

English Mastery Council TESL Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

Thursday February 27, 2020

9:00 AM

Meeting Locations:

Video Conference

OFFICE	LOCATION	ROOM
Department of Education	2080 E. Flamingo Road Las Vegas Nevada	Bighorn
Department of Education	700 East Fifth Street Carson City Nevada	Battle Born

Call to Order; Roll Call; Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Blakely Hume with the Nevada Department of Education called the English Mastery Council TESL Subcommittee Meeting to order at 9:03 AM on Thursday, February 27, 2020. A roll call was conducted and **quorum was established** (2 members present).

Subcommittee Members Present:

Diane Barone

Diana Cantu

Others Present:

Blakely Hume, Karl Wilson, Mindy Montoya

Mr. Hume led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments #1

There were no public comments from either North or South.

Approval of Flexible Agenda

Motion: Approve Flexible Agenda

By: Diane Barone

Second: Diana Cantu

Vote: Passed unanimously

Approval of April 24, 2019 Meeting Minutes Agenda

There were no changes or corrections to be made on the Minutes.

Motion: Approve April 24, 2019 Meeting Minutes

By: Diane Barone

Second: Diana Cantu

Vote: Passed unanimously

Election of Subcommittee Chair 2019-2020

Mr. Hume explained the process of selecting a Chair and the requirements and expectations of the position, which was typically a one-year commitment facilitating meetings and representing the TESL Subcommittee at full EMC meetings. He stated that this year's term for the Chair would be short, entailing only a few months.

Mr. Hume asked for nominations or self-nominations, and Diane Barone self-nominated herself.

Motion: Elect Diane Barone as Chair of the TESL Subcommittee
By: Diane Barone
Second: Diana Cantu
Vote: Passed unanimously

Mr. Hume congratulated Chair Barone and thanked her for her willingness to serve.

Discussion of ELD Endorsement

Mr. Wilson provided some historical background on the development of the ELAD Endorsement.

Mr. Wilson stated that one of the original charges of the English Mastery Council was to review the coursework offered by the Nevada System of Higher Education related to preparation for teachers to serve English Learners. In 2014, the English Mastery Council and the TESL Subcommittee started the research resulting in very specific recommendations about redesigning the TESL endorsement into a new endorsement, called the ELAD endorsement, which stands for English Language Acquisition and Development. The statute directed the English Mastery Council to make recommendations to the commission on professional standards to the State Superintendent and to the Chancellor of Higher Education.

Mr. Wilson stated that the recommendations that came forward in 2015 were based on research about Nevada students' needs and what was happening across the nation. He stated that the ELAD endorsement was one of several recommendations that moved forward, changing the coursework under TESL to new coursework that would be ELAD, which was similar in terms of instructional strategies, assessment, and curriculum.

Mr. Wilson stated that one of the main differences between TESL and ELAD was the practicum component that was recommended, which went forward to the Commission on Professional Standards and was accepted and made its way through the regulatory process. Within the Nevada Administrative Code, TESL has now been replaced with ELAD along with the specific coursework, and the Educator Licensure Department is now offering the ELAD endorsement instead of TESL. He stated that those that were already on the TESL endorsement would stay in place; however, anyone who gets a new endorsement would get the ELAD endorsement with a notation that they didn't take the practicum; however, in the future as they complete the full course, it is the ELAD endorsement with the practicum.

Mr. Wilson stated that the second charge for the English Mastery Council was to recommend who should be required to have the teacher preparation. He stated that the original recommendation required all teachers in Nevada have the ELAD endorsement. He stated that the proposal was not accepted since it would be imposing a requirement that would go above and beyond teachers' current contracts.

Mr. Wilson stated that the next proposal required all new teachers coming through Nevada's System of Higher Education to receive the ELAD endorsement as part of their pre-service training instead of requiring all teachers to have the endorsement. He stated the recommendation went forward to the Commission on Professional Standards in 2015; however, they declared that the State Board would have to approve that requirement. On December 17, 2015, the recommendation went to the State Board of Education and the English Mastery Council was asked to work with the institutions of higher education to make sure that people understood the expectations.

Discussion of ELD Endorsement (continued)

Mr. Wilson stated that between December 2015 and June 2016, Dr. Sharolyn Pollard-Durodola and Mr. Blakely Hume met with representatives from UNLV, Nevada State College, UNR, and Great Basin to talk about the ELAD coursework and how to incorporate that into pre-service. The re-worked proposal went back to the State Board of Education in July of 2016 requiring institutions of higher education that offered teacher preparation in Nevada to incorporate the coursework for teachers going into elementary education starting in 2020 and then in 2022, that coursework would be required for teachers in secondary education preparation. He stated that the State Board approved the proposal.

Mr. Wilson stated that they thought that the work was done, but in actuality, it was not completed at that point in time. He stated that when that came to light, they started to work with the Educator Licensure Department. In 2017, the State Legislature moved to have authority authorizing institutions of higher education and their programs go back to the Commission on Professional Standards. Last week, after months of work, the proposal was presented at the Commission on Professional Standards and was approved by the State Board based on the recommendations of the English Mastery Council. He stated it ended up being approved unanimously in workshop, which is the first step in moving into regulation.

