



# STATEWIDE COUNCIL FOR THE COORDINATION OF THE REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS

**TUESDAY APRIL 13, 2021  
11:00 A.M.**

## **Meeting Location**

Due to the circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Statewide Council for the Coordination of the Regional Professional Development Programs met via videoconference. In accordance with Governor Sisolak's State of Emergency [Directive 021 \(subsection 37\)](#), no physical location was designated for this meeting. The meeting was livestreamed on the [Nevada Department of Education Website](#).

## SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

### **MEMBERS PRESENT via videoconference**

Adam Young  
Brent Husson  
Wayne Workman  
Pam Teel  
Wendi Hawk

### **DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT via videoconference**

Sarah Nick, Management Analyst, Office of the Superintendent  
KellyLynn Charles, Education Programs Professional, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement  
Arina Kazemi, Administrative Assistant, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement

### **LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:**

David Gardner; Senior Deputy Attorney General

### **AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE via videoconference**

Brian Myli, Vice President of Leadership & Innovation, Public Education Foundation  
Chelli Smith, Director Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program  
Grant Hanevold, Vice President of Leadership and Strategic Design, Public Education Foundation  
Sarah Negrete, Director Northeastern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program  
Sara Cunningham, Director Northwestern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program  
Jamie Chazen, Director of Grants and Community Impact, Public Education Foundation  
Jerrad Barczynszyn, Assistant Director Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program  
Marjorie Conner, Deputy Executive Director Nevada Association of School Administrators  
Jeffrey J Geihls, Executive Director Nevada Association of School Administrators

Shawna Jessen, Principal, Grant Bowler Elementary School, Clark County School District  
Deborah Fredrich, Principal, Lowman Elementary School, Clark County School District  
Jeremy Hauser, Senior Vice President of Transformational Leadership, Public Education Foundation  
Dan Lediard, Assistant Principal, O'Brian STEM Academy, Washoe County School District

### **1: CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting of the Statewide Council for the Coordination of the Regional Training Programs Council was called to order at 11:09 A.M. by Chair Young. Quorum was established. Chair Young led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Young moved to Agenda Item #2.

### **2: PUBLIC COMMENT #1**

Chair Young asked Ms. Charles if public comments had been submitted. Ms. Charles answered that no public comment was submitted.

Chair Young moved to Agenda Item #3.

### **3: APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 2, 2021**

Chair Young explained that the minutes were included in the supplemental materials and sent to members of the Council. He then asked if there was a motion.

**Member Workman motioned to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Member Teel. No discussion. Motion carried.**

Chair Young moved to Agenda Item #4.

### **4: BUDGETS AND BUDGET AMENDMENTS PURSUANT TO NRS 391A.130**

Chair Young noted there were budget amendments submitted from SNRPDP, NWRPDP, and The Public Education Foundation (PEF). He asked if there were any questions from RPDP Directors or for the PEF. There were no questions from committee members.

**Member Workman motioned to approve the Budget Amendments pursuant to NRS 391A.130. Seconded by Member Husson. No further discussions. Motion carried.**

Chair Young moved to Agenda Item #5.

### **5: SENATE BILL (SB)76 PRESENTATION**

Sarah Nick, Management Analyst, Office of the Superintendent, Department of Education gave a brief overview of SB 76 of the 81<sup>st</sup> (2021) Legislative Session. She stated Nevada Department of Education (NDE) was able to collaborate with members of Nevada Association of School Superintendents (NASS), including some members of the Statewide Council for RPDPs as well as RPDPs themselves regarding an amendment to Senate Bill 76 which was passed on the Senate Committee on Education last week in time for the first committee deadline. Senate Bill (SB) 76 as originally introduced had absorbed the duties of the statewide RPDP council as well as the original governing bodies. Based on passage last week at the Senate Committee, the Department of Education supplied two amendments. Ms. Nick

summarized the changes and stated the information is available online at [SB 76, NELIS](#), the public session tracking website.

Ms. Nick stated the first amendment restored the three school districts as the fiscal agents of RPDPs and also made a language change that RPDPs are eligible to serve charter schools. Ms. Nick emphasized the RPDPs already do a great job serving charter schools, so this change is to put those practices in statute. She thanked to Ms. Smith and the other RPDP directors for their great work and for the statutory changes to make sure those types of best practices will continue going forward.

