue Gurlides, President of the Nevada Gifted and Talented Association, Barbara Scheible, Chair of the Washoe County School District Gifted and Talented Program, and Lezlie Porter, member, Washoe County School Board thanked the Board for allowing them to present their request for a Gifted and Talented Education Consultant.

Ms. Gurlides said her background included teaching in the Clark County gifted program for 30 years. She referred to the handout and said as the population of the state increases, there is a need for identification of gifted and talented students and the development of programs for them. She said the handout included background and a description of the position as well as letters of support. She said 15 counties responded to a series of survey questions which were also included.

She referred to a national report which lacked GT information from Nevada since the state had no state position to respond to the survey. She said at that time Nevada was one of four states with no state-level position: now Nevada is the only state without a position. She added that such a position would assist the rural districts to establish programs, support existing programs and share successful practices as well as representing Nevada in the national forum.

She suggested that the level of all students is raised when a GT program exists in the school, citing science fairs, astronomy nights, Shakespeare festivals, student councils and the like. She encouraged the Board to consider the request for a GT education consultant within the Department of Education.

Ms. Scheible spoke as a parent of two GT high school students, as well as the chair of the Washoe County Gifted and Talented Advisory Council, the president of the recently-formed non-profit Gifted and Talented Parent Connection, member of the district's Parent Involvement Council, and the parent representative on the district's improvement plan. She has worked on GT programs statewide.

She expressed the frustration of parents searching for appropriate educational opportunities for their GT students. She said she is concerned that many students in the system are not identified, particularly in rural counties and in under-represented populations. She said a state level position is critical to assure all these students are identified and served.

She discussed the survey noted by Ms. Gurlides, saying that six of the responding counties have no GT programs. Only one-half of one percent of the students identified as GT participates in programs, and only one district serves K-12. About half the districts provide funding for GT programs and GT teachers in only five districts have the endorsement required by the state and only four districts provide professional development for identifying and serving GT students in the regular classroom.

She went over the list of responsibilities envisioned for such a state level GT position, saying they had been developed based upon information from the National Association for Gifted and Talented

Children. She said the coordination provided by a state director would greatly assist districts by providing resource information, helping share effective practices in an efficient manner and by educating district personnel about Nevada Revised Statute requirements for serving special populations.

Lezlie Porter, President, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees, reiterated the information from the previous speakers and urged the Board to establish a state level position. She said without a state level position, it is difficult for all districts to find a way to work together. She noted that Washoe County's funding came through their special education department, but the responsibilities of the special education director are far too great to permit adequate handling of GT programs as well and it takes a person with the background, expertise and time to focus on a particular area. She said No Child Left Behind mainly focuses on the underachieving, but that GT students also need programs to help them reach their full potential. She noted that the state once did have a GT consultant. Superintendent Rheault and Deputy Superintendent explained it was a federally-funded position and when those funds ended, a staff person performed the duties part-time with much time on her own because of personal interest. Special education units can be used for GT programs, but when the mandate for serving students with disabilities became more compelling, the districts needed to use their special education units for required programs rather than GT. Deputy Superintendent Dopf noted that if a district used special education funding for a GT program it must identify the students based upon the state code and the teacher must be a licensed GT teacher, but if a district ran the program as enrichment, there are no set standards for that program, which results in differences among districts.

Ms. Gurlides replied to Member Gwaltney's question by reporting that typically 2% of the student population is GT. She said there are 6,000 GT identified in grades 2 through 4 in Clark County.

Member Gwaltney asked about the methods of identifying GT students. Ms. Scheible said different methods identified different types of GT students, noting that many high IQ students may not be high achieving, and many GT students are identified by various non-verbal assessments. She said the districts currently vary greatly in the tools they use to identify students.

The discussion brought out that the university had dropped some GT training programs and it is difficult to obtain the required courses for certification without going outside the state, resulting in many unfilled openings. It was also noted that districts often want flexibility for their GT programs rather than having state mandates.

Member McGrath indicated she had a unique perspective since she was in a GT program for two years, but dropped out. She described how there were many different types of GT in one room, and she agreed with Member Myers that the district needs to maintain the flexibility to deal with the varying kinds of talent.

Member Nolan said since the district superintendents were not necessarily the contact person for the survey, there is no way to know how much support there actually is for a state position. She asked if the assessment was given to all students or only to those presumed GT. Ms. Scheible said about 25% of the population is tested. In response to Member Nolan's question about the ethnicity of those tested, Ms. Scheible replied the non-verbal test was developed so non-English speaking students could be tested.

Member Fredericks wondered if there were any data on dropouts. Ms. Scheible said this has been cited as a problem because many GT students do not fit in as well and do drop out. She indicated there is a high incidence of depression among GT students.

Member Waters agreed there are problems relating to stress in this population. He wondered about the possibility of private post-secondary institutions being approached about providing GT training.

President Ferry asked what the presenters felt was the vision for a consultant position in five years. Ms. Porter said she would like to see in five years a statewide GT conference like they hold in other states, involving experts, teachers and parents.

The discussion centered around the need for a spokesperson for Nevada to assist with questions pertaining to GT issues, to support the districts in their efforts, and to help provide information on testing, setting up programs and assessment. It was brought out that the consultant position is not envisioned as someone to take away any district flexibility, but would be someone the district, teachers and parents could turn to for information and assistance.

Deputy Superintendent Dopf clarified there is no central point of referral within the Department of Education, and often there is no contact person at a district. She said the leadership initiative of the consultants does move programs forward without the necessity for regulations. She said establishment of a state position would in no way alter the need for district leaders but would provide a focal point to assist the communication among all interested parties.