Mr. Wilson stated that the next step would be to send the proposal to the Legislative Council Bureau where they will make sure it is in the language that can be adopted for the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) and then returned to the Commission on Professional Standards for a regulatory hearing. He stated there will be a 30-day notice of the exact language that's being proposed, and if the Commission on Professional Standards approves it in regulatory hearing, then the next step would be for it to move to the Education Commission where it formalizes regulatory language and becomes part of the Nevada Administrative Code.

Mr. Wilson shared the specifics of the approved language and stated that they are proposing adding the language to the already existing Nevada Administrative Code that adopted the ELAD endorsement, requiring the coursework in ELAD to be part of the higher education preparation.

Mr. Wilson stated that one of the minor changes was extending the requirement by one year for programs in preparation for Early Childhood Education or Elementary Education. It was originally 2020, but with the regulatory process, there has to be one year for implementation of whatever is passed. Most of the institutions now have it in place for this fall, but by regulation, they would not be required to have it until the following year.

Mr. Wilson stated that the in a program of preparation for Secondary Education, the requirement is still at the same date of 2022. He said Elementary and Early Childhood were set for 2020 in the 2016 approved recommendation from the State Board, which shifts to 2021 to ensure that there is one year beyond the approval date to have that implemented. He said the other part that was added to the requirement was a student enrolling in an approved program of Educator Preparation on or after the effective dates, so 2021 for Elementary and Secondary Education.

Mr. Wilson stated that the last change was for a student enrolling in an approved program of educator preparation prior to the effective date, so prior to 2021 or 2022, they will not be required to pass the coursework listed in the ELAD endorsement. He said if a student is already on track, that new requirement doesn't become retroactive; it's just the new ones for those effective dates.

Chair Barone asked can the practicum for ELAD be part of an existing practicum or does it have to be standalone practicum so you can see it on a transcript. She stated that in her work at UNR, they have designed it to be standalone, but they have other courses the state is now expecting them to embed into their program.

Discussion of ELD Endorsement (continued)

Mr. Wilson stated that was a valid question, especially for the institutions of higher education. He asked how can that requirement for practicum be met and not exceed the 120 mandated credit expectation.

Chair Barone said at UNR they would have to go for an exemption beyond the 120 mandated credits if that practicum was a standalone. She said it is going to be the biggest issue with Secondary Education because of the content requirements that are mandated by the state. She said UNR is different than UNLV, Great Basin, or Nevada State because their credential programs are integrated and combine two areas of focus.

Mr. Wilson said when the recommendation went through related to changing the coursework, they also added language related to an endorsement or credential as a professional teacher of English as a second language. He said this goes beyond the standard ELAD endorsement; more like an enhanced endorsement. He said it went through at the same time as the ELAD endorsement, and that one piece went from the English Mastery Council all the way to NAC 391.237.

Mr. Wilson stated that the other piece recommended by the English Mastery Council as a change from the original recommendation was that for teachers who were already in the system and have a standard licensure, their renewal would require certain semester hours in ELAD training. When they go to renew, they must have coursework either in strategies for serving English Learners or specific ELAD coursework, and that requirement stays in place every time they renew until they get an ELAD endorsement. The exception is if the teacher already has a TESL endorsement, they're exempted from that requirement.

Nevada Licensure and the ELAD FAQs

Mr. Hume stated that a few years ago, NDE worked in conjunction with NSHE to develop an ELAD Endorsement FAQ Sheet in which they have revised three or four times. He suggested the members do one final revision of the ELAD Endorsement FAQ Sheet. The members agreed and worked on the final revision of the ELAD Endorsement FAQ sheet.

Impact of ELAD Endorsement

Mr. Hume stated that Dr. Durodola wanted the subcommittees to move forward in such a way that by the end of the year they feel like they've completed some steps and have been productive. He stated they had a District Policy and Criteria Planning subcommittee meeting yesterday where questions were raised as to things the District Policy could do as a subcommittee that would directly relate to some overall deliverables for the Council.

Chair Barone said research came immediately to mind and data that demonstrates accountability. She asked can the state track where their in-service graduates go in the state to see what their data looks like at the end of the year as compared to other first-year hires.

Mr. Hume said the ADAM department tracks data numbers and assessments, but he did not know if they could actually attach that to teachers due to FERPA issues.

Chair Barone said tests aren't everything, but they do need some kind of measure to assess teacher progress.

Mr. Hume asked could they contract outside sources to evaluate the teachers who participate in the NSHE institutions for teacher training to do a study on that.

Chair Barone said UNR has MOUs with participating school districts so they can gather data that way.

Ms. Cantu said maybe they could partner with the students that are graduating and ask them if they would be willing to be part of a study.

Chair Barone said what they would have to do is get the institutions together to do a common IRB proposal to be able to ask students that question. She said they would have to know what data they wanted to collect and what coursework they wanted to do.

Mr. Hume said if the EMC needs to prove that their recommendations have made a big impact, it would be good to have data to confirm that. He said if this is something that they want to pursue, the subcommittee should talk about this issue to get feedback on whether or not they should be doing research to develop an IRB program to determine effectiveness. He said they should convey to the EMC their thoughts about next steps and is this something they want to pursue. He said if all that goes favorably, then they will probably want to meet again in another month.

Public Comments #2

There were no public comments from either North or South.

Adjournment

Chair Barone thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 10:55 AM.