

# Nevada Department Of Education

## Nevada Commission on Mentoring

Friday, January 20, 2023

2:00 PM

Office	Mode	Platform
Department of Education	Teleconference/Livestream	Zoom

### SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING

#### 1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance, and Land Acknowledgement:

Chair Catarata called the meeting to order on Friday, January 20, 2023 at 2:06 p.m. and wished all Commissioners a Happy New Year.

Vice-Chair Membreno conducted a roll call. **Quorum was established** (7 Members present).

#### Commission Members Present:

Chair Karl Catarata  
Vice Chair Katie Membreno  
Michael Flores  
Michael Maxwell  
Dr. Douglas Garner  
Laura Davidson  
Brigid Duffy

#### Commission Members Absent:

Sebastian Cardenas

#### Others Present:

Rose Cota, NDE Staff

Chair Karl Catarata led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance and acknowledged, recognized, and appreciated the land.

#### 2. Public Comment #1

Chair Karl Catarata opened the floor for public comment.

Ms. Marshall indicated her desire to come before the Commission to determine the possibility of opportunities for members of the community to become involved with NCOM.

Chair Catarata thanked Ms. Marshall and requested that she provide her contact information in the chat in order for Chair Catarata to contact her regarding her request.

Chair Catarata acknowledged Commissioner Flores and Jess de Lalo (phonetic) from DOE and thanked them for attending today's meeting.

There was no additional public comment.

### **3. Approval of Flexible Agenda**

The Commission **did acquire quorum** and therefore could vote on approval for any objective in this meeting.

**Motion:** Approve Flexible Agenda

**By:** Karl Catarata

**Second:** Douglas Garner

**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

### **4. Welcome and Introduction (Mission Statement)**

Vice Chair Katie Membreno wished the Commissioners a Happy New Year and thanked them for attending today's meeting. Vice Chair Membreno noted that this meeting does consist of a significant amount of information as discussion regarding funding and the grants workshop needed to be addressed. In addition, Vice Chair Membreno noted that today would include a discussion on appointments given that some terms are coming to an end.

Chair Karl Catarata thanked the Vice Chair for chairing the previous meeting and informed the Commission that he would have more updates under Agenda Item 6.

### **5. Approval of NCOM November 18, and December 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Vice Chair Katie Membreno called for any corrections to the meeting minutes from November 18.

**Motion:** Approve November 18, 2022 NCOM Meeting Minutes

**By:** Katie Membreno

**Second:** Brigid Duffy

**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

Vice Chair Katie Membreno called for any corrections to the meeting minutes from December 22.

**Motion:** Approve Meeting Minutes

**By:** Karl Catarata

**Second:** Douglas Garner

**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

## **6. Chair's Report:**

Chair Karl Catarata informed the Commission that there is a new governor and administration but that Superintendent would remain in place.

Chair Karl Catarata informed the Commission that Dr. Douglas Garner will be retiring from his role as Commissioner for NCOM. Chair Catarata commended Dr. Garner for his continuous advocacy for change, for ensuring that NCOM has the necessary tools and leadership to move forward in its work, and for helping in the grant approval process with an end result of NCOM granting out \$25,000 among many different organizations.

Dr. Douglas Garner indicated his honor at having had the opportunity to serve on NCOM. Dr. Garner discussed the conversation he had many years ago with NCOM founder Tyrone Thompson, who included both Dr. Garner, Dr. Maxwell, and Mr. Flores as founding members of the NCOM Board. Dr. Garner assured the Commission that he did not intend to walk away from NCOM entirely, but rather wished to make space for new minds, new thought processes, and new ideas.

Chair Karl Catarata informed the Board of his intent to propose an Emeritus title for Dr. Garner in the future to ensure that Dr. Garner's wisdom and talent is retained for the work of the Board.

Dr. Douglas Garner commended the Commissioners with whom he's worked for many years, noting that the Commission has been a family to him. Dr. Garner indicated his pride at being able to say that he had the chance to walk the earth during the time of Tyrone Thompson.

Chair Karl Catarata opened to floor to any Commissioners wishing to recognize and celebrate Dr. Garner and his farewell testimony.

Commissioner Brigid Duffy commented on the closeness she has shared in working with Dr. Garner and indicated that she will miss working with him.

Dr. Laura Davidson informed Dr. Garner that she will miss both him and his granddaughter at future meetings, noting that it has been a pleasure to work with Dr. Garner and commended the wisdom and insight he brings to the table.

Rose Cota, NDE, commented that although she understands the idea of a new concept and bringing in new people, she also believes in balance and experience and as such, requested that Dr. Garner reconsider his resignation and remain on the Board so as to continue to provide that wisdom and balance to NCOM.

Mr. Michael Flores indicated his gratitude for Dr. Garner's mentorship, guidance, hard work in transforming the community, and especially Dr. Garner's investment of time throughout his career in so many young men in need of mentorship. Mr. Flores indicated his belief that Tyrone Thompson is looking down from heaven with pride to see that this work is still continuing and that the memory of his work has been kept alive.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno noted her sadness at seeing Dr. Garner step down, highlighting the amount of work he has done for the Commission, his impact on all members of the Board, and the guidance and leadership he has provided personally to the Vice Chair. Vice Chair Membreno commended Dr. Garner for helping her to remain persistent in the work and have hope overall that NCOM could do great things, to keep the dream of the Commission going, and to continue to assist the community.

Chair Karl Catarata thanked Dr. Garner for his time and perseverance with NCOM from the beginning and all the way through the years.

Dr. Michael Maxwell provided his commentary via chat.