Deputy Superintendent Dopf said she was not aware of any specific federal funds currently available for GT programs, but that the grant writer position is actively seeking out all available sources of funds for all programs. She added there is no central source for GT information the grant writer could use as background for a GT proposal.

5. Presentation on “Every Home a Classroom” and Services which can be provided by Computer Corp to Schools and Students in Nevada

Ron Norton, President, CEO and Development Director of ComputerCorps, provided an overview of this non-profit 501C organization located in Carson City. He said their mission was to provide access to computer technology and skills training for all families in the state while eliminating “e-waste” in the landfills. He reported that over the past eight years they have collected and donated more than 1.2 million computer items and have upgraded, repaired and/or refurbished and returned back into the community more than 5,500 computer systems. He added that in Nevada alone there are more than 30,000 computers being discarded each month. ComputerCorps is collecting approximately 2,000 systems per month.

He explained how the “Every Home a Classroom” program has evolved over the years. This is a referral program to assure that all families with school age students can have home access to a computer. He noted these were internet-ready systems, fully functional with licensed Windows 2000 and other software, monitor, keyboard, CD ROM, and speakers.

He said it is estimated that more than 100,000 of Nevada’s approximately 400,000 students do not have a computer in the household. The goal of the “Every Home a Classroom” program over the next few years is to collect, refurbish and deliver 100,000 computers to these families and provide students with tools to succeed. He said they are planning to or have already delivered 32 systems to families at Kate Smith Elementary School, 22 systems to Anderson Elementary School, 35 systems to Pyramid Lake High School, 80 systems to Sierra Vista School. They have commitments for more than 300 computers to Sandy Miller Elementary School, and more than 1,000 computers for over-age students in Clark County through the Nevada Public Education Foundation.

He said response to a presentation he recently made to district superintendents has been overwhelming. He went on to ask for a resolution of support from the State Board and hopes they can obtain support from the State Legislature in the form of grants and funding. He said they would like to obtain warehouse space in Washoe and Clark counties in addition to their 40,000 square foot facility in Carson City. He added he would like assistance in capturing more of the 30,000 computers discarded each month.

Member Myers indicated her personal experience has been very positive with ComputerCorps, relating how she needed touch screens for wheelchair bound students, and within two days of her request ComputerCorps made available two refurbished units. Mr. Norton replied that sometimes responses have been delayed because of their volunteer nature, but they are improving monthly, and they do have computers on hand ready to be sent out.

Mr. Norton hoped a Clark County facility would be able to generate 5,000 to 10,000 computers per month. He noted that the State of Nevada has designated ComputerCorps to receive excess technology, and some agencies have been shipping outdated systems from Las Vegas to Carson City, so a facility in Las Vegas is needed. He said office space in Washoe County has been donated.

In response to a question, Mr. Norton described that all hard drives are over-written seven times and drilled four times, in excess of industry security standards.

President Ferry noted general agreement that ComputerCorps projects were worthwhile, but said since this was an agenda informational item, no formal action could be taken.

Mr. Norton thanked the Board and invited members and the public to go to their website (www.computercorps.org) and visit their facility, referring to their "shock and awe" tour which shows what a group of grass roots volunteers have been able to do over the past eight years. He explained there have been more than 200 community organizations and schools participating, more than 1,500 businesses and corporations, more than 3,000 individuals have donated, more than 1,900 volunteers have contributed more than a quarter of a million hours of time to the project. They want to expand their very successful model, and encouraged all to become committed.

Member Myers indicated she needed to leave the meeting. Deputy Attorney General Irvin indicated that technically a meeting could not be convened nor conducted without a quorum and described the legalities surrounding Board members hearing presentations without quorum; it was determined to take the public comment item while the quorum was present.

Member Nolan noted Margaret Bird, Utah Department of Education, was in the audience to speak on Children's Land Alliance Supporting Schools (CLASS). President Ferry asked if she would be willing to forego public comment at this time. Member Myers left at 7:40 P.M. and it was noted there was no longer a quorum

The GROW Network agreed to make their presentation the next day and President Ferry recessed the meeting at 7:40 P.M., to reconvene at 8:30 A.M. Saturday, June 3, 2006.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING, June 3, 2006

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Cliff Ferry, President
Barbara Myers, Clerk
Sharon Frederick, Member
Dr. John Gwaltney, Member
Dr. Merv Iverson, Member
Dorothy Nolan, Member
Gary Waters, Member
Madisen McGrath, NASC Student Representative (left at noon)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Marcia Washington, Vice President

Patrick Boylan, Member
Cindy Reid, Member

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Gloria Dopf, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional, Research and Evaluative Services
Douglas Thunder, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative and Fiscal Services
Donnell Barton, Consultant, Child Nutrition and School Health
Phyllis Dryden, Director, Career, Technical, and Adult Education
Paul LaMarca, Director, Assessments, Program Accountability and Curriculum
Frankie McCabe, Director, Special Education, ESEA and School Improvement
Jacquie Moore, Consultant, ESEA
Orval Nutting, Consultant, Office of Fiscal Accountability
Bill Strader, Consultant, Textbooks
Doris Arnold, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Public Instruction

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. James E. Irvin, Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

Joe Enge, Chairman, EdWatch Nevada
Sandi Foster, Washoe County School District
Janin Franke, GROW Network
Richard Harjo, Nevada Indian Commission
Darlene Hart, GROW Network
Craig Kadlub, Clark County School District
Julie McGrath, Washoe County School District
Dotty Merrill, Assistant Superintendent, Washoe County School District
Annie Rees, Carson City
Sherry Rupert, Nevada Indian Commission
Frank Schnorbus, Nevada Homeschool Advisory Council
David Schumann
Sheila Ward, Carson City
Rich Young, Iowa City, Iowa

CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Ferry recalled the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. with attendance as reflected above. He led the Pledge of Allegiance.