The second amendment was submitted by the Department and passed by the Senate Committee on Education last week. It restores control of the RPDPs to the local governing bodies, but NDE would serve in capacity of Statewide Council for the Coordination of Regional Training Programs. The decision to put forward the amendment was made after NASS and the superintendents were able to come in and review the bill. The work session document, which includes all the items to the amendments to SB 76, as well as the Department submitted are all available on [NELIS](#). Ms. Nick thanked Chair Young and Ms. Charles for the opportunity to present this bill to the Council.

Chair Young stated this item is for information/discussion and asked members of the Council if they have questions/comments for Ms. Nick they would like to pose at this time.

Member Hawk wondered about the funding going back to the districts. For example, Clark County already has their own Professional Development Group that they manage. When you talk about Southern Nevada RPDP you are talking about a number of different districts that are involved. So, how would that work? She stated she was not quite sure what that process might look like.

Ms. Nick answered it was her understanding that pursuant to the first amendment which was submitted by the Department to restore the fiscal services with their current fiscal agent means that there is going to be as little disruption as possible. She stated that the regional governing boards as well as regional RPDPs are essentially moving forward with their work in the same way that they always have which is also reflected in the second amendment. My understanding is that the daily operations of the RPDPs are not changing, they are still reporting to those regional governing boards. Ms. Nick clarified the only change at this point is that the Department would serve the duties of what traditionally the Statewide Council does and the Department person on the local governing boards now become voting members.

Member Hawk stated she thought she heard local districts would be serving as the fiscal agent, how would that work across multiple counties. She added that is why she was a little confused.

Ms. Nick answered that she meant that language would restore the funding to how it has always been. Senate Bill 76 as originally introduced, repealed that language and the first amendment restored that language. She clarified that there would be no change to the RPDP fiscal agents now.

Member Husson stated it sounds to him like what Ms. Nick is reporting is that the Department offered two amendments that would make the bill not do what they wanted to do in the first place. He asked Ms. Nick to explain the purpose of the bill that was submitted originally and what is going to end up changing that would matter to the organization, or to the state, or to the department, or the students; what is the effect of the bill rather than what is not going to change?

Ms. Nick answered that SB 76 is a prefilled bill by Governor Sisolak on behalf of the Nevada Department of Education. The purpose of the SB 76 is to serve as an omnibus fill and supports several

boards, councils, and commotions, reporting requirements to streamline the work that happens between the Department of Education and our 17 school districts and the Charter Authority. In the original draft it was the intent of the Department was to make sure that the RPDPs continue serving all 17 school districts. The purpose of this work will continue next year, no matter what, and will be reflected in statute. Ms. Nick stated it is important to the Department that the RPDPs and the work that they are doing, really serves what needs to happen to meet the needs of the students. It is very common for a bill to go through a few amendments before it is finally passed. Senate Bill 76 will streamline our work and reduce any reporting requirements or duplicate reports and that is why it took few amendments to get it right for all parties involved. Ms. Nick stated the way this bill was written, at the local level, there may not be a change, but at the statewide level, they are hoping to see an improvement in student achievement.

Chair Young thanked Ms. Nick and asked if there were any more comments or questions. Then he commented on the superintendents having the opportunity to provide feedback on this bill and based on member Hawk's question about restoring language that kept districts as the fiscal agents, he asked Ms. Nick to speak to the original language in the bill and the proposed changes, before the amendment was submitted.

Ms. Nick answered as proposed, SB 76 was really intending to create statewide network of RPDPs that would support student achievement. When the bill was introduced, the original bill language did a few things and one of those items was to remove the current districts as the fiscal agents.

Member Workman added that the way the bill was written it could have been interpreted differently than Ms. Nick said. When the lawyers with LCB put their spin on, it makes it easy for us to interpret the wording in different ways. One interpretation is that RPDPs would fall under the Department of Education and potentially eliminate a local district's ability to have a say in what professional development came in into their districts. The amendment that came from the Nevada Association of School Superintendents (NASS) clarified each district had a voice in exactly what professional development came into their district. We were grateful as a NASS group to have those amendments accepted so that we could continue to serve our individual staff at a local level.

Chair Young asked for a clarification about the bill as constructed even with the amendments. He stated that as Ms. Nick said, the rules and duties that have been performed by this council over the last few years would be absorbed by the Nevada Department of Education and the regional RPDPs would still have the reporting structure and the budget structure, but this council would cease to exist. Chair Young asked Ms. Nick to confirm whether his statement was right.

Sarah Nick answered yes, the amendment as submitted by the Department, restores any language regarding the local governing bodies. The seat that is typically for those local governing bodies now becomes a voting member. The duties typically prescribed to this statewide council would now be performed by the Department of Education. My understanding is many of you also serve on those regional governing boards, so your voices are still part of RPDP process.