Chair Karl Catarata informed the Commission that he will work with Dr. Garner on what exiting the Commission will look like, the forthcoming Emeritus status, and expressed his gratitude to Dr. Garner for his service to the Commission, his work, and for all of the amazing things that he has been able to do to assist the Commission in its work.

a. Annual Report

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that the Board does need to work on the annual report and explained that he will be sending out a deadline for Commissioners to provide a capture of where mentorship is right now in the state prior to transmitting the information to the legislature. Chair Catarata informed the Commission that he has not seen any BDRs specifically towards Boards or Commissions but has seen one for the Constitution of the State of Nevada. Chair Catarata listed some of the successes of NCOM over the last year, including 85-90 percent total of quorum for Commission meetings; effectiveness; time-efficient; working properly within OML; and working with one another to respect Nevada's laws to be effective for the children in the state. As such, Chair Catarata thanked Commission members for being timely, being present, and reiterated his goal to always try to keep meetings to 45 minutes so as to save time and taxpayer dollars.

Chair Karl Catarata next discussed the \$50,000 for granting out to mentorship organizations. Chair Catarata discussed the opportunities he's had to network with other Chairs and Vice Chairs of other Commissions on local, municipal, and statewide Commissions and Boards. Chair Catarata informed the Commission that some of these Boards have indicated to him that they do not feel as if they're delivering to the community and expressed his gratitude for all NCOM members in seeing through the \$25,000 grant process in the fall as well as for the plan to grant out the remaining \$25,000 moving forward.

Chair Karl Catarata reminded the Commission of the work they still need to do with organizations mentoring students and children in the state.

Chair Karl Catarata concluded this agenda item by informing the Board that the annual report is still being processed and will be transmitted to Commissioners in a timely manner, after which he will meet one-on-one under the rules of OML to make any necessary edits.

## 7. NCOM Development updates:

### Selection of Grants Committee for Vote

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that subcommittee members are responsible for making the recommendations to all members of NCOM of subcommittee decisions, after which the entire body will vote. Chair Catarata explained that the subcommittee will be responsible for creating a competitive grants process and recommending nominees to receive such grants to NCOM at the April meeting.

#### a. Grant Funds Workshop

Rose Cota reminded the Board that the workshops do need to be put together for the purpose of better informing the mentoring communities about the application process. Ms. Cota informed the Commissioners that once they have discussed and scheduled the workshops, she can then provide more guidance regarding the money that will be allocated to the community, the applications/applicants, and NCOM's decision to grant the fund.

Dr. Douglas Garner asked about the deadline on dispersing the funds.

Rose Cota indicated her belief that the deadline is the end of the fiscal year in June but noted the importance of having plenty of time to reach out to the community, as well as to go through the entire grant process.

Dr. Douglas Garner clarified that he was asking about the previous allocation of funds and questioned if those had already been dispersed.

Rose Cota indicated that those that were decided had been completed and that she would check with leadership at NDE to see if any updates had been provided to NCOM regarding that disbursement of funds.

Chair Karl Catarata suggested, in terms of action steps, that the Commission move forward in terms of figuring out the timing of the grant workshop, figuring out when the subcommittee meetings will take place so as to begin determining the timeline/application process, and afterward moving forward with the grant approval process. Chair Catarata indicated his desire to see Commissioners in person at some point and suggested the possibility of doing a check presentation in person. Chair Catarata further discussed the importance of engaging stakeholders in this process.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno concurred and indicated that she will share the Commission's asset map again following the meeting, noting that if each member reached out to five organizations, the word could begin to get out about the upcoming grant process and workshops.

Rose Cota reminded the Commission that they had agreed to the first Friday of every month for subcommittee meetings and then third Friday of every month for the regular NCOM meetings.

Chair Karl Catarata requested that Rose Cota provide a reminder with the dates so as to communicate them out to the community and engage public support.

Rose Cota indicated that she would do so.

Commissioner Brigid Duffy requested a copy of the grant requirements via email from Rose Cota. Rose Cota indicated that she would send all the requested materials along with the placeholder for upcoming meetings for Commissioners' calendars.

Dr. Douglas Garner reiterated the importance of reaching out to previous applicants.

Chair Karl Catarata concurred.

Rose Cota asked for confirmation that Vice Chair Membreno would working on the asset map and requested to be kept in the loop so as to put together all of the information.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno indicated that this was correct and that she would share this out with Ms. Cota.

Rose Cota reiterated Dr. Garner's point of ensuring that previous applicants who were not chosen for whatever reason in the last grant process should be bumped up on the asset map so as to provide them ample time to work on this grant process moving forward.

Chair Karl Catarata concurred.

## **8. Agenda Item Considerations**

Chair Karl Catarata indicated the importance of ensuring that NCOM is continually bringing new voices into its spaces as well as keeping wisdom and knowledge in place so as to preserve and protect the Commission's interests. As such, the Chair suggested proposing candidates for the Commission as an agenda item consideration. Chair Catarata asked those in attendance to provide him with the names of any qualified, well-voiced members of the community who would be interested in being a part of the Commission, noting that along with Dr. Garner's soon-to-be-vacated position, another vacant position existed on the Commission. Chair Catarata informed the Commission that the two candidates put for request for appointment last year were denied acceptance by the previous administration.

Vice Chair Membreno suggested adding an agenda item for discussion about what takes place at the February 3 subcommittee meeting so as to provide a possibility of bringing up action items and moving forward. The Vice Chair further indicated her desire to include a section for an update of the outreach taking place by members.

There were no additional suggestions.

## **9. Public Comment #2**

Chair Karl Catarata opened the floor to public comment.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated a typo on the agenda, noting that "minute" should read "minutes."

There was no additional public comment.

## **10. Adjournment**

Chair Karl Catarata adjourned the meeting. 2:53 pm.