6. **Presentation Regarding the GROW Network Instructional Assessment Reports and Consideration of Request to Support Cost of the Program as an Enhancement to the State Department of Education Budget Request**

President Ferry thanked GROW Network representatives for their willingness to hold over their presentation until today.

Darlene Hart, National Director of Educational Solutions for GROW Network, a division of McGraw-Hill, described their current program in Nevada and went over the history of the GROW Network. She said educational data reports have traditionally been difficult to understand and utilize, so the GROW Network began a process to transform these reports into more usable documents. She said they now report on over 35% of students who are tested annually in the United States, and Nevada is part of this nationwide project; funding over the past two budget cycles has been through the

Legislative Counsel Bureau. She added that their work has been validated by a number of independent research groups, including the Carnegie Foundation.

Referring to the handout materials, she went over the various types of reports they produce. She said the customized Parent Reports provide not only the student's scores, but specific recommendations on where they need help or advanced work, and suggestions for things that can be done at home. She added that translations are provided in the home language, and that there is a website specifically for Nevada parents. She noted that each student also received their own personalized Student Report and they also have a student website.

She then discussed the Class Reports for teachers, which provide test scores accompanied by jargon-free explanations of the data and suggestions for addressing the various needs of the students, including approaches for students at different performance levels. She said the reports are delivered in the fall, based upon spring test scores, with data aggregated by class so the teacher can see the achievement level of each of the students. There is also a website for Nevada teachers and administrators with secure password protection and 365/24/7 help available.

She talked about the outreach services in professional development provided to the districts. She said they have done over 140 on-site professional development workshops for teachers. She added they do community outreach programs for parents and the community as well. She introduced Janin Franke, Director of Professional Development with GROW.

She complimented the State Department of Education, particularly Paul LaMarca and his data group, for their assistance and she recommended adding the GROW program as an enhancement to the Department budget, indicating this would provide better operational excellence.

Member Iverson said the reports might be difficult for parents to understand without a full explanation of the terminology being used. Janin Franke responded that the parent website described all items in detail and gave additional suggestions for parent activities, but it does not describe any personalized student information, which is only provided to the parent in hard form. Ms. Hart said it would be possible to develop a secure password-protected site for each parent.

The issue of the large number of homes without any computer access was discussed. Ms. Hart said GROW continues to provide written as well as on-line information. She said having tighter coordination by the Department of Education would assist with the development of reports that would more closely meet the needs of parents in the state.

Member Iverson asked if this program was devised to satisfy a requirement of No Child Left Behind. Superintendent Rheault said it aligns nicely with what the Department is required to do, but it was not developed specifically for that reason.

Member Myers asked why the request was coming at this time to take the funding and direction from under Legislative Counsel Bureau control and placing it within the Department of Education's budget. Superintendent Rheault said the request was coming from the GROW Network, and budget placement details will be part of upcoming discussions with the Budget Office.

Member Myers asked if this is automatically continued as a sole source provider contract. Ms. Hart said this contract has been considered as part of the base state budget, but it would have to be renewed for the next two years.

In response to Member Frederick's question about the number of hits on the websites, Ms. Hart replied she would get that information to Dr. Rheault for distribution.

Ms. Hart indicated that the passing rates in Texas has improved from 76% to 91% since the state had been working with the GROW Network.

Member Gwaltney wondered if the GROW reports were replicating what was being done by the districts themselves. Ms. Hart replied that there are areas where the two complement each other with perhaps some cross-over. She added that many teachers liked the fact that data was already aggregated for them, and they liked the suggestions for activities which accompanied the statistics.

Member Iverson inquired about how GROW affects the individual district's responsibilities for reporting. He expressed concern that these activities are perhaps redundant and said he feels a program should add to what a school district was doing and not supplant those responsibilities. It was noted that the GROW reports were strictly on the standardized test scores and so would not replace the individual student reports districts are required to make.

Member Myers asked if GROW had recently surveyed teachers to determine if these reports are meeting their current needs. She said she was interested in learning the number of hits on the GROW websites, adding she feels perhaps teachers and parents are not using the GROW information and websites to any great degree since they can access much information otherwise.

Superintendent Rheault said the item is currently listed as one part of the budget enhancement request. Based upon discussions with LCB and the Budget Office, the Board will then need to determine if this was something they wanted to include in the Department's budget request.

Dotty Merrill, Washoe County School District, commented that both Washoe and Clark counties have embarked on the Instructional Data Management System. She said this system provides a way of reporting assessment results along with skill analysis and curriculum suggestions. She said this system has proven very effective in letting teachers know on an on-going basis where each student is rather than waiting until after the end of the year. She said student rosters for each class are available weekly along with each student's assessment. She noted that the GROW Network lets a teacher go on-line to obtain activities which will assist students at various levels. She stressed the two programs can be quite complementary in helping a teacher improve the performance of students.

Member Myers asked if Ms. Merrill had any statistics showing how often teachers were accessing GROW. Ms. Merrill said GROW has provided periodic updates about how many teachers are accessing the on-line resources.

Member Gwaltney noted that \$2,800,000 was quite a large budget amount and wondered how open GROW was to overhauling or fine tuning its mission based upon how it interfaced with other Nevada programs. Ms. Hart replied that GROW was open to discussing changes and adaptations which would more closely meet the current needs of the state.

President Ferry thanked Ms. Hart and Ms. Franke for their informative presentation.

7. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Rheault gave an update on the May 22-23, 2006 Commission on Educational Excellence meeting which reviewed applications for the \$5.9 million remaining for second-round funding under Senate Bill 404. He went over the priorities for funding: (1) schools that had applied the first round but did not receive any money, or schools that needed improvement but didn't apply (46 applications); (2) schools that applied but received less than 25% of their request (36 applications); (3) new schools; and (4) any other school who had not previously applied. He said 40 schools in the first priority received either full or partial funding totaling \$5.1 million. The committee was able to fund 11 schools from the second priority before the remaining \$800,000 funding ran out. These one-year grants will be effective July 1, 2006.

In response to Member Nolan's question, Superintendent Rheault indicated a Carson City school was mistakenly awarded first-round funds for activities not within their school improvement plan so they had returned the funds, but this error was rectified in the second round. Superintendent Rheault

replied to Member Waters question by saying there are requirements for assessing the success of the grants which are part of the legislation and the districts have contracted with an evaluator.

Member Waters indicated his displeasure with the placement of \$92 million in grant funds with an appointed group rather than the elected State Board of Education. He said he is concerned with the manner in which the evaluations might proceed and requested a summary of the process. Member Gwaltney agreed, saying he would like a neutral abstract of the test score results on these projects—did they go up and can they be attributed to the project.

It was noted that the districts have hired the Reeve's Group to evaluate the success of the projects, but there is an additional site-level evaluation funded from each grant which will use the state's progress monitoring reports.

Superintendent Rheault noted the Legislative Committee on Education (LCE) will be holding a work session in August for consideration of possible statutory change or funding for items brought before the Legislative Committee since October, 2005. He said the LCE has ten bill draft requests and noted some of these might include: K-12 accountability and monitoring; state school improvement plan; Senate Bill 404 funding; regional professional development; growth in school support teams; AYP profiles and state assessments; high school improvements plans; specific school curriculums such as Washoe County's Gateway; P-16 council; parental involvement; Indian Education; graduation requirements; high school dropouts; middle school promotion; academic standards and technology; and deaf education. He said he understands a recommendation for changes in the charter school legislation will be presented to LCE, but he has no specifics yet.

Superintendent Rheault noted he would make copies of the LCE minutes available to the Board as well as the LCE work session document when it becomes available in August.

He mentioned the LCE subcommittee on "Career and Technical Education High Schools" will also be holding a work session to review the following for possible recommendation: joint facilities and operations, regional technical/vocational centers and state-funded technology programs; program support and expansion; educational personnel; career advice and exploration; and accountability reporting for career and technical education.

Superintendent Rheault said he attended the Milken Educator Conference in Washington, D.C. along with Nevada's Milken winners.

He noted that on June 9 there will be the district court hearing on the Halima Academy Charter School revocation issue in Reno.

Member Nolan noted that information put out by the Career and Technical Education subcommittee indicated that within six months of graduation 98% of female graduates and 96% of male graduates had been employed. Member Myers added that a roundtable discussion with Chancellor Rogers pointed out the need for regional programs, particularly in the rural areas.

President Ferry recessed the meeting at 10:10 A.M. and reconvened it at 10:25 A.M.

8. Preliminary Nevada Department of Education Budget including Possible Enhancements

Douglas Thunder, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative & Fiscal Services, briefly went over the Distributive School Fund proposal, explaining that information from the school districts and charter schools has been requested. He noted he will be running a few alternatives including various percentages of salary increases.

He noted that the Department oversees about twenty-five different budgets, but focus will be primarily on those with state funds involved. He noted that funds coming from the federal government are expended pursuant to the federal guidelines for the particular program. He added that Nevada is

unique in that expenditure of federal funds must obtain Interim Finance Committee approval, often resulting in several months delay in implementing the programs.

He mentioned a 1970's statute limits growth in expenditures to inflation and population growth. He said the state's growth rate has slowed and inflation is now low, so there is a dilemma because even though revenues are up, there is a limit on what can be expended in the future.

Deputy Superintendent Thunder also explained the "two-times" rule prohibiting state agencies from requesting more general fund money than twice that appropriated in the second year of the biennium. He explained the Department of Education would be limited to about a \$400,000 increase going into the next biennium, excluding the Distributive School Fund and one-shot money.

He discussed the position requests in the budget document, stressing it was preliminary proposal.

The rationale for the first four new positions are because the math and English consultants have been so involved with assessment and other requirements they have had little time for the duties for which they were hired.

The positions in the licensing office are because of proposed changes in the Las Vegas Office. He said additional positions have been included to respond to specific requests: school nursing, gifted and talented, parent involvement, foreign language, assessment of special populations, and, if the Commission on Excellence is continued, positions for elementary and secondary education and grants and projects analyst, and two support positions.

He continued that based upon Legislative decisions concerning the requirement that the Department oversee school improvement, up to ten additional positions could be requested. He noted the three positions listed would be needed if Department of Education suggestions are followed. He said a third option of one additional staff member plus an enhancement of \$20-25,000 each for contracting with professional staff to take school improvement team leadership duties.

Deputy Superintendent Thunder continued to explain how the Department of Education's reliance on informational technology has mushroomed over the past 8-10 years, with computer servers increasing from none to over 30 and the addition of several significant computer-related programs. As a result, an additional five positions are requested. He said various budgets now supported technology efforts and suggested the possibility of establishing a separate office and budget for Informational Technology Services.

He said there is not a realistic chance of adding eighteen positions, so prioritizing will be required.

He said several positions should be upgraded, noting that recruiting auditors is difficult under the current pay scale compared to other state agencies. He said the duties assigned to support level positions in the Assessments Office and to the Indian Education Consultant were also requested to be upgraded.

He continued to explain that several positions are currently paid from the indirect cost account and the Department recommends these be supported by State funding, and there are several director level positions and accompanying support positions paid partially by budget accounts having little or nothing to do with the responsibilities.

He noted several other possible enhancements to include upgrading the Las Vegas office phone system, upgrading video-conferencing capabilities, increasing support for Occupational Education by \$7.2 million, transferring \$1.4 million support for GROW Network from LCB to NDE, initial cost of \$600,000 to set up an on-line computer system for high school assessments, and funding for School Improvement leadership to include positions described earlier.

In response to Member Myers question, Deputy Superintendent Thunder replied that transferring responsibility for GROW would create an additional burden on the Department.

Superintendent Rheault explained that school superintendents supported placing the senior proficiency tests on-line in order to get results as quick as two days, but would like a pilot program for the 2007 summer test to allow administration of a paper test should a problem be encountered. He said a number of states are doing this.

Member Myers requested a Public Information Officer be placed on the “wish list.” Superintendent Rheault said he understands Assemblywoman Smith will be discussing the public information aspect of the Parent Involvement Consultant position with the LCE, so perhaps this might include a Public Information Officer.

Deputy Superintendent Thunder explained a task force of district representatives is looking at the distribution formula for the Distributive School Account to be ready in case the ACR10 committee makes suggestions for changes.

Member Gwaltney asked about the status of the NDE building. Deputy Superintendent Thunder explained plans similar to the new Richard H. Bryan Building will be presented to the Public Works Board, but he doubts anything will occur before the 2009 session.

Member Frederick asked if the building would be adequate if new positions were approved and how would this affect the Las Vegas Office. Deputy Superintendent Thunder explained future needs have been taken into account. He said there are currently no plans for additional buildings in Las Vegas, but the Department is looking at acquiring additional leased space, perhaps even the entire second floor. Superintendent Rheault added the Department is looking into the possibility of relocating the licensing office into an additional 1,200 sq. ft. space near the elevator.

Deputy Superintendent Thunder replied to Member Nolan’s question by indicating licensing fees were increased six or eight years ago and another increase is needed to maintain the budget. He said the last legislature requested a reserve in that account of at least \$80,000 and currently the reserve is zero.

Member Nolan wondered if an upgrade to the Board assistant position would facilitate recruitment and retention.

9. Public Hearing on NAC 389—Content Standards for Mathematics

This item was cancelled.

10. Proposed Standards for Supplemental Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Education Programs

Member Waters distributed a handout and described major changes being proposed to the suggested language for these standards. He said if people are going to be doing mental health screenings, surveys, assessments, questionnaires or other activities in the public schools they would have to be in alignment with State Board of Education health education standards, in compliance with district curriculum frameworks, and in compliance with local district policies, regulations and administrative procedures. He said the standards and criteria for selection of any form of mental health inventory or assessment would be developed by the Nevada Department of Education in conjunction with local districts and teachers and would provide for public input. This would help assure that invalid, unproven or questionable methods or materials would not be used in the public schools. He said the Nevada Mental Health Consortium is in support of having some state standards, as are mental health practitioners. This would assure that students are receiving valid information. He added that health teachers and school nurses would still be able to select their own materials so long as these materials meet the standards.

Superintendent Rheault clarified the action item today is merely for the Board to decide if it wishes to go forward with the regulation adoption process. If the Board approves the wording, this proposal will then be submitted to Legislative Counsel Bureau for development of official language and then it

will come before the Board for final action through a public hearing. There was agreement that the last sentence should be changed to read, "...inventory with which public schools, districts and teachers shall use with students."

Joe Enge, EdWatch Nevada, distributed a handout from the Center for Health and Learning. Member Waters clarified that he had promoted this Center in order to connect concepts of learning and achievement with student health issues. Under the Clark County Health District's program, the idea was to offer voluntary approved mental health assessments to those who wanted it with written parental approval.

President Ferry said public comment at this time is premature and there will be ample time for concerns to be expressed at a later date. After several questions pertaining to what could be deliberated under a "discussion" item, President Ferry said legal counsel advised if any specific organization was not posted on the agenda in order to allow all interested parties to be present, it should not be discussed. All comments should pertain to the specific agenda item, in this case the one-page description of proposed standards for supplemental mental health and suicide prevention programs.

Mr. Enge asked that the relationship between the Department of Education, Board of Education and non-profit groups be clarified. It was noted that the Board did not approve non-profit organizations. Member Waters said he would be pleased to meet outside the Board to answer many of the questions posed by Mr. Enge, since these could not be addressed by the Board at this time. Legal counsel noted there is no problem with a member of the Board speaking individually with a member of the public.

Sheila Ward, Carson City, said there are concerns regarding parental involvement. She distributed information pertaining to the dangers of anti-depressives and psycho-tropic drugs, noting they can actually cause dangerous or suicidal behavior in otherwise normal people, particularly minors.

Annie Rees, Carson City, said she has eight children ranging in age from 36 down to 12-year-old twins. She indicated she had experience with mental health issues in the schools since one son had a bi-polar condition and another does take anti-depressants. She stressed that parents must be involved at every level, but many cannot for various reasons. She encouraged parental education on the various issues, as many may not be aware of the issues and will go along with what is suggested even though it may not be appropriate for a particular child.