Chair Young thanked Ms. Nick and explained the Council would no longer have the \$100,00.00 that has been budgeted towards this council and has been distributed with a great amount of success in the last three years to promote leadership development through the Nevada state. He wanted to make sure it was known by NASA, the Public Education Foundation, and PBS that those funds would no longer be there.

Member Husson asked Ms. Nick if there was any comment from legislators or members of the committees about the idea of the RPDP Council not having the oversight role that it currently thus, less oversight for the state department. He stated the work with NASA and PEF doing now would not have been done if this board did not exist. Sarah Nick answered the discussion around SB 76, the discussion was focused more on retaining the governing Boards.

Member Husson asked for clarification that the local governing boards provide the appropriate oversight, and this council is redundant. He then asked Ms. Smith to share her agency's thoughts on what this does to their autonomy, how oversight will work, and what will happen to the relationship with the State Board of Education with the amendments if passed.

Chelli Smith, SNRPDP answered as it stands correctly, the oversight consists of the fiscal agents, the governing boards, and NDE reviews the budgets, so the Statewide Coordinating Council is redundant in some manner. She stated that before the Statewide Coordinating Council came to exist, the three oversight entities mentioned were in place. The RPDPs have great collaboration with NDE, meeting monthly and maintaining constant contact with couple of people there. The three directors and the assistant director work collaboratively on any effort that goes throughout the state. Ms. Smith stated the RPDPs feel like there is proper oversight and they have a good system in place for collaborative efforts.

Member Husson stated when it comes to the organization of many of the councils that exist, a lot of them seem to be proforma; the state department comes and tell you what they want to have happen and it is difficult as a member to be informed enough to offer any real guidance to make any changes. He added that the current leadership has worked together better and more effectively than any of the groups that he has seen. Member Husson stated a concern about the future when the current people are no longer doing these jobs, there is new administration, and there are new people in charge. Member Husson wondered if new people would have same feelings about how the RPDPs work and the importance of their work if the leadership of NDE and the RPDPs are not on the same page.

Chair Young thanked Ms. Nick for her presentation and answering the questions.

Chair Young moved to Agenda Item #6.

## **6: NASA CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE INSTITUTE (CEEI) 2020 PRESENTATION**

Chair Young informed members hearing from participants of the Center for Educational Excellence Institute (CEEI) regarding their experience and learning.

Dr. Jeffery Geihs, NASA thanked Dr. Marjorie Conner for her hard work on every Center for Educational Excellence Institute (CEEI). He then thanked the Council and everybody from RPDP for their foresight relative to the work around this initiative. He then reported NASA started CEEI #5 with over 100 participants. The leadership professional development that is happening is leading educators in Nevada to increase student achievement gains for children and close gaps for children. He then turned it over to Dr. Conner.

Dr. Marjorie Conner reminded the Council that the theme of this CEEI was Competency Based Education and has three people who will specifically speak about Competency Based Education in Nevada at the CEII. She said the first is Dr. Zac Robbin at Cheyenne High School, who will present about some of the changes he has made in order to make Competency Based Education to work at his

school. The second, Dr. Andrew Yuxsimer of Incline Village will talk about what he is doing in his school and Dr. Finally, Summer Stephens will talk about what she has done in Churchill County School District. In between those speakers, the CEII will have Dr. Jim Hager and Dr. Pete Gorman will present their leadership piece and relating it to Competency Based Learning in a thematic way. Also, in response to participant requests, NASA is also offering a course on resume writing and developing a cover letter. Dr. Conner then introduced CEEI alumni to share their experiences. She informed the Council that Dan Lediard, Assistant Principal at O'Brian STEM Academy, Deb Fredrich, Principal at Lowman Elementary School in Clark County School District, and Shawna Jessen, Principal at Grant Bowler Elementary School in Clark County School District will share their experiences with attending the CEEI.

Dan Lediard stated he was honored to share his experience. He told the Council the CEEI #3 allowed him to transform the knowledge of his own personality into the building. Due to the results of a leadership style self-reflection, he is able to surround himself with those who are not the same as him. Through the CEEI he is growing up as a great leader by knowing himself. Mr. Lediard mentioned working on personal understanding and growth has allowed him to diversify his team.

Deborah Fredrich stated she also participated in CEEI #3 which ended up shifting to the online delivery. She shared that the CEEI always has extremely credible and current speakers and topics. The institute models the best practices. The CEEI addressed educating the whole child and meeting the social and emotional needs of students. She told the Council the CEEI set her up for success in her school.