11. Status Update on Nevada's Assessment and Adequate Yearly Progress System

Dr. Paul LaMarca, Assistant Deputy Superintendent, provided a brief overview of the assessment handout. He noted that high school proficiency exams in reading, math and writing were administered in November, February, March and May of this school year, with another to be administered in July. There are criterion-based tests in grades 3-8 in reading and math and science in grades 5 and 8. Writing assessments in grades 5 and 8 are norm-referenced, all administered in the spring.

He said this year was the best in several in terms of logistics of test administration, with efficiencies in the way materials are handled drastically improved over last year.

He said the score reports, which are required by No Child Left Behind, have been improved to provide trend information for school improvement teams, as well as more comparative information and the ranges of performance relative to students just meeting the proficiency standards, along with some help in identifying strengths and weaknesses. He said recommendations from educators across the state regarding various achievement levels will be brought before the Board in August for adoption of test scores in grades 4, 6 and 7 in reading and math.

He referred to the cross-sectional trend reports for years 2002 to 2006 for various sub-populations. He said these charts show the students who are at or above standard. He noted modest increases in

performance, but said there are also decreases. He said African-American, Hispanic and Native American students continue scoring below state averages, while Asian and White students score well above. This disparity in performance continues to be a concern.

Regarding AYP, Dr. LaMarca summarized that by the end of June all preliminary designations will be submitted to schools and districts, which opens the appeal window for negative classifications which will be reviewed and determined by August 1. He has no specifics for 2006 yet, but based on 2005 it is anticipated that about 18 schools will be identified as in the 4th year of “in need of improvement (INOI),” 100 may be in the “3rd year of INOI,” and approximately 50% of all Nevada schools will be in their “1st year of INOI. He noted the enormous pressure that will be placed upon the NDE in terms of required school support teams.

He said in 2007 he expects there will be an upswing in numbers and percentages of designated schools, with perhaps 96 becoming 4th year INOI. He said three districts are currently in INOI status, but he doesn’t feel more will be added. The inclusion of grades 4, 6 and 7 in the model and the increase in sub-population comparisons which will be made, together with a 2008 federally required increase in the state’s annual measurable objectives will result in a significant jump in numbers and percentages in 2008 and 2009.

He said nine requests for changes to the system were submitted to the Federal government after working with a subcommittee established by the school superintendents association. He said the only approval was for the continued use of the 2% special education flexibility clause. He added that a proposal to introduce a growth component into the state’s AYP model should be reviewed sometime this summer.

Dr. LaMarca added that the federal government is requiring Nevada to use results of grade 4, 6 and 7 reading and math scores as part of the 2006 AYP classification, but Nevada didn’t intend to do this because of the statutory timing associated with the AYP reporting and the adoption of grade 4, 6 and 7 cut scores. A final decision is expected shortly.

Member Myers inquired about the state standards in relation to the test scores and AYP. Dr. LaMarca said Nevada’s standards are close to national standards. Member Myers asked if there was any attempt to move away from the Norm Referenced Test (NRT), as teachers feel this is just another test that doesn’t average in. Dr. LaMarca said the NRT does provide some validation and he doesn’t think there is any appetite to do away with it.

Member Gwaltney suggested that trend lines be projected further into the future for presentation to the Legislature and he asked if the norms are moving in relation to a national rise in standards. He said if the average is changing, then it is difficult to determine Nevada’s actual performance. Dr. LaMarca said once full assessment information comes in it should be possible to give a more precise trend report. He noted future projections would involve more staff time but he would be pleased to work with Member Gwaltney on this.

Member Iverson discussed the lack of precision of norm-referenced tests, and how they interfaced with curriculum and standards. Dr. LaMarca said a statute required the Department look at NAEP results; if there is a difference of more than 10% compared to CRT performance, NDE must explain why and modify standards. He said NAEP can be used as a validation tool to see if disparities on state tests also show up on NAEP, but this cannot be precise, as the curricula in states vary so much.

12. Indian Education Programs in Nevada

Superintendent Rheault referred to the draft report on Indian Education information which had been discussed at the April meeting. He went through the State Accountability Report, explaining the data gives state, district, school, grade level, and charter school breakdowns and provides information on percentages as well as ethnicity for enrollment, ADA, class size, graduation and dropout rates,

transiency rates, test results, and district comparisons. He explained the data could be searched to make a variety of comparisons or to locate a specific type of data. He noted this information is available on the NDE website.

Superintendent Rheault described the draft report "Status of American Indian Students in Nevada – 2005" prepared by Lisa Grayshield, past NDE Indian Education Consultant, noting it provided a good historical document that can be a basis for an action plan. He suggested NDE would meet with the districts, the Nevada Indian Commission and the tribes, and once accurate data has been obtained, the action plan can be developed to show what programs work and how to address achievement gaps.

Richard Harjo, Nevada Indian Commission, said historically Native American students have not done well in the school system and even though there have been numerous meetings of a task force and discussions with the State Board, little progress has been made toward developing a specific plan to help. He referenced the unique programs at Pyramid Lake School which will be explained in depth at the upcoming August Board retreat. Sherry Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission, agreed with Mr. Harjo and indicated that the recommendations in Ms. Grayshield's report would assist in moving forward.

In response to Member Iverson's statement that Superintendent Rheault had indicated an action plan will be developed, Mr. Harjo said he hoped the Board would establish a timeline giving a specific start date for beginning work on the action plan. Discussion noted that the action plan itself would contain various benchmarks based upon the content of the approved plan.

Member Gwaltney indicated many things now being tried are not proving successful and requested input of new creative ideas.

Member Frederick suggested the Board invite Duckwater as well as Pyramid Lake to the retreat. She said information from the Chief State School Officers Indian education committee could provide good information on successful models in other states.

Member Iverson said there needs to be a specific statement of how this action plan will be developed and who will be involved.

Mr. Harjo emphasized that input from the Indian community was vital. He noted the Nevada Indian Commission will be meeting in July and he will invite all interested parties to attend, including the University and Department of Education.

Member Myers said she feels many of the items cited in Ms. Grayshield's report are not clear. She added that BIA schools are not required to report test scores, so evaluation is difficult. She said she would like to know which schools were actually successful, what are they doing specifically, for how long, and how long was it before they saw a positive impact on test scores. She added that collaborative efforts of all interested parties, as well as consideration of cultural issues, is very important, and hopes the Indian community can relate specifically what outcomes it would like to see in any action plan.

Superintendent Rheault noted there were three applicants for the Indian Education Consultant position; all have been interviewed and following background checks it was determined not to offer the position to any of the three. He said the job has been re-posted. Member Myers said the job description needs to be more specific by including the outcomes expected.

President Ferry suggested the action plan and the job description might be two items for discussion at the July Nevada Indian Commission meeting.

13. Approval of Dual Credit Courses for Nevada State High School

Superintendent Rheault explained that Nevada State High School is requesting approval of dual credits with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He explained these are the same as approved for

the Clark County School District, with the exception of requests for course 190-Bartending and course 225-Introduction to Gaming Management. He noted approval has already been granted for courses through Nevada State College.

Following brief discussion surrounding the high school core courses of Math 95, 96 and English 98, the following motion was made by Member Frederick, seconded by Member Nolan:

That the Nevada State Board of Education approve the list of courses requested from Nevada State High School for dual credit courses at the University of Nevada Las Vegas with the exception of the following: Course #190-Bartending, offered by the Food and Beverage Department; Course #225-Introduction to Gaming, offered by the Hotel Management Department; Math 95 and 96; and English 98.

The motion passed unanimously.

14. Update on the Curriculum Alignment Task Force and the Apple Initiative Task Force Meetings

CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT TASK FORCE

Member Myers provided an overview of the June 2, 2006 Curriculum Alignment Task Force meeting (refer to attached minutes).

In response to her request, Superintendent Rheault said he will look into the possibility of having all members of this group meet at one location.

Member Myers said the task force is attempting to determine if there might be a specific way (such as the observation or evaluation form) to determine exactly how classroom instructional strategies are affecting students with regard to the curriculum standards.

She said the Task Force has reviewed responses from districts on how they deal with standards at the classroom level. She noted some states do this through their teacher evaluation process. She said Task Force members will be providing the evaluation and observation forms from their districts. She said they discussed whether it might be possible to link instructional strategies and student achievement to the professional development for recertification.

She thought meeting with the Professional Standards Commission might be important at some time in the future. She said they will ask for a presentation from Clark County on interim assessments. Dotty Merrill, Washoe County School District, said she would provide information on the PACE curriculum to Board members.

Member Iverson noted that Clark County schools require tying lesson plans to the standards. He added the accountability procedures which are applied to students also need to be applied to teachers. He emphasized that standards, instructional methods, testing and professional development all need to be aligned. He added that the “have-nots” are very dependent upon the schools teaching the curriculum standards if they are to test well, while the “haves” can access other sources, such as computers, trips and the like. He said it is critical that the curriculum standards are actually being taught well.

Joe Enge, EdWatch Nevada, said it is important to look at results and identify gaps, noting that No Child Left Behind may be resulting in the de-emphasis of content in the effort to raise test scores.

APPLE INITIATIVE TASK FORCE

Member Nolan gave an overview of the Apple Initiative Task Force meeting on June 2, 2006 (refer to attached minutes). She noted the half-hour provided was not sufficient for the group to discuss their agenda items effectively. Margaret Bird, Utah Department of Education, had been prepared with a power point presentation she was unable to use and had to shorten her comments considerably.

She requested Board approval of attendance at the conference of the Children's Land Alliance and the Sale of Federal Lands in Sheridan, Wyoming, in July. She also asked for Board approval of membership in this group should the Task Force wish this following attendance at the conference.

She referred to HR3463, the Gibbons-Bishop bill, and said they would like to recommend communicating to Nevada's Senators to see if they would like to sign on to a companion bill proposed by Senator Hatch.

She discussed recent information about the release of revenue from public land sales in Nevada, approximately \$2.7 billion since 1999, mainly due to Las Vegas growth. She asked about looking into the possibility of requesting that these public land funds be utilized entirely within the state for education purposes.

Legal counsel advised these items could be placed on a future agenda, but this agenda is not specific enough to allow action by the Board at this time. It was agreed that the Superintendent had the authority to consider the travel request.

15. Board Member Comments

Member Frederick referred to the program on the "Ready for Life Initiative" which was aired by KLAS TV in Las Vegas and said she could make copies of the CD available to Board members who wished to view the program. She noted she had attended the "Gear-Up" conference pertaining to encouraging high school students to attend college and mentoring them while in college. She also attended University System Chancellor Rogers' educational meeting in Las Vegas, which discussed alternative routes to licensure. She said the Chancellor indicated UNR has more partnerships developing with the school districts than does UNLV.