Shawna Jessen shared her experience with CEEI institute presented by NASA. She stated it was a full circle moment for her as she was on the original Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development training team 18-19 years ago. She stated the best part of the whole institution was the collaboration and the mentoring. She explained she wants to grow as a leader. Ms. Jessen mentioned CEEI #4 offered over 100 sessions to choose from and one of the activities was to develop a resume and develop leadership stories and mock interviews. She was grateful for the session as she realized every leader can have an executive presence regardless of gender. She told the Council the CEEI allowed her to develop a business plan and reflect on their professional profiles. Ms. Jessen stated this opportunity was a growth opportunity because of the structures put into place. She thanked NASA and the Council for the impact on her life.

Marjorie Conner shared words from Toya Roberts who could not attend. Ms. Roberts was a project facilitator, a licensed teacher for the English language learner and decided to apply for the coordinator position. She applied what she learned in the CEEI to prepare for the interview. She attributes the success of getting the administrative position to what she learned in the CEEI and is looking forward to future learning opportunities.

Dr. Conner thanked the RPDP Council for the opportunity and the oversight. She shared that she will be retiring.

Member Husson thanked the presenters and stated that the budget for this program that comes from the RPDP Council, and the funding has to be secured and possibly expanded. He reminded the Council how the members began looking at how to distribute the funds more effectively. He thanked everyone for the collaboration in the professional development efforts. He stated it might be time to have alumni of the professional learning begin to run the sessions to train others. Member Husson stated this would be the beginning of building the next step of building our leaders and their capacity.

Marjorie Conner agreed with member Husson that alumni should be presenting and shared that through the first five CEEIs NASA has had six alumni present. She stated NASA has tried to expand and called the Council's attention to the alumni who shared today as possible future presenters.

Chair Young thanked Dr. Geihs, Dr. Conner, and the other guests who shared their experience. He stated it was really helpful to the members of the Council to hear from them. He continued that he had a number of current and aspiring leaders from his district attend a CEEI and have extremely positive experiences. He also stated his agreement with Member Husson about the Administrative Fund and the goal of creating a synergy in their use. He stated the \$100,000 Administrative Funds has been leveraged in such a way as to create the synergy the Council was intending.

Chair Young moved to Agenda Item #7.

## **7: PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION (PEF) LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE REPORT**

Grant Hanevold, Vice President of Leadership and Strategic Design shared Administrative Professional Development Proposal slides. (See [The PEF.org Leadership Summits](#) )

Mr. Hanevold shared information about 2021 Digital Leadership Summits. The PEF found that the course really evolved over the year. Mr. Hanevold shared the Summit participants discussed the challenges of educating during the pandemic, what needs to change in the future, and what has been learned that could be continued. He also stated they looked at solutions to many pressing issues in education in Nevada. He shared that the Summits were recorded and posted to the PEF [webpage](#).

Jeremy Hauser updated the Council on the third Leadership Summit planned for June 10, 2021. The summit will talk about how outside people dealing with problems. This summit deals with issues surrounding race and the achievement gaps that are happening due to the COVID pandemic. He turned it over to Mr. Hanevold.

Mr. Hanevold shared information about the Digital Leadership trainings for Administrators. The goal is to assist teachers and educators in building the online relationships and utilizing technology, engaging students, building accommodations, designing online lessons, and dealing with the social emotional needs. We all learned so much over the last year that we do not want to lose. He shared that the pedagogy has to shift and the way we communicate with teachers and students is critically important.

He then turned it over to their Director of Grants, Ms. Jamie Chazen to share information about their budget amendment.

Jamie Chazen, Director of Grants and Community Impact at Public Education Foundation shared their amendment was approved earlier and they are on track to expend all their funds by June 30.

Chair Young asked if there were any questions or comments. There were no questions. Chair Young stated that he was member of one of the first the PEF Executive Leadership cohorts and found it to be a very meaningful and beneficial experience. He thanked all the Public Education Foundation presenters.

Chair Young moved to Agenda Item #8.

## **8: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Charles reminded the Council the next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2021.

Chair Young moved to Agenda Item #9.

**9: PUBLIC COMMENT #2**

Chair Young asked Ms. Charles if any public comment had been submitted and allowed time for submissions due to the livestream delay. Ms. Charles answered that no public comment was submitted.

Chair Young moved to Agenda Item #10.

**10: ADJOURNMENT**

With no obligations, Chair Young adjourned the RPDP at 12:47 P.M.