Member Iverson noted that he, Members Reid and Gwaltney and President Ferry will be meeting soon with Senator Hardy, who is willing to draft a bill regarding educational governance. He said he hopes information can be gathered to support the position for governance change.

Superintendent Rheault said there is an updated list of membership for all the various commissions and committees so any overlap can be seen.

Member Iverson distributed his "alignment grid," explaining that teachers who are teaching the curriculum standards very well should be reinforced; those who are teaching the curriculum but are not teaching them well should be trained; those who are not teaching the standards, but who teach well also need training; but those who are not teaching the curriculum standards and also doing a poor job need to be fired.

Member Nolan said she also had attended the "Gear-Up" conference, noting this group is getting good support from the business community. She said she will be attending a study group on civics education in Washington, DC to discuss various approaches to civics education. She added she attended the "Mega-Conference" and noted the awards which recognized Nevada schools. She also mentioned information from the International Center for Leadership in Education showing the relationship between education, the business world, and globalization.

Deputy Superintendent Dopf indicated the Department has a link on its website to the schools which were recognized at the Mega-Conference.

Member Myers referred to the previous day's discussion of gifted and talented programs (GATE), noting that quite a few people opt out of the programs. She mentioned a roundtable with the Chancellor and said they discussed the roles of the community college and the university system with respect to NDE.

She noted a story in Education Week about a study by the National Teacher Board Certification process which could not demonstrate they had made any difference in student achievement. She

added the study is now available, but it has been held for a year. She cautioned that National Teacher Board certification, often used as a justification for salary increases, may not actually result in better student performance.

She posed her “helpful list,” including such items as starting on time, having a Board secretary, having functioning video equipment, and the importance of having more than just a quorum for each meeting.

Member Gwaltney cited an editorial in the Reno newspaper concerning Regent Rosenberg’s defense of the K-12 budget. Member Gwaltney intends to attend the Regent’s meeting, as he feels this is in a spirit of cooperation between the Board of Education and the Board of Regents. He thanked the Superintendent for having the presentation on the testing program and hopes this can be done on a regular schedule. He stressed the importance of moving forward on the governance issue.

Member Waters said the Commission on Secondary Education continues to look at the standards for accreditation, noting some problems with the quality of some on-line degree programs. He also said he is quite interested in the federal lands issue and would like to work with Member Nolan on this. He added he would like to continue working with Joe Enge of EdWatch on several issues.

President Ferry noted he had presented a Robert Byrd award at Elko High School ceremonies, and he will be attending Battle Mountain and Spring Creek High School awards ceremonies, as well as being graduation speaker for Spring Creek High School. Board members gave him much “tongue-in-cheek” advice.

16. Informational Presentation Regarding the Technology Counts 2006 Report for Nevada

Superintendent Rheault gave a brief overview of the recently published Education Week Technology Counts 2006 Report. He said Nevada had unfortunately been graded last in the nation, with a D-. He said the difference between a “C” and a “D” came down to whether the state tested students on technology, whether it had a virtual school and whether the state used computer-based assessments. He said there is a need to have more students with computers at home. He also said many of the items came down to how priorities were set for the use of scarce resources.

17. Future Agenda Items

President Ferry said the agenda will include the budget and recommendations for any new positions, along with updated information on assessment and on mental health. He added the Board retreat will consider presentations from Duckwater and Pyramid Lake and will discuss the governance issue. Superintendent Rheault advised a dinner for retiring Deputy Superintendent Thunder will be held in Carson City the evening prior to the retreat.

18. Public Comments

Frank Schnorbus, Nevada Home School Advisory Council, distributed two handouts. The first is a letter from Carl Lucas, President of the Nevada Home School Advisory Council, requesting that the Special Education Advisory Council work with the Home School Advisory Council and other interested parties regarding the development of draft regulations to implement Federal law.

He added since home schooling has grown considerably, they would like to request the State Board establish a position on the Special Education Advisory Council for a home schooling representative. In response to a question about the Nevada Home School Network, Mr. Schnorbus indicated he and Carl Lucas were both members of this group, and it does support the position request.

He discussed the document on home school responsibilities developed by the Northern and Southern Home School Advisory Councils, noting it complies with recent changes in the laws and regulations governing home schooled children.

He hoped the State Board will direct that this document be made available to all Nevada school districts. He said district representatives have indicated how helpful the draft versions of this document were. He noted it answers most of the questions which arise with regard to home schooled students and provides necessary forms.

Mr. Schnorbus said there is general consensus that home school people generally don't wish to be involved in public education, but there are a number of programs, especially in the special education area, where they are entitled to federal funding and services. The state can supplement the funds should it wish, but some districts feel they are required by federal law to provide services even to parents who do not wish them.

President Ferry said he found this document helpful in explaining the law. The Board agreed they would consider action on these items at the next meeting.

Joe Enge requested that the Board consider for action at its next meeting the potential development of a high school proficiency exam in civics and in world and United States history. He added he will be approaching the Interim Committee on Education with this request as well. Superintendent Rheault said this has been discussed previously, but there is nothing currently in statute or regulation.

President Ferry said he is reluctant to require more tests and feels more information is needed before the matter can be scheduled as an action item.

19. Adjournment

Upon motion of Member Waters, seconded by Member Frederick, the Nevada State Board of Education meeting was adjourned at 2:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Approved by:

Dr. Cliff Ferry, President, Nevada State Board of Education/
Nevada State Board for Career and Technical Education

Transcribed by:

Mary Bean, Temporary Minutes Clerk to the Nevada State Board of Education/
Nevada State Board for Career and Technical